# FRIENDS OF LYDIARD TREGOZ

3	Oliver St. John, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas by Charles Barker
8	Insights into the Life of Sir Walter St. John by Brian Carne
14	My Memories of Lydiard Tregoz by Margaret North
18	The Church Organ and its Organists
20	Notes on Rectors, Curates, and Patrons
54	Thamesdown Newsletter by Sarah Finch-Crisp
55	The Society: Officers, Accounts, and Membership
60	Index to <i>Reports</i> 21 - 30

# Report no. 30

**The FRIENDS OF LYDIARD TREGOZ** was formed in 1967 with the approval and full support of St.Mary's Church and the Borough of Swindon.

The objects of the society are to:

- foster interest in the Church, the House, and the Parish as a whole.
- hold one meeting in the House annually, usually in mid-May, with a guest speaker. The meeting is followed by tea in the dining room and Evensong in the Parish Church.
- produce annually *Report*, a magazine of articles which are concerned in the broadest way with the history of the parish, its buildings and people, the St.John family and its antecedents as well as more locally-based families, and the early years of the Sir Walter St.John School in Battersea.
   Copies *of Report axe* deposited with libraries and institutions in England, Wales, and the United States of America.
   The offer of articles for inclusion is always welcomed by the Editor.
- make occasional small contributions from unexpended income towards the cost of projects in either the House or the Church.

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#### **OLIVER ST JOHN** (1598-1673)

# LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COMMON PLEAS

[This paper, by Brigadier Charles Barker, whose wife is a descendant of the Lord Chief Justice, is largely drawn from the *Dictionary of National Biography* vol. XVII, and is prepared as an introduction to the life and times of Oliver St.John, L.C.J., of Longthorpe, Northants.]

The life and legal career of Oliver St.John spanned the traumatic period of English history which covered the power conflict between King and Parliament concerning the Government of the Realm and culminated in the Civil Wars, the Protectorate, and the Restoration of the Monarchy - a time when anyone holding high legal office had a very difficult path to tread.

The VCH *Northamptonshire* states that 'Oliver St.John is one of the greatest names connected with the County. He was prominent among the opponents of Charles I and was counsel for Hampden in the trial of the validity of ship-money in which he gained great distinction\_\_\_\_\_ As Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas he stood aloof from the King's trial, opposed Cromwell's Protectorate, and afterwards assisted Monk in the Restoration\_\_\_\_\_ An orator, statesman, judge, and diplomatist, he is only just below the very greatest men of the age.'

His descent was from Alexander St.John, third son of Sir John St.John of Bletsoe and Sybil ap Philip Morgan. His grandfather was Alexander's son Henry St.John (d. 1596), who married Jane Neale. His father was Oliver St.John of Keysoe (d. 1625), who married Sarah Bulkley of Odell.<sup>1</sup>

He was educated at Queen's College, Cambridge, and entered Lincoln's Inn on 22 April 1619, being called to the Bar on 22 June 1626. His law business brought him into an active relationship with Lrancis Russell, 4th Earl of Bedford, a leader of the opposition and married to a St.John. In November 1629, for communicating to Bedford Sir Robert Dudley's 'Proposition for his Majesty's service to bridle the impertinence of Parliaments', he was, at the age of thirty-one, sent to the Tower and threatened with the rack. He was brought before the Star Chamber for circulating a seditious document, but the prosecution was dropped and he was forgiven at the time of the celebrations over the birth of the future Charles II.<sup>2</sup> According to Clarendon - Edward Hyde the Royalist - St.John never forgave the Court for his imprisonment in 1629, and contracted an implacable displeasure against the Church purely from the company he kept. Clarendon was no doubt referring to his links with Oliver Cromwell. He was later associated with the Earl of Warwick, Lord Saye, John Pym, and opposition leaders in the management of the island of Providence.<sup>3</sup>

Oliver St.John married three times: firstly, to Johanna daughter of Sir John Altham and Elizabeth (nee Barrington), whose mother was the daughter of Sir Henry Cromwell of Hinchingbroke and aunt of both Oliver Cromwell and John Hampden. By this marriage he had four children, the third of whom, Johanna, married her cousin Sir Walter St.John of Lydiard Tregoze and the fourth, Catherine, married Sir Walter's brother Henry St.John. His second wife, whom he married on 21 January 1638, was Elizabeth daughter of Henry Cromwell of Upwood, Oliver Cromwell's uncle. He was then aged forty. His third wife was Elizabeth daughter of Daniel Oxenbridge and sister of the non-conformist divine, whom he married on 1 October 1645 when he was forty-seven.

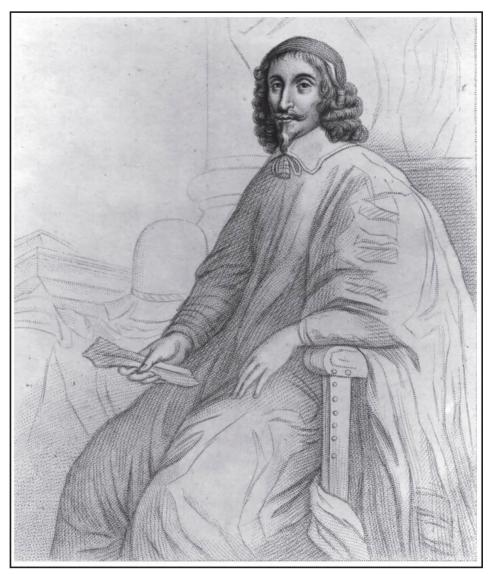
In 1637 he acted as counsel for Lord Saye and John Hampden in their resistance to the payment of ship-money. His speech gained him an immense reputation, and he was called into all courts and all causes where the King's prerogative was most contested. The King, who had ruled from 1629 till 1640

without a Parliament but through the Star Chamber and the Court of High Commission - his chief advisers being Sir Thomas Wentworth, later Earl of Strafford, and Laud - called the Short Parliament that lasted only three weeks. In that parliament St.John represented Totnes.

In 1640 he helped Pym to draw up the famous petition which resulted in the calling of the Long Parliament, which sat from 1640 till 1660. He was again returned for Totnes, and became a leader of the opposition politicians. St.John became very influential in the condemnation of the Earl of Strafford who had a Bill of Attainder passed against him and was executed in 1641. Laud was impeached and imprisoned, but not executed until 1645. In 1641 the Star Chamber was abolished.

Hyde, the staunch royalist who was later created Earl of Clarendon, described St.John 'as a man reserved and of a dark and clouded countenance, very proud, conversing with very few and those men of his own humour and inclinations. He was very seldom known to smile.'

On 29 January 1640 the King appointed St.John Solicitor-General. In this capacity the King 'hoped he would be ashamed ever to appear in anything that might prove prejudicial to the Crown. '4 However, St.John's own political attitude was unchanged. In the Long Parliament St.John opened the attack on Ship Money. He is said to have drawn up the Root-and-Branch Bill, which demanded the abolition of episcopacy, the Militia Bill, and the vote to exclude the bishops' vote in parliament.



Oliver St.John. Engraving by Robert Cooper.

When the King ordered St.John to York Parliament refused him leave to go and passed an ordinance enabling him to cany out the duties of Attorney-General and appointed him one of the six commissioners charged with the custody of the new Great Seal, an offfice he held until 30 October 1646.

In 1642 the King failed to anest the five leaders of the House of Commons, including Hampden, who were opposed to him. The Civil War began and lasted from 1642 till 1648. During the Civil War St.John was regarded as one of the leaders of the Independents. From 1643, he and Sir Harry Vane were heads of the War Party in the Lower House. Indeed St.John was termed Mr. Pym's successor. He was an active member of the Westminster Assembly, which passed the toleration order on 13 September 1644, and he was one of the 'Erastian lawyers' who obstructed the establishment of the presbyterian system by their insistence on the rights of the state.

St. John supported, in 1645, the Self-denying Ordinance which compelled all members of both Houses - with the exception of Cromwell - to resign their commissions. In 1647 he adhered to the Army in its quarrel with Parliament. He was doubtless concerned with the vote for no further addresses to the King, and attempted fresh overtures through the Prince of Wales. Between 1644 and 1647 he acted in harmony with Cromwell. King Charles, after Naseby, joined the Scottish Army, who handed him over to the Parliamentary Commissioners, but he escaped to Carisbrook and, in 1648, continued the war.

On 12 October 1648 the Commons appointed St.John Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. He was sworn in on 22 November 1648. That year the war ended, and the Army clamoured for the death of the King. Following the normal custom of his new office, St.John now abstained from attending Parliament, and took no part in the proceedings that led to the King's execution. He was appointed a commissioner, but refused to act and always protested that he had nothing to do with the King's death. As Lord Chief Justice he held aloof from the King's trial, stating that he had no jurisdiction - only Parliament - to try the King.

Being an Independent, he no doubt adhered to the views of that body that every Christian congregation formed an independent church of itself and was not bound to any higher power. They wished to see the monarchy overthrown and a Republic established in its place. In a valediction, which he issued at the Restoration, he protested that he had nothing to do with the King's death, Pride's Purge, or the establishment of the Commonwealth. He only attended 16 out of 319 meetings of the council of state in his first year and only 49 in the second year. His letter to Cromwell, congratulating him on the Dunbar victory, marks his complete reconciliation with the policy of the Republic and is the fullest exposition of his religious views.<sup>6</sup>

During the Commonwealth, 1649 - 1653, as a judge, he did not attend Parliament but was selected as the Ambassador to Holland to negotiate a close alliance between the United Provinces and England. He went to The Hague with a suite of 250 persons to enhance the prestige of the mission and for their protection. He arrived at The Hague on 17 March 1651, but after three months the negotiations failed. His life was threatened and his suite assaulted by exiled royalists. He left Holland on 20 June, telling the Dutch that they would regret their rejection. Many thought that the Navigation Act of 1651, forbidding the importation of any goods into England except in English vessels or vessels belonging to the country which produced the goods, was his retaliation. In 1651 Parliament rescinded the vote that relieved judges of attending its sessions, and St.John again took his seat. He was appointed Chancellor of Cambridge University by the Committee for the reformation of the Universities. He was also a commissioner to settle the civil government in Scotland with a view to its incorporation into union with England: in this he was successful.

He supported the dissolution of the Long Parliament, but his role in elevating Cromwell to the Protectorate has been difficult to determine. On 10 December 1651 he declared 'that the Government of this nation, without something of monarchical power will be very difficult to be so settled as not to shake the foundations of our laws and the liberties of the people.' He took no part in the council of state or the Little Parliament of 1653. Thurloe described St.John as opposed to Cromwell's elevation to the Protectorate and a severe critic of the Instrument of Government:

As he had nothing to do with the setting up of this Government so neither was there, as far as I know or have heard, any communication of counsels between Oliver and him, mediately or immediately, touching the management of any part of the public affairs, my Lord St.John always refused to meddle in anything but what concerned his place as Judge, and in that he refused to proceed upon any of the laws made under that government, for which he was complained of to the Council, and it was imputed to his example that the judges refused to act upon the last high court of justice. Nor was he to my knowledge advised with in the Petition and Advice. The truth is that my Lord St.John was so far from being a confidant, that some who loved and valued him had something to do to preserve him under that Government. In one important case St.John gave judgement against the Government and summed up strongly against the arbitrary methods by which freedom of election was destroyed.<sup>1</sup>

St.John was not in London when Cromwell died, but expressed his devotion to the Protector. He had nothing to do with the elevation of his son Richard Cromwell, nor was he a member of his Council. He confined himself to his judicial duties.

When Richard was overthrown and the Long Parliament was restored, he was elected a member of the council of state, in 1659. He continued to resist the Army in its proposals for parliamentary reform, and in 1660 took part in the promotion of secluded members. Samuel Pepys heard on good authority that 'my Lord St.John is for a free Parliament and that he is very great with Monk.'<sup>8</sup>

After the Restoration the record of St.John's conduct during the earlier part of the struggle and the high office he held led him to fear the worst. He issued his Case that was backed by Thurloe. The Lords were content with his perpetual incapacity to hold office. King Charles is said to have expressed regret at his escape! Clarendon and Holies - both royalists - painted him in the blackest of colours. He retired to Longthorpe. His work concerning the Bedford Level is commemorated in 'St.John's Eau'.

In 1662 he left England for Augsburg, where he died on 31 December 1673. St.John was ordered to return to England from Augsburg, but he refused, no doubt because Vane, with whom he was closely involved but was not a regicide, was executed in 1662 as being too dangerous to live!

The magnificent sandstone mansion of Longthorpe is situated west of Peterborough and is in fine condition, housing a Sue Ryder Home now. One lasting memorial to St.John is Peterborough Cathedral. It was proposed to sell and demolish the minster church: St.John was successful in having it granted to the citizens of the town. A head-and-shoulders portrait of St.John hangs in the dining room at Lydiard Park. It is a version of a very fine full-length portrait of him in his ambassadorial robes, signed by Nason and dated 1651, which is in the National Portrait Gallery.

# NOTES

<sup>2</sup> Gardiner VII139

<sup>4</sup> Clarendon, III 85

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> P.W. Hasler, *History of Parliament 1558-1603*. Wotton, *Baronetage* IV 178

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Calendar State Papers Colonial, 1574-1660, 123

<sup>5</sup> Foss, VI481

- <sup>6</sup> Nickolls letters addressed to Cromwell, 24
- <sup>7</sup> Ludlow, *Memoirs* II 35
- <sup>5</sup> Diary, 7 February 1660

For further reading:

Wood, *Fasti Oxonienses*, ed. Bliss Noble, *Protectoral House of Cromwell* (1787) Lord Campbell, *Life of the Chief Justices of England* (1849) Foss, *Judges of England* (1857) VI475 *Dictionary' of National Biography* XVII. which cites many other references.



Portrait of Oliver St.John, L.C.J. Signed P.Nason and dated 1651 Reproduced by kind permission of the National Portrait Gallery

#### INSIGHTS INTO THE LIFE OF SIR WALTER ST.JOHN

#### by Brian Came

In connection with some research which was unrelated to Lydiard Tregoze, I visited Oxfordshire Archives, the record office for the county. After I had completed what was the primary purpose of the visit, I instinctively looked in the Personal Name Index for the name St.John. The visit became prolonged because of the many deeds in the Dillon and other collections to which Sir Walter was a signatory. The calendered listing of the deeds revealed the continuing involvement, over a period of more than fifty years, of Sir Walter together with family members and associates as they acted as trustees and executors. Occasionally we may wonder how Sir Walter occupied his time. A partial answer to this question lies in these deeds and the inevitable correspondence and probably travel that they entailed.

The deeds in which we are interested because of Sir Walter are concerned with the family of Lee of Quarendon, Bucks., and Ditchley, Oxfordshire. Sir Walter was involved because his eldest sister, Anne (1614-95/96) married Sir Francis Henry Lee (d.1639), 2ndBt., on 2 October 1632 at Battersea. (The *Bishop's Transcripts* for Lydiard Tregoze record the baptism there of their daughter Elenor, on 17 September 1635.) The widowed Anne married, secondly, about 1644, Henry (d. 1657/58), Viscount Wilmot of Adderbury, who was created Earl of Rochester in 1652 by the King in exile.

The connection between the family of Lee with Ditchley arose in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, when Sir Henry Lee, K.G., of Quarendon, a Ranger of Woodstock Park, bought lands in Spelsbury and Ditchley in the Royal Forest of Wychwood. Sir Henry was succeeded by his second cousin, also Sir Henry: they secured grants from the Crown of pieces of Forest land in order to build up Ditchley Park. (The younger Sir Henry was made a Baronet of England on 29 June 1611; Sir John St.John, of Lydiard Tregoze, had been amongst the first to receive the honour a month earlier, on 22 May.) Three generations of Baronets died young. Their widows played a dominant part in the seventeenth century, and the estates were heavily burdened by their jointures. The important ones were Anne, Countess of Rochester, and her daughter-in-law Elizabeth, Countess of Lindsey. Lady Rochester was widowed for the second time at the age of thirty-three. She was described as a 'very determined and managing old lady' and in old age as 'a somewhat strong-willed and interfering grandmother. ' [Elizabeth Corbet, *A History of Spelsbury* (Cheney & Sons, 1962), 168.] She died at the age of eighty-one, and was buried in linen and lace at Spelsbury with her two husbands. Lady Lindsey was described as 'a woman of most unbearing temper', insisting on a certain share of the estates. [Vemey *Papers*, i 248.]

Adderbury belonged to the bishops of Winchester. In 1629 a lease of the manor was obtained by Charles Wilmot (d.c. 1643), Viscount Wilmot, the father of the Henry Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, who married the widowed Lady Lee. Charles Wilmot's London house was near Scotland Yard, now the site of 42 and 47 Whitehall. Henry inherited the London home and, probably, the lease of Adderbury, which was sequestered by Parliament in 1645. The bishop was successful in recovering the manor after the Restoration. In 1661 a lease was granted to Anne, Countess of Rochester, and she moved there to live. Lady Rochester is said to have spent £2,000 on building and richly furnishing the house and on the gardens, so as to make it 'fit for a family who at that time were not possessed of any other save only a house near Scotland Yard.' [Elizabeth Corbet, *op. cit.* 7, where the reference quoted is C/6/313/46.] On 25 October 1661 Lady Johanna St.John wrote to her steward at Lydiard: 'my La Rochister is going to live from her sonn Lee at a house of my Lo Rochesters [Adderbury] 8 miles from ditchley.' {*Report21.*92.] (In 1665 the house at Adderbury was assessed for tax at fourteen hearths.)

Both Sir Walter and Lady Johanna maintained a close relationship with Lady Rochester throughout their lives. John Evelyn's *Diary* has the entry for 20 September 1664, we went to Ditchley, an ancient seat of the Lees, now Sir Hen. Lee's; it is a low ancient timber-house, with a pretty bowling greene. My Lady gave an extraordinary dinner. This gentleman's mother was Countesse of Rochester, who was also there, and Sir Walter Saint John.'

Sir Francis Henry Lee (d. 1639) was succeeded by his elder son, Sir Henry as 3rd Baronet. He married Anne, daughter of the regicide Sir John Danvers of Cornbury, Oxfordshire. Sir Henry died, aged twenty-two, on 20 March 1658/59, and his wife died on 31 July of the same year, after giving birth to a second daughter. (Lady Johanna wrote to her steward at Lydiard on 17 March 1658/59, 'my La roch is now at ditchly wher Sr henry Lyes sick or has bin sick and it was reported he was dead of the smal pox but he was taken violently ill for my La went down Last sabath day 3 a clock afternoon. 'She wrote again the following day, 'you here of Sr henery Lees death by the smal pox.'[*Report* 27, 51]) Their elder daughter and eventual sole heir Elionora (1658-91) married, in 1671/2, James Bertie (1653-99), Lord Norreys of Rycote and younger son of the 2nd Earl of Lindsey, who was created Earl of Abingdon in 1682.

In the 1650s Sir Walter together with Sir Allen Apsley, first cousin to Sir Walter, Charles Fleetwood, and Sir Richard Grobham Howe, a brother-in-law of Sir Walter, were trustees for Sir He my, the third Baronet. Not long before he died, Sir Henry conveyed his estate to Sir Walter, Sir Ralph Verney of Middle Claydon, Bucks., and John Caiy, who acted as land agent and steward to Anne, Countess of Rochester, Sir Henry's mother, as trustees to pay his debts and to provide maintenance for his daughter Elionora and his yet unborn child. This trusteeship lasted for over fifty years, and in 1704 Sir Walter was acting as the only surviving trustee. Sir Walter, Sir Allen Apsley, Sir Richard Grobham Howe, and John Caiy were also appointed as executors of Lady Rochester's will. (Sir Ralph Verney and Sir Walter St.John were unsuccessful candidates at Great Bedwyn, on the interest of the Countess of Rochester, for the Convention Parliament of 1660. *[Report* 27, 60.] Henning, *The House of Commons 1660-1690111*,635, describes Sir Ralph as 'a man of business from his youth, [and] much in demand as a trustee.')

Sir Henry Lee (d. 1658/59) was succeeded by his younger brother Sir Francis Henry Lee (d. 1667) as fourth Baronet. He married, in 1660, Lady Elizabeth Pope (d. 1719), daughter and heir of Thomas, 2nd Earl of Downe. Sir Walter was, with a number of others, a party to the marriage settlement. After the death of her first husband, Lady Elizabeth married Robert Bertie (c. 1630-1701), 3rd Earl of Lindsey and Great Chamberlain, as his third wife. Sir Walter acted as trustee for their daughter Elizabeth.

The fifth Baronet was the son of Sir Francis Henry Lee, Sir Edward Henry Lee (1662/3-1716). In 1674, at the age of twelve, he was created Baron of Spelsbury, Viscount Quarendon, and Earl of the City of Lichfield. Two years later he married the lady Charlotte Fitzroy, then aged twelve, the natural daughter of Charles II by Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland, who was Sir W alter's second cousin. (Their memorial in Spelsbury church states that 'At their Marriage They were / The most Gracefull Bridegroom and most Beautyfull Bride.' They had thirteen sons and five daughters. He died 14 July 1716, aged 54; she died 17 February 1717, aged 55.) Sir Walter, Sir Richard Grobham Howe, Sir Ralph Verney, and John Cary were trustees for the new Earl of Lichfield. The Earl and Countess were granted by the Crown the house in St.James's Park which is now the rear portion of 10 Downing Street, for an annual payment of 6s. 8d., a sum which was paid to the Treasury through Sir Walter. Charles II made a generous settlement on his daughter, which was made payable through Sir Walter and his fellow trustees. Among other sources of income for the Earl was the sinecure of Custos Brevium of the Court of Common Pleas. The appointment was held for him by Sir Walter, Sir Richard Grobham Howe, and John Cary, who appointed a salaried deputy - Joseph Yate in 1702 - to do the

work, remit the net profits to the Earl, and be accountable to Sir Walter and his fellow trustees for the administration of the office.

By her second marriage, Anne, Countess of Rochester, was mother to John, 2nd Earl of Rochester (d. 1680). In his will Lord Rochester appointed as executors 'my Mother and my wife my good Uncle Sr Walter St.John, Sr Allen Apsly, Sr Richard How .... and John Cary.' In 1674 he received a grant of the office of Ranger of Woodstock Park. The following year Sir Walter and his three fellow-trustees were granted that same office in reversion after the death of the 2nd Earl for the benefit of the Earl and Countess of Lichfield, together with the office of Steward and Lieutenant of the Manor of Woodstock, Keeper of the Great Park, Ranger of the Forest, Lord Warden of the Bailiwick of the Forest, and other offices which had been granted to John, Lord Lovelace, to hold the same offices after the death of the said Lord. (The Rangership appears to have been removed by William III as was his Lord Lieutenancy of Oxfordshire because Lord Lichfield was a firm non-juror.)

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#### APPENDIX.

Abbreviations:

AA - Sir Allen Apsley
JC - John Cary of Woodstock, gent.
CF - Charles Fleetwood
RH - Sir Richard Grobham Howe, Bt., of Great Wishford, Wilts
L - Rt. Hon. Edward Henry, Earl of Lichfield
FHL - Sir Francis Henry Lee, 4th Bt., of Ditchley
CR - Anne, dowager Countess of Rochester
WSt.J - Sir Walter St.John, Bt.
RV - Sir Ralph Vemey, of Middle Claydon, Bucks

# **1 DEEDS IN OXFORDSHIRE ARCHIVES**

**Misc. Mor XV/1.** 1651-5. 20 membranes of Court Rolls, dated 3 April 1651, 26 March 1652, 11 August 1652, 25 September 1652, 18 October 1652, 28 March 1653, 27 March 1654, 1 May 1654, 24 July 1654, and 3 April 1655. AA, WSt.J, CF, RH, farmers of StJohn's College, concerned with the manor of Charlbury.

Misc. Hagen III/vii/1. 28 March 1653. AA, CF, WSt.J, RH, trustees for Sir Henry Lee, Bt., concerning the manor of Charlbury.

**DIL XVIII/c/2.** 18 March 1658/59. Sir Henry Lee, Bt., conveys everything to WSt.J, RV, and JC to pay debts and provide maintenance and a marriage portion of £5000 for his daughter Elionora and the same for his unborn child if a daughter, if a son then all lands to him. Should there be no male heir a further £3000 to Elionora and everything else to brother Francis Henry Lee. [Witnesses include William Franklin.] An endorsement was added to the deed to state that Sir Henry's will was proved on 16 April 1659 on the oath of his mother the Countess of Rochester.

**DIL IV/b/1.** 8 August 1659. WSt.J, RV, and JC parties to a lease of the manor of Charlbury for the lives of FHL, John, Viscount Wilmot, and Henry St.John. | Henry St.John is Sir Walter's son, butthere is a difficulty about 'John, Viscount Wilmot'. Henry Wilmot, Earl of Rochester died 19 February 1657/8:

one would expect his son to be described as 'John, Earl of Rochester' rather than by the curtesy title he held as a son during his father's lifetime.]

DIL II/k/2. 15 June 1660. FHL, WSt.J, RV, and JC parties to the lease of a water mill.

**Jo 11/1.** 3 August 1660. Marriage settlement between FHL and Lady Elizabeth Pope, daughter of Thomas, Earl of Downe. WSt.J one of many parties.

**DIL II/k/3.**10 December 1666. FHL, WSt.J, RV, and JC parties to the addition of another life to the lease of the water mill [1660].

DIL XI/d/3. 4 June 1668. WSt.J, RH, and JC acting as patrons of Fleetmarston church, Bucks.

DIL/II/1/3. 12 February 1668/69. WSt.J, RV, RH, and JC parties to the lease of a house.

**DIL XVIII/e/lb.** 2 February 1669/70. Lady Elizabeth, widow of FHL, WSt.J, RV, RH, JC parties to the lease of lands, advowson, etc. for 1 year.

DIL XVIII/e/lc. 5 February 1669/70. Same parties as former deed: mortgage for 99 years.

DIL XVIII/e/3. 10 June 1670. Same parties as former. Confirmation of settlement.

**DIL** XIII/2. 1 January 1673/74. WStJ, RV, JC acting as trustees for Sir Henry Lee. Mortgage to secure portion for Elionora, daughter of Sir Henry Lee, 3rd Bt.

DIL III/i/3b. 7 April 1673. WSt.J, RV, RH, and JC parties to the lease of a cottage.

**DIL XVIII/b/2.** 22 July 1674. Bargain and sale of Wilmot House in Scotland Yard by George Hill of St.Clement's Dane, WSt.J, RV, JC, and CR to Sir Michael Heneage of Gray's Inn.

Misc. Hagen II/v/1.6 April 1676. WSt.J, RV, RH, and JC acting as farmers of the manor of Finstock.

DIL II/v/3b. 1 July 1676. Counterpart of the lease of the house in 1668/69 by WSt.J, RV, RH, and JC.

DIL III/i/4a-b. 15 January 1678/79. WSt.J, RV, RH, JC parties to the lease of a cottage.

DIL III/j/4b. 28 February 1678/79. WSt.J, RV, RH, JC parties to the lease of a field.

**Misc.** Lee XIII/1. 20 April 1680. Deed recites that by Letters Patent dated 12 September 1678 the King promised a capital sum of £20,000 to the wife of the Earl of Lichfield. Instead he granted £2000 a year to trustees (WSt.J, RH, RV, JC) for the Earl of Lichfield with remainder to his widow until the full sum had been paid, 6% interest being paid on the balance due. [This is a legal opinion that this arrangement did not offend against the law of usury.]

DIL X/g/2. 10 May 1680. WSt.J, RV, and JC re the mansion house at Quarendon.

**DIL X/h/3.** 26 December 1681. WSt.J, RV, and JC, as trustees of Sir Henry Lee, parties to the lease of a field.

**DIL IX/a/14.** 26 February 1683/84. CR, WSt.J, RV, Anthony Bowyer of Camberwell (Surrogate), and JC in the revocation of a deed and settlement of the manor of Adderbury.

DIL III/i/3c. 29 September 1684. L, WStJ, JC, RV, and RH parties to the lease of a cottage.

DIL III/i/5a. 22 January 1684/85. WSt.J, RV, RH, and JC parties to the lease of a cottage.

**DIL X/h/4.** 8 November 1688. L, WSt.J, RV, and JC parties to the lease for 1 year of certain lands to the Rev. Francis Henry Cary of Brinkworth and Thomas Cary, citizen and mercer of London. [Witnesses include William Foote.]

**Jo I/v/3.** 8 March 1688/89. Acknowledgement by L and WSt.J that 6s. 8d has been paid for 1 year's rent for L's house in St.James's Park.

**DIL X/h/6-7.** 6 November 1689. The assignment of a mortgage with L, WSt.J, RV, JC, and George, 4th Viscount Grandison, among the parties involved.

**DIL XVIII/d/3a-j.** 1689-90. Chancery Papers concerning the legacy of £10,000 to Francis Henry Lee from his father and charged on lands held by L, JC, WSt.J, RH, RV, Robert, Earl of Lindsey, and Elizabeth, Countess of Lindsey.

DIL III/i/6. 14 March 1690/91. L, WSt.J, RH, RV, JC parties to the lease of a cottage.

**DIL XVIII/c/3.**71692-3. Quitclaim of CR, administrator of goods and chattels of Elionora, deceased. Parties include WStJ, FHL, RV, and JC. [Witnesses include Charles Chappell.]

**Misc. Liddle II/iv/1.**11 April 1693. Copy of the Court Roll of Stonesfield. Grant by William III and Mary II, Lords of the Manor, to WStJ, RH, RV, JC, Chief Stewards.

**DIL II/e/3.**21 December 1693. L, WSt.J, RV, JC, the Rev. Francis Henry Cary of Brinkworth parties to a lease of Spilsbury Parsonage as security under the mortgage of 18 December 1688.

**DIL III/h/3.** 20 February 1694/95. L, WSt.J, RV, JC of the Borough of New Woodstock, parties to the lease of a farm.

DIL X/h/9-10. 24 June 1698. L, WSt.J, JC, parties to leases, deeds of mortgage, and counterpart.

**DIL XVIII/d/4.** Before 1701. Earl of Lindsey, Elizabeth, Countess of Lindsey, L, WSt.J, RV, RH, JC, parties to a petition in a suit in Chancery.

**DIL XIX/a/1.** 10 April 1702. WSt.J, RH, JC holding the office of Custos Brevium of and in Her Majesties' Court of Common Pleas at Westminster, on behalf of the Earl of Lichfield. As trustees, they appoint Joseph Yate of the Middle Temple, one of the attorneys in the said court, to act as Secundary [deputy] under them to exercise all the business of the Custos. Yate is to give account and remit all net income from the office to the Earl and also will make the records and accounts available to the trustees. Yate is to be paid a salary of £150 *per annum* plus expenses for *Vellam Paper Inke Thongs Fireing Candles or other necessaryes*.

DIL X/h/12. 12 May 1703. Further deeds concerned with DIL X/h/6-7 of 6 November 1689.

**DIL X/h/14.** 15 November 1704. WSt.J as only surviving trustee for the estate of Sir Henry Lee of Ditchley, and L parties to a lease. [Witnesses include William Foote.]

# 2 CALENDAR OF TREASURY BOOKS

31 July 1674. Privy Seal for £ 18,000 to WStJ, RV, RH, and JC as trustees for Henry, Earl of Lichfield, and for the use of the said Earl, the King having thought fit to agree the same to him upon his late marriage 'to our daughter the Lady Charlotte' in dower for her.

18 September 1675. Royal Warrant to the Attorney General for a Great Seal for a grant to WSt.J, RV, RH, and JC of the office or place of Ranger of Woodstock Park in reversion after the Earl of Rochester's estate therein for and during the life of Henry, Earl of Lichfield, and Charlotte his wife, together with the office of Steward and Lieutenant of the Manor of Woodstock, Keeper of the Great Park, Ranger of the Forest, Lord Warden of the Bailiwick of the Forest, and other offices granted to John, Lord Lovelace, to hold after the death of Lovelace during the lives of the said Earl and Countess of Lichfield.

3 May 1677. Royal Warrant to Attorney or Solicitor General for a Greal Seal for a grant to WSt.J, RV, RH, JC and their executors and assigns of that parcel of ground with the building thereon within St.James's Park, bounded eastward with the buildings of the Cockpit, southward with the wall of Hampden Garden, northwards 140 foot in length to the Park, westward 85 foot in length to the Park, with all ways, easements, and appurtenances thereto to hold for 99 years from the date of the Great Seal in trust for He my, Earl of Lichfield, Dame Charlotte his wife, and Dame Elizabeth Bertie one of the daughters of the Earl of Lindsey, Great Chamberlain of England; at a yearly rent of 6s. 8d. [with a clause for its reversion to the Crown upon payment to the lessees of what shall be expended upon the building],

17 August 1678. Royal Warrant concerning the payment of £2,000 to be paid to WSt.J, RV, RH, JC in trust for the Earl and Countess ofLichfield. [Further Warrant for £6,000,7 June 1681,and other Warrants from 2 June 1686 till 28 February 1687/88.

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# **MY MEMORIES OF LYDIARD TREGOZ**

# by Margaret North (nee Willetts)

I was seventeen when my father the Rev. W.H. Willetts was offered the living of St.Mary's, Lydiard Tregoz. My sister Dorothy was twenty-two.

Lady Bolingbroke was Patron of the living, and she remembered my father who, as a young clergyman, had taken the locum-tenens during the month of August 1915. (That month's holiday was a welcome change from his busy life in the industrial North of England.) My father and mother were then made very welcome by Lady Bolingbroke and her son Viscount Bolingbroke, aged about nineteen. He took my father rowing on the lake in the grounds of the mansion, but the lake was in a poor state even then.

You can imagine what a surprise it was for my parents when they received the offer of the living of St. Mary's twenty-two years later. After much thought and prayer my father accepted the living. Lady Bolingbroke was delighted, and a date was made for my parents to visit the parish and the Rectory. Mr. Harrison, the previous Rector, had died, and his widow was still in the Rectory.



The Rectory, Lydiard Tregoz.

Later in August my sister Dorothy and I went with our parents to see the Rectory. We were enchanted with the house and the glorious garden. After our town garden in Hull this beautiful garden, lovingly tended by Mr Shades of Purton, was a glimpse of heaven. The herbaceous borders were a riot of colour. The rose beds and lawns were expertly tended and, joy of joys, there was a grass tennis court and a round summer house with a thatched roof. This was watched over by a giant ilex oak tree. Dorothy and I wandered into the kitchen garden. This was walled on one side, with a mixed hedge mostly hawthorn on the other. Part of this garden had an abundance of tiny box hedges bordering the large vegetable areas. The fruit trees were a sight to behold - a peach tree and a fig tree outside the greenhouse, numerous apple trees, both cooking and dessert, plums of many kinds, greengages, damsons, and a medlar tree. Soft fruit bushes of many kinds were in a giant fruit cage.

On the main lawn was a beautiful old mulberry tree, which many children have loved to climb.

Beyond the small paddock and orchard opposite the front door of the Rectory was a delightful spinney, which, in the Winter, had masses of snowdrops, followed by spring violets, primroses, aconites, wood anemones or wind flowers, and a pond. We looked forward to living in this lovely place and visiting the old church, and, of course, getting to know the parishoners.

We moved to the Rectory in September 1936, the day after I had to return to school in Sussex. My sister stayed in Yorkshire for a time - she was nursing in a cottage hospital, prior to her being accepted for training at the Victoria Hospital, Swindon.

I returned from school in December for the Christmas holidays. I shall always remember the hall and the elegant graceful lines of the staircase. The hall was large and flagstoned, and had a fireplace. Mr Shades had grown some superb pots of chrysanthemums, which were beautifully staged. I went into the dining room to be delighted by the sight of a blazing log fire on that cold December day. In the far comer of the room my mother had arranged on an oak stand a vase of large single yellow chrysanthememums which seemed to glow in the mellow light of the oil lamp.

Since that day I have always loved these flowers. We had a wonderful first Christmas at Lydiard. Mr Shailes grew pure-white Christmas roses which adorned the dining table on Christmas Day.



Canon W.H. Willetts and Mrs. Willetts.

Lord Bolingbroke told us how to keep rose buds fresh for Christmas by picking them in the summer and wrapping them in paper, placing them in a large tin with a very we 11-fitting lid: then we had to bury the tin in the garden, mark the place, and dig them up when required: this really did work.

Our family became very fond of Lady Bolingbroke. She was a delightful lady, so friendly and welcoming. She had lovely silver hair which was arranged in curls all over her head. I often went to tea with her. She was bedridden for the last few years of her life. She had very bad ulcerated legs. She never complained, but she must have suffered dreadfully.

Her bedroom was a smallish room overlooking the church path. She was able to see people coming and going on Sundays - a bit of light relief from the monotony of other days.

Her son Vernon, the sixth Viscount Bolingbroke, was a charming man. He was a great naturalist and an authority on butterflies and moths. We went with him to neighbouring woods sometimes, Braden

Forest woods being a great favourite of his. He wrote numerous articles, which he illustrated with drawings and sketches.

He was greatly influenced by Professor Frowhawk, another authority on butterflies and moths. His daughter Valenzina was named after one of his favourite species. She was later to become Lord Bolingbroke's wife, but sadly this marriage was annulled in 1952.

Mr Edward Hiscock was the bailiff of the estate. He was a relative of Lady Bolingbroke, and lived in the house with Lady Bolingbroke and her son. He took on a lot of the domestic side of things as there was very little other help. He cooked and cleaned and coped with a variety of estate tasks. He also used to cut wonderfully thin slices and bread and butter. Tea was served promptly at 4 p.m. I often had tea with Lord Bolingbroke and Mr Hiscock, and woe betide me if I was late. We always had one of Mr Walter deed's lardy cakes. He was the Lydiard Millicent baker, known and liked by many people in the surrounding area of Lydiard Millicent, Lydiard Tregoz, Hook, and Basset Down, and no doubt many other places.

I used to love going to see Lady Bolingbroke. I enjoyed the walk from the Rectory through the fields, past the church, and then through large wooden gates into the grounds of the house. I used to be conscious of a wonderful feeling of peace when I stepped through the gates into the courtyard, past the stable block, and on round to the side door which was the one used in those days. All the front flower beds were edged with small box hedges, delightful but back-breaking to cut. The walled kitchen garden was not cultivated very much as outside staff were almost non-existent.

Indoors I only saw Mr Hiscock doing chores. He carried everything off with style. In the mornings when he was working indoors he wore a white silk scarf around his neck. In the afternoon he sported a collar and tie, and if you met him out-of-doors he wore a black bowler hat at a jaunty angle and carried a walking stick. He was accompanied by a lovely little pekinese dog called Pamela. He adored this little dog. She belonged to Lady Bolingbroke, and spent much of her day on her mistress's bed. She must have been a great comfort to Lady Bolingbroke.

During this time my father was made an Honorary Canon of Bristol Cathedral.

During the months of February and March the grounds and woods at Lydiard Park were white with snowdrops. Lord Bolingbroke showed me where the ice house was situated. Pheasants and other game birds were stored in there at one time, and this acted as a deep freeze or maybe a refrigerator.

A large part of the mansion was not used as it was in such a poor state of repair. The four-poster beds were holding up the ceilings in some rooms, and you could see daylight through the roof in some places. The upstairs lavatory, in the main part of the house, had a marvellous willow-pattern bowl. This sadly vanished when the house was being repaired and saved.

I also did my nursing training at the Victoria Hospital in Swindon. At one time when I was at home for a few days, Doctor Oakley Brown, who was the Bolingbrokes' doctor, called at the Rectory to see if I would spend a night at the mansion as Lady Bolingbroke had had a stroke. I agreed to do so, and went to see Lady Bolingbroke with Doctor Oakley Brown. He told Lord Bolingbroke and Mr Hiscock that I would be there all night, and, as I was young, would need feeding in the night. I did what I could for Lady Bolingbroke. At midnight Lord Bolingbroke came to tell me some supper was ready. I joined the two men in the sitting room. The house was lit by oil lamps and candles. Somehow the conversation got around to hauntings and queer happenings. I was so scared I did not know how to get up from the table and return to Lady Bolingbroke's room. At last I forced myself to get up and walk up the eerie staircase. Half-way up the staircase was a model of a knight in armour, and I was

supposed to see a hand covered in blood on the wall quite near him, where a murdered man fell and his hand struck the wall. From that day the imprint of the blood-stained hand was supposed to be seen. My heart was beating with fear by the time I reached Lady Bolingbroke's room. I closed the door behind me and remained in that room until morning. Lady Bolingbroke died during the following day. I do not think Lord Bolingbroke and Mr Hiscock realised how frightened I really was.

The family lived in the part of the house that was originally the servants' quarters. Next to the living room was the gun room. Lord Bolingbroke took me into all the rooms at different times.

What is now the state bedroom was then called the ballroom, and beyond this was the dear little chapel with the beautiful stained glass window. This is now known as the Lady Diana room

At some time Lord Bolingbroke drove a Morris, which cost him £ 100. Later on he sold it to Mrs Large who kept it for a number of years: he went back to his bicycle.

After Lady Bolingbroke died I went with Lord Bolingbroke into the church yard and he opened the gate in the iron railings surrounding the Bolingbroke vault. He took me down into the vault, and showed me where his mother's coffin would be placed. On the afternoon of Lady Bolingbroke's funeral I was very touched when I was invited back to the house with my parents to have tea with the family, Captain Henry and Mr Charlie St.John (Lord Bolingbroke's two older brothers) and their wives and families. I missed Lady Bolingbroke very much. I was fortunate to have known and loved her.

On my twenty-first birthday my parents gave me a party at the Rectory, and my father asked Lord Bolingbroke if he would propose a toast. (He was given prior notice of this.) He performed his task beautifully, and presented me with a book about Lacock and Mr Fox-Talbot.

After his mother's death Lord Bolingbroke decided not to remain at Lydiard mansion: the cost of doing up the property would have been far beyond his means. He decided to move to Brook Cottage, situated near where the brook runs under the drive to the church. Lord Bolingbroke and Mr Hiscock moved there, and I used to visit them. The property was vastly different, but they made it cosy. Mr Hiscock was again in charge of the domestic side of things. There was always a blazing-hot fire in Winter, and above the mantlepiece hung a beautiful picture of a Winter sunset. I loved this picture, it could have been a winter sunset after snow with the lovely trees of the Bolingbroke park.

Some time later Lord Bolingbroke moved to Crow Hill, near Ringwood: Mr Hiscock remained at Brook Cottage until his death. I happened to be at the Rectory when he was taken ill and was with him when he died. I married and moved to Bristol in 1943.

Lydiard Tregoz - the church, the people, and the lovely old Rectory - were very special to my parents, to my sister and me. In my present home I have paintings of St.Mary's church, the Rectory, and the mansion, so memories of Lydiard Tregoz are always with me.

My sister Dorothy married after she finished her nursing training at the Victoria Hospital, in 1940. She married the Rev. Fred Thome, who was the son of a well-known farmer from Church Farm, Swindon. He and Dorothy have spent many happy years in the North of England. He is an Honorary Canon of Manchester Cathedral. He has preached at St.Mary's many times. His two sisters, the Misses Amy and Alice Thome are well-known in Swindon, Ogboume St.George, and Marlborough, where they now live.

Mr Frank Newman, late of Shaw, replaced Mr Shades as the Rectory gardener, when the latter was given the post of head gardener at the council institution in Purton. Lord Bolingbroke ran away from home, when aged thirteen or fourteen, to join Captain Scott for his journey to the Antarctic, but Captain Scott said he was too young and sent him home. He was very disappointed.

When we lived at Lydiard Tregoz Rectory we could stand outside the front door and look across to Swindon, an uninterrupted view. We used to walk across the fields sometimes into Swindon.

I am sorry to say that this house of character, plus the stable block, apple store, and useful out-buildings were demolished about fifteen years ago. The Rectory land and Glebe Farm have been built upon. Houses stretch from here to Swindon. There is a School where the spinney and entrance gates of the long drive used to be. I am pleased that this field has been used for a school. I wonder whether the aspen trees were left? Even on the hottest, stillest days the leaves of the aspen tree would move and rustle, giving the feeling of coolness.

I have a lovely photograph of my friend of many years Miss Kathleen Rumming sitting beneath the mulberry tree with my children when they were very young.

I feel like ending this description of a period in my life with the title of a book written by John Buchan, later Lord Tweedsmuir:

"Memory hold the Door.""

#### THE CHURCH ORGAN AND ITS ORGANISTS

The nineteenth century witnessed, in very many parish churches, considerable changes in what was sung and in how that singing was accompanied. The Rev W.H.E. McNight, in his *Lydiard Manor*, tells of the changes at Lydiard Millicent in his own time. He leased the manor there, from 1851 till 1879, for the education of the sons of the aristocracy and gentry in preparation for the army and the universities. In 1851 the singing in church was led by Charles Ricks on the violoncello and William Wheeler on the flute. The congregation sang from Tate and Brady's *New Version of the Psalms of David*, first published in 1696. Tate and Brady were, soon after McNight's arrival in the village, replaced by Horne's *Hymns*, and, in 1861, he presented the church with an organ.

No information has, as yet, been discovered about the music and musicians at Lydiard Tregoze. The model of the church, made about 1840, shows music stands on the western gallery for the singers. Presumably the singers performed from that position until the galleries were removed in 1858-9. The first reference to an organ in the churchwardens's accounts that survive is from 1842-43, when a payment of 5s. was made to Mr York for repairing the organ. It is not possible to say exactly what the word 'repairing' meant: it may have been repair to an existing instrument or it could have been putting in playing order an instrument that had just been acquired. Certainly the first payment to an organist appears in the following year's accounts, in which Mr Akinhead was paid, on 18 December 1843, £3. 15. Od as salary for the current quarter. Mr Akinhead was replaced, on 25 August 1844, by Mr Duffey. In 1849-50 Edwin Edmonds became organist at a salary of £12*per annum*, and £3 was spent on repairing and tuning the organ. (Edwin Edmonds was also the local glazier.) From 1855 Francis Hapgood was organist. In 1856-57, probably because of the change in organist, £20 was spent on cleaning and repairing the organ. In 1861-62 Mr Thompson was employed as organist at the same salary of £12. In 1863-64 Mr Realff became organist.

In 1864-66 the duties of organist seem to have been shared between Mrs Wyatt, Mr Hapgood, and Mr Grimsley. The sum of £4. 10. Od was paid to Messrs Sweetland for cleaning and repairing the organ. Sadly, the British Organ Archive, which is associated with the University of Reading, has only a few brochures from the former firm of Sweetland's of Bath and there is no reference to Lydiard Tregoze in them.

In 1900 the salary for both organist and organ-blower came to ten guineas. By then the organist and choirmistress was Miss Kathleen Mary Habgood (1874-1938). It was her uncle who had been organist in the 1850s, and she, at first, acted as deputy to her father Joseph Habgood who was organist for many years before she was appointed about 1898. She continued as organist for forty years. The newspaper report of her funeral states that she was associated with the music of the church throughout her life. As a child, she joined the rest of the family to sing in the choir, her father playing the organ, and her brother acting as blower.

In 1900 the Rev. Ebenezer Humphrey Jones became the rector. With great zeal and enthusiasm he set about the complete restoration of the church building. On 7 June 1901 *The North Wilts Herald* carried the story of the successful bazaar that was organized in the grounds of the rectory to raise money for the work, and added that:

...the Rector is also hope fid of the success of an effort to put in a new organ. The instrument at present in use is a very old one, and has been in a very bad state for many years, so that it is high time that the congregation should provide themselves with a modern instrumen t.

In 1902 the new instrument was installed by Sweetland's of Bath - and it is still giving good service. In the 1976 it was overhauled by George Osmond & Co. Ltd. Hill, Norman, & Beard now look after

the tuning of the instrument. On the swell organ there is a Principal 4', Oboe 8', Open Diapason 8', and a Lieblich 8'. On the great organ there is a Harmonic Flute 4', Stopped Diapason 8', Open Diapason 8', and a Dulciana 8', with a 16' Bourdon on the pedals. There are three couplers: swell to great, great to swell, and great to pedal.

The organist at Miss Habgood's funeral was Mr D. Pears of Brook House. He had been deputising for her during her final illness, but was not willing to undertake the responsibility of becoming the regular organist in her place.

The new organist was Miss Gertie Garrett, daughter of Mr and Mrs Harry Garrett of Shaw. Hers was a musical family: her father, at the age of eighty was still playing with the Cricklade Town Band, and her mother and other members of her family were members of the choir at Lydiard Tregoze. She was one of the group of young people who joined the choir or attended the church when Canon Willetts was rector, and was appointed by him as organist and choirmistress on 26 January 1939. In 1977 she contributed 'Fifty Musical Years' to *Report* **10.** She started to learn to play the piano when she was six. At the age of eight she became organist at Shaw Methodist Chapel. At eighteen she took the organ at Lydiard Tregoze. The annual salary was  $\pounds 12$ , with an extra shilling for each wedding and funeral. She and her husband Roland Gough played a full part in the life of the life of the church until ill-health in the second half of 1980 brought on her retirement.

During the months that Mrs Gough was ill, Malcolm Titcombe, who was organist at Lydiard Millicent and comes from a family of long standing in Hook, took over, managing to play at both churches. On 1 January 1981 he was appointed as organist at Lydiard Tregoze, and continues happily, in that post.

In a period of just over a hundred years there have been four organists - the Habgoods, father and daughter, Mrs Gough, and Mr Titcombe. It is probable that it was rector Daubeney who introduced an organ in the 1840s, and rector Jones worked for the provision of the present organ. They would be gratified that the tradition is being well maintained. The congregation at Lydiard Tregoze continue to be grateful for Mr Titcombe's skill - which stands in a long and honourable tradition.

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# NOTES ON RECTORS, CURATES, AND PATRONS.

[Major articles have appeared in seven editions of *Report* over the years. These notes bring together the substance of those articles and material from other lesser articles.]

#### SOURCES

The names of two early rectors survive. The first one comes from the Register of the Churches of the Monastery of St.Peter, Gloucester, for, upto 1280, the patron of Lydiard Tregoze was the priory of Ewyas Harold in Herefordshire.<sup>1</sup> The second name appears in an agreement over tithes between the rector of Lydiard Tregoze and the Cistercian Abbey of Stanley, which owned the manor and tithing ofMidgehall<sup>2</sup>.

Sir Thomas Phillipps printed *Institutiones Clericorum in Comitatu Wiltoniae*. (An index to this book appears in *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Magazine*, vol.28, p.21 Off, where Canon Jackson gives the warning that Phillipps includes abortive presentations as, for example when, in 1342 and probably in 1349, Sir Peter Grandison presented candidates, although Lady Northwode then had a life interest in the manor and advowson, presumably in order to establish his reversionary rights.) Phillipps' transcribers used such diocesan registers as had survi ved<sup>o</sup>, some of which have been published by the Canterbury and York Society.

Some information has been derived from John Le Neve, *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1300-1541*, compiled by Joyce M. Horn (1967). Biographical details, academic training, and clerical careers are derived from A.B. Tan den, *A Biographical Register of the University of Oxford toA.D. 1500* (1957) and A *Biographical Register of the University of Oxford A.D. 1501 to 1540* (1974), Joseph Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses 1500-1714* and *Alumni Oxonienses 1715-1886*, A.B. Emden, *Biographical Register of the University of Cambridge to 1500*, and *Biographical Register of the University of Cambridge to 1500*, and *Biographical Register of the University of Cambridge to 1500*, and *Biographical Register of the University of Cambridge to 1500*, and *Biographical Register of the University of Cambridge A.D. 1501 to 1540*, J. A. Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses 1752-1900*, Kellys' s Clergy Lists, and Crockford's Clerical Directory.

The Wiltshire Record Office holds the diocesan archive, which includes *Liber Visitationum 1698-1714*, triennial visitation lists, clergy lists upto 1779, the Subscription Books and ordination papers that survive. The Record Office also holds the parish registers of Lydiard Tregoze and Lydiard Millicent and the churchwardens' account books for Lydiard Tregoze.

	Date of Institution	Presented by
Alexander {temp. 1198-1214)	mstitution	Priory of Ewyas Harold
John Winterberg (living 1228)		Priory of Ewyas Harold
William of Radnor	1304	Sir William Grandison
William of Fersham	1321	Sir William Grandison
Robert of St. Albans	1323	Hugh le Despencer, Earl of Winchester
John of Holt	1325	Hugh le Despencer

#### LIST OF INCUMBENTS

Otto Northwode	1342	Agnes Northwode
(Thomas Belamy	1342	Sir Peter Grandison)
John de Bentele	?	?
John de Radwell (John de Middleton	1348 1349	Agnes Northwode Sir Peter Beauchamp)
William de Athereston	?	?
Robert B orton	1362	John Grandison, Bishop of Exeter
Robert Conyngton	1387	Sir Roger Beauchamp
John Michel	1398	Sir Roger Beauchamp
William Gryndeham	1430	Sir Robert Shotesbroke
Walter Elyot	1431	Sir Robert Shotesbroke
JohnHille	1445	John Coventry of Devizes and John Whittokesmede feoffees of the manor <i>per</i> Peter Beauchamp
Richard Bullok	1486	Oliver Saymour, Armiger, of Diocese of Lincoln
Robert Cowper	1498/9	Lady Elizabeth Bygod, widow
Robert Cowper Jacob Plough	1498/9 1513	Lady Elizabeth Bygod, widow Nicholas Saunders, Esq.
-		
Jacob Plough	1513	Nicholas Saunders, Esq.
Jacob Plough John Hayes	1513 1542	Nicholas Saunders, Esq. John St.John of Farley Chamberlayne
Jacob Plough John Hayes Alexander Thometon	1513 1542 1571	Nicholas Saunders, Esq. John St.John of Farley Chamberlayne John St.John
Jacob Plough John Hayes Alexander Thometon John Petty	1513 1542 1571 1576	Nicholas Saunders, Esq. John St.John of Farley Chamberlayne John St.John Nicholas St.John
Jacob Plough John Hayes Alexander Thometon John Petty Thomas Marler	1513 1542 1571 1576 1612	Nicholas Saunders, Esq. John St.John of Farley Chamberlayne John St.John Nicholas St.John John Wilkinson, Principal of Magdalen Hall, Oxford
Jacob Plough John Hayes Alexander Thometon John Petty Thomas Marler William Blackbume	1513 1542 1571 1576 1612 1643	Nicholas Saunders, Esq. John St.John of Farley Chamberlayne John St.John Nicholas St.John John Wilkinson, Principal of Magdalen Hall, Oxford ?
Jacob Plough John Hayes Alexander Thometon John Petty Thomas Marler William Blackbume Timothy Dewell	1513 1542 1571 1576 1612 1643 1645	Nicholas Saunders, Esq. John St.John of Farley Chamberlayne John St.John Nicholas St.John John Wilkinson, Principal of Magdalen Hall, Oxford ? ?
Jacob Plough John Hayes Alexander Thometon John Petty Thomas Marler William Blackbume Timothy Dewell Stephen Charman	<ol> <li>1513</li> <li>1542</li> <li>1571</li> <li>1576</li> <li>1612</li> <li>1643</li> <li>1645</li> <li>1692</li> </ol>	Nicholas Saunders, Esq. John St.John of Farley Chamberlayne John St.John Nicholas St.John John Wilkinson, Principal of Magdalen Hall, Oxford ? ? Sir Walter St. John <sup>4</sup>
Jacob Plough John Hayes Alexander Thometon John Petty Thomas Marler William Blackbume Timothy Dewell Stephen Charman AbelClerke	<ol> <li>1513</li> <li>1542</li> <li>1571</li> <li>1576</li> <li>1612</li> <li>1643</li> <li>1645</li> <li>1692</li> <li>1714</li> </ol>	Nicholas Saunders, Esq. John St.John of Farley Chamberlayne John St.John Nicholas St.John John Wilkinson, Principal of Magdalen Hall, Oxford ? ? Sir Walter St. John <sup>4</sup> Sir Henry St.John, Bt.

Giles Daubeney	1839 Mrs Martha Collins		
Thomas Wade Powell	1878 Francis Sharp Powell		
Thomas Trafford Shipman 1879 Henry, 5th Viscount Bolingbroke			
Henry George Baily	1885 Henry, Viscount Bolingbroke		
Ebenezer Humphrey Jones 1900 Mary, 5th Viscountess Bolingbroke			
Arthur Herbert Harrison	1915 Mary, Viscountess Bolingbroke		
William Henry Willetts	1936 Mary, Viscountess Bolingbroke		

The list ends here because Canon Willetts was the last rector of Lydiard Tregoze. After his resignation in 1956, the benefice was united with that of Lydiard Millicent, and the Lydiard Tregoze rectory was sold.

The patronage had already been alienated. Lady Bolingbroke died in 1940. Her late husband (d. 1899) had devised and bequeathed to her all 'his real and personal property whatsoever and wheresoever'. Her seven-page will, executed in 1902, devised all her 'freehold manors messuages farms lands tithes rents advowsons and hereditaments' to trustees for the benefit of her late husband's children. The trustees were her cousin Edward Hiscock and her solicitor Thomas St.John Oswell of Wootton Bassett, their heirs and assigns. Although Lady Bolingbroke's will anticipated that her youngest son, if he survived, would enter into possession when he reached the age of twenty-five, it would appear that he did not so succeed, for it was the then-trustees who sold Lydiard Park and the advowson in 1943<sup>5</sup>.

# **INTRODUCTION**

The desire to investigate and chronicle the incumbents of a parish has been denigrated in this century as mere antiquarianism, but it nevertheless provides a few pieces to add to the reconstruction of the social fabric of the community over the centuries. The principal landowners and, to a lesser extent, the parson were the power bases, and the form and extent of their interest in the local community will have had an impact on that local community. It is therefore germane, for example, to discover whether or not a particular incumbent was a non-resident pluralist even though little else can be ascertained.

It is worth noting that, whilst only twelve rectors were instituted between 1513 and 1839, eleven names - and there may have been more - survive from the fourteenth century. This large number may

be due to a variety of causes. There may have been several deaths from plague. It is also true that there were a number of changes in ownership of the manor of Lydiard Tregoze. There was also, nationally, a widespread exchange of livings, 'a practice which first became noteworthy in the thirteenth century and reached a climax verging on scandal towards the end of the fourteenth.'<sup>7</sup>

# PATRONS

From the earliest time to the present day every benefice has a patron whose principal function, when a vacancy occurs, is to present a replacement candidate to the diocesan bishop for institution. Patronage, or the advowson, is property in its own right and is, in theory, held by the principal landowner or by whoever has been put into possession of the principal manor. However, much patronage, together with the income of the benefice, was transferred prior to the Reformation to religious houses, the recipient houses appointing their vicar to serve at an agreed stipend. (Lydiard Tregoze church was given to the priory of Ewyas from 1110 till 1280, but does not appear to have been appropriated in any binding way.) It was also possible to sell the right of patronage for one or more vacancies at a price that was determined by the age and physical condition of the exisiting incumbent. This practice was common in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but came to an end in the twentieth.

Note: 'P.' with a date or dates within square brackets indicates when presentations were made by a particular patron.

In 1100 Harold of Ewyas made a grant of churches and tithes in his lordship to Gloucester Abbey as endowment for a chantry chapel in his castle of Ewyas Harold, Herefordshire. The original endowment included part of the tithes from Lydiard Tregoze. (Certain lands at Ewyas Harold and *Manitone*, together with the manors of Eaton Tregoz<sup>8</sup> and Lydiard Tregoze, were retained in demesne by Harold, his son, and grandson.<sup>9</sup>) The confirmation of this endowment, made c.1120 - c.1150, included the church of Lydiard Tregoze. (By 1366 the tithes of Lydiard Tregoze were compounded for 20s, and this payment, eventually transferred to Gloucester Cathedral, continued to be paid until 1886.) The grandson of Harold of Ewyas married a certain Petronella and died in 1198, leaving his daughter Sybil as heiress. She married, firstly, Robert de Tregoz (d. 1214) and, secondly, Roger de Clifford (d. 1231). The Abbey of StPeter Gloucester, on behalf of the priory of Ewyas Harold, retained the advowson of Lydiard Tregoze until 1280, when it was conveyed to John de Tregoz (d. 1300), grandson of Robert.<sup>1</sup>"

By his wife Mabel John de Tregoz had a son, John (d. without issue 1288), and two daughters, Clarissa and Sybil. Clarissa, who predeceased her father, married Roger de la Warre: Sybil married William de Grandison. John's heirs in 1300, therefore, were Roger de la Warre, son of Clarissa and Roger, and Sybil de Grandison. An eventual partition, made by award of Parliament in 1302, confirmed Lydiard Tregoze as part of the inheritance of Sybil de Grandison

Sir William de Grandison<sup>11</sup> [P. 1304 and 1321] (d. 1335) was a younger brother of Otes de Grandison. In Herefordshire he held Much Marcle, Stretton Grandison, and Ashperton: in Kent he held Chelesfield. (In 1292 Edward I licensed him to crenellate his house at Ashperton.<sup>12</sup>) Sir William's children, by his wife Sybil, included Sir Peter (d. without issue 1358), John [P. 1362] (d. 1369), Bishop of Exeter, Mabel, who married John, Baron Patshull, of Bletsoe, Beds., and Agnes [P. 1342 and 1348] (d. 1348), who married Sir John Northwode.

The institutions in 1323 and 1325 were at the instance of Hugh le Despenser (1262-1326), Earl of Winchester. Hugh le Despenser and his son, also Hugh, were despotic favourites of Edward II. They

were generally hated, and were accused of many acts of oppression and wrongful dealing. Greedy and ambitious, they used their influence over the king for their own advantage. Hugh (the father) held many appointments in Wiltshire. He was made warden of Clarendon and Braydon forests, constable of Devizes and Marlborough castles, each of which appointments brought valuable appendages. Their favourite manor was Vasterne, Wootton Bassett. Phillipps lists presentations by Despenser at Hannington, Wootton Bassett, the Hospital of St.John at Wootton Bassett, Tockenham, Coleme, Rodboume, Sherston, as well as Lydiard Tregoze.

'Despenser engulfed a large number of people - even royal ladies - in a protection racket that makes some of the American racketeers of this century look like very small fry.'<sup>13</sup> In March 1322 Peter Grandison, son of Sir William Grandison, was taken prisoner at the battle of Boroughbridge by the King, having fought under the leadership of Thomas of Lancaster against the Despenser faction. In return for his son, Sir William Grandison surrendered the manor and advowson of Lydiard Tregoze to Hugh le Despenser the elder.<sup>14</sup> After the fall and death of the latter in 1326 Lydiard was restored to Sir William. (Many appeals followed their downfall, including one from Henry of Hook for the restitution of the messuage and ploughland he had handed over to them after being incarcerated for a week in a dungeon at Vasterne.)

Sir William Grandison and his wife Sybil made a grant for her life of the manor and advowson of Lydiard Tregoze to their daughter Agnes [P. 1342 and 1348], the widow of Sir John Northwode (d. 1317) whom she had married in 1306, on payment of a rose annually on the Feast of St.John the Baptist. (A window in the St.John chapel contains the shields of Tregoz, Northwode - Ermine, across engrailed gules, and Grandison.)

Agnes, Lady Northwode, died in 1348. Presumably the manor and advowson passed to her eldest brother Sir Peter de Grandison, who had made abortive presentations in 1342 and 1349. On the death of Sir Peter in 1358 the advowson passed to his younger brother John Grandison [P. 1362] (d. 1369), the great bishop of Exeter who held the see for forty-two years. He had a long and distinguished career in the church. On the death of his brother, John "became the wealthiest lord bishop that Exeter had hitherto possessed, and it is safe to add, that none before or since did more to promote the splendour of religion and to benefit the poor of the diocese."<sup>15</sup>

In 1364 bishop John Grandison granted the advowson to his niece Sybil and her husband Sir Roger Beauchamp (d. 1379/80).<sup>16</sup> Sybil was a daughter of the bishop's sister Mabel, who had married John, Baron Patshull, of Bletsoe, Beds. Sir Roger Beauchamp was Lord Chamberlain of the Household to Edward III. Their grandson Sir Roger Beauchamp (d. 1406) presented in 1387 and 1398. On 28 September 1389 Sir Roger Beauchamp and his wife were granted an episcopal licence for two years to have Mass said in the oratory of their house at Lydiard Tregoze.<sup>17</sup>

Sir Roger Beauchamp's son, Sir John Beauchamp (d. 1412), married twice. His second wife was Edith Stourton (d. 1441), who, after the death of her husband, held Lydiard in dower. Her second husband was Sir Robert Shottesbroke [P. 1430,1431]. Sir John Beauchamp had two children, Margaret aged about three years and John aged about two years when their father died. Although the wardship of the two children was granted to William and John Stourton, a grant of the manor of Lydiard Tregoze was made by Peter Beauchamp, possibly a younger brother of Sir John, to John Coventry of Devizes and John Whittokesmede [P. 1445] as feoffees. Coventry and Whittokesmede conveyed the manor to trustees, who included a John Seymour, for the benefit of Margaret Beauchamp. An Oliver Seymour, armiger, of Lincoln Diocese presented in 1486. Margaret Beauchamp's first husband was Sir Oliver St.John (d. 1437/8). Their younger son Oliver St.John (d. 1497) married Elizabeth the widow of Sir John Bygod. She held Lydiard in dower, and presented in 1498/9.<sup>18</sup>

By her second husband Oliver St.John, Elizabeth, Lady Bygod, had a son John (d. 1512) who married Jane Ewarby (d. 1553). On the death of her St.John husband, Jane held Lydiard in trust for her son who was a minor and married Nicholas Saunders [P.1513], of Batailles in Ewell, Surrey.<sup>19</sup> On coming of age, John St.John [P.1542,1571] (d. 1576) had lively of his father's lands which included Lydiard Tregoze and Farley Chamberlayne. (The fact that John St.John is 'ofFarley' in 1542 is not altogether surprising. He appears to have been peripatetic, describing himself as 'of Farley Chamberlayne', 'of Ewell', and 'of Lydiard Tregoze' depending on where he was staying at the time.<sup>2</sup>")

On the death of John St.John in 1576, the manor and advowson passed to his eldest son Nicholas [P.1576] (d. 1589). Nicholas's son Sir John St.John died in 1594, and was succeeded eventually by Sir John St.John, 1st Bt., (1585-1648). No explanation can be offered for the presentation in 1612 by John Wilkinson, Principal of Magdalen Hall, Oxford: it is also inconceivable that Sir John did not present in 1643 and 1645. Sir John was eventually succeeded by his sixth son Sir Walter St.John, 3rd Bt. [P.1692] (1622-1708). Sir Walter's eldest son was Sir Henry St.John [P.1714,1737] (d. 1742), who was created Viscount St.John in 1716. Lord St.John's surviving son from his first marriage was Henry St.John [1.1747], who enjoyed the title of Viscount Bolingbroke from 1712 until it was lost by attainder in 1715. (Although he had put his half-brother John, 2nd Viscount St.John (d. 1748), 'into possession' of Lydiard in 1738, he retained the patronage.)

In 1780 the patron was George Watson, Gent. Frederick (d. 1787), 2nd Viscount Bolingbroke and 3rd Viscount St.John, was always short of money.<sup>21</sup> In 1761 he sold the next presentation to the vicarage of Battersea. He appears also to have sold the next presentation to the rectory of Lydiard Tregoze.

No vacancy occurred during the lifetime of George Richard (d. 1824), 3rd Viscount Bolingbroke. In his will he bequeathed the advowson to his wife and strongly suggested that, at the next vacancy, it should first be offered to their son the Hon. Ferdinand St.John, if he was in orders, and then it should be offered to an older son the Rev. George Frederick St.John, then the rector of Manston, Dorset. The advowson was, however, sold. In 1839 the next presentation was made by Mrs Martha Collins, widow of the Rev. John Collins of Betterton, Berks. Mrs Collins presented her son-in-law Giles Daubeney for institution.<sup>22</sup>

The Rev. Giles Daubeney died in 1877, by which time the advowson had again been sold, this time to Francis Sharp Powell, banister-at-law and MP, who presented a younger brother, the Rev. Thomas Wade Powell. Powell only stayed one year as rector, exchanging Lydiard Tregoze for Aspatria, Cumberland, with Canon Shipman, who was presented by Henry, [P.1879,1885] (d. 1899), 5th Viscount Bolingbroke. Mary (d.1940), 5th Viscountess Bolingbroke, presented in 1900,1915, and 1936.

Since 1944 the patron has been the bishop of Bristol and, when the benefice was joined with that of Lydiard Millicent, the patronage of the united benefice was shared between the bishop and the Master and Fellows of Pembroke College, Oxford, who were patrons of the rectory of Lydiard Millicent.

# THE INCUMBENTS

# THIRTEENTH CENTURY

Nothing has been discovered about the first two names that have survived - **Alexander** and **John de Winterberg** - who were appointed by the Priory of Ewyas Harold.

#### FOURTEENTH CENTURY

**William of Radnor** (de Radenoure or de Radenovere)<sup>23</sup> was presented to the living by Sir William Grandison on 9 October 1304. An acolyte, he was instituted at Ramsbury on 19 October. On 19 December of the same year, being now a sub-deacon, he was granted a licence to study at Oxford for two years under the novel constitution of Boniface. No further information has been discovered except that he resigned the benefice *c*. 1321, apparently exchanging livings with his successor **William Fersham** (de Ferschedon).<sup>24</sup> Fersham was previously vicar of Gillingham, Kent, and was instituted to the benefice of Lydiard Tregoze on 20 March 1322.

**Robert of St.Albans** (or de Sancto Albano) was a pluralist. He was already rector of St.Magnus, London, when he was presented by Hugh le Despencer on 29 July 1323. Apparently William Fersham was given another benefice belonging to Robert of St.Albans by way of compensation. Robert of St. Albans was instituted as rector by the bishop of London, after which the bishop of Salisbury ordered that he or his proctor should be inducted into the corporal possession of the church with all its rights and appurtenances.<sup>25</sup>

**John of Holt** (or de Holte) was presented by Hugh le Despencer in 1325.<sup>26</sup> Bishop Martival "granted the church .... to the presentee *in commendam* according to the form of the last Council of Lyons." *In commendam (depositum)*, that is, "given in trust", signifies that the benefice was to be held in the absence of the regular incumbent. Roger Martival became bishop of Salisbury in 1315, and brought with him from Lincoln a number of household clerks. Almost all Bishop Ghent's known household clerks in 1315 seem immediately to have been retired to their canonries and prebends at the cathedral or to other benefices in the diocese, or went elsewhere, and were replaced by Martival's new men. Amongst these was John of Holt. *Phillipps* lists John of Holt as being made rector of Compton Bassett in 1320.

Apparently Robert of St.Albans had died. In 1325 "inhibition was made by the official of Canterbury in a cause between Robert atte Hull and John de Maidenford, both of St.Albans and executors of the will of Robert of St.Albans, formerly rector of Lydiard Tregoz, and John de Holte, now rector of Lydiard. Holte claimed some of his predecessor's goods as belonging to the rectory, and has caused the bishop to sequester them."<sup>27</sup> The inhibition was relaxed, and the matter settled later in the year.

**Otto Northwode** was of the family of Agnes, Lady Northwode. Educated at Oxford, he was a Bachelor of Canon and Civil Law by 1350. He was instituted to the benefice on 26 December 1342, only holding it for a short time. He was a great pluralist. In addition to three benefices and prebends in Wiltshire and elsewhere, he became archdeacon of Exeter on 15 December 1360.

Nothing has been discovered about **John de Bentele** except that he is listed as the incumbent before **John de Radwell**, who was instituted in 1348 on the presentation of Lady Northwode. *(Le Neve* lists, under 20 November 1332, a John de Redeswell, canon of Exeter, as having expectation of aprebend there.)

Nothing further has been discovered about the next two incumbents, **William de Athereston** and **Robert Borton**. Borton received Lydiard in exchange for Bromham in 1362. Borton was succeeded by **Robert Conyngton**, who was instituted in 1387. On 23 May 1389 Conyngton was granted a licence to be absent from the church for two years, possibly for study.<sup>28</sup> Nothing has been discovered about the next two rectors - **John Michel** instituted in 1398 and **William Gryndeham**, instituted in 1430.

#### **FIFTEENTH CENTURY**

**Walter Elyot** (Elliott, Eliot) was instituted in 1431. He may have been rector of Beechingstoke, 1412-19. The Longleat Papers<sup>29</sup> report that in 1439 rector Walter Eliot was presented to the Sheriff because his ditch was affecting the king's highway, "Bornbridge Lane". Walter Elyot was deprived the living in 1445, presumably for some more heinous offence than that of neglecting his ditches. Deprivation was a serious matter:

[It] created a vacancy and converted an unruly incumbent into a disgruntled stipendiary, and it was a grave step threatening the patron's advowson and hence to be used sparingly and cautiously; this it certainly was, being rare in any diocese on more than or two occasions a year, and then it was mainly operated as a consequence of the legislation against pluralism or incorrigible non-residence.<sup>30</sup>

In the place of Walter Elyot, **John Hille** was instituted in 1445. He was one of the fifteen trustees, headed by the bishop of Ely and the earl of Worcester, to whom Lydiard Tregoze was conveyed in 1458.<sup>31</sup> Hille continued as rector until his death.<sup>32</sup>

**Richard Bullok,** Bachelor of Canon Law 1479, became rector of Linwood, Lines., in April 1486, rector of Lydiard Tregoze on 17 December 1486, and rector of Wyville, Lines., on 7 December 1487. He retained all three parishes until his death. He was one of the witnesses to the will of Oliver St.John (d. 1497).<sup>33</sup>

On the death of Richard Bullok in 1498, **Robert Cowper** (or Cooper) was presented, and then instituted on 17 February 1498/9. He was ordained priest on 31 March 1498, presumably having attained the age of twenty-four. He resigned the benefice of Lydiard Tregoze in October 1513, and died about 1530. He was a considerable musician. He graduated B.Mus. at Cambridge in 1494, and Doctor of Music in 1506/7. His preferments included the free chapel of Snodhill, Herefordshire, 1498-1514, Lydiard Tregoze 1498/9-1513, the canonry of Wingham, Kent, and the prebend of Twytham 1511-30, East Horsley, Surrey, April - November 1516, Latchingdon, Essex, 1516-26, and Snargate, Kent, 1526 till his death.

Eric Blom<sup>34</sup> commented that Cowper was presented by the Crown to the free chapel of Snodhill on the resignation of Robert Fayrefax, who was one of the Gentlemen of the King's Chapel. 'It is thus likely that [Cowper] had been attached to Henry VII's court .... On 5 June 1525 his brother, William Cowper, who had been dean of Bridgenorth since 1515, recommended him to Cromwell for further preferment, as being "well disposed [politically?] and virtuous and a good *quereman*", but it is not known with what results, if any.' Blom continues:

Cowper's known works include several motets, two madrigals for three voices, 'I have been a foster [forester]' and 'Farewell, my joy', and a song, 'Petyously constrayned am F, all in the British Museum. In Wynkyn de Worde's song book of 1530 there are three songs for three voices, 'In youth, in age', 'So great unkindness', and 'Ut re, mi'. A catch, 'Alone I live' was published in 1891. (Plain-Song and Mediaeval Music Society.)

The 21st Anniversary of the formation of the Friends of Lydiard Tregoz was celebrated, on 14 May 1988, with a programme of readings and music, in which Manifesto, a quartet from Olveston, Gloucestershire, sang two of Robert Cowper's compositions for three voices - 'I have been a foster' and 'Gloria in exselsis *[sic]* deo et in terra pax hominibus bone volunta'.<sup>35</sup>

#### SIXTEENTH CENTURY

Jacob Plough succeded Robert Cowper in 1513, and continued as rector until his death.

The next incumbent was **John Hayes**. *(Emden* states that there was a stipendiary priest of this name at St.Mary Magdalene, Oxford, in 1526, whom Foster describes as a secular chaplain at Oxford, who gained his Bachelor of Canon Law in 1528. It would appear that these references are not to our John Hayes.) In 1549 John Hayes, then aged 63, gave evidence in the court of Star Chamber in a case concerning the manor of Purton and certain other properties.<sup>36</sup> Hayes stated that he had known the vicar of Purton for 39 years, and had lived with him for the first six. John Franklin held both Purton and Lydiard Millicent, and John Hayes served as parish priest, under Franklin, until the death of the latter in August 1515. On 15 December 1515 Hayes was instituted as rector of Lydiard Millicent, and retained that benefice for fifty-five years. In 1525 he added the vicarage of Wootton Bassett, which he resigned in 1541 on becoming rector of Lydiard Tregoze.

Hayes began as assistant curate at Purton in about 1510. He died in 1571. These were years of great change. Stephen Friar has commented, 'In England, medieval Catholicism was neither exhausted nor decayed. Its vigour, richness, and creativity were undiminished and it retained a strong hold on the loyalty and imagination of the English right up to the 1530s, when the break with Rome occurred. The English Reformation was a violent act of state rather than a popular movement.'<sup>37</sup> Hayes was instituted at Lydiard Tregoze on 4 February 1541/2, and it is recorded that, at his institution, he made the acknowledgement of the king as supreme head of the Church and abjured the Pope.<sup>38</sup>

In 1544 the Litany appeared in English - the only service to be translated and re-ordered during the lifetime of Henry VIII. (It was appropriate for the Litany to be reissued at this time, for England was at war with Scotland and France and processions, neglected of latter years, were needed for such emergencies.<sup>39</sup>) It was only with the accession of Edward VI that significant liturgical change appeared. Cranmer's *Prayer Books* of 1549 and 1552 embodied Protestant doctrine and were in English. With the accession of Mary I in 1553 Roman Catholic forms of worship were reinstated, but the accession of her sister Elizabeth I turned the tables once more. Reformed worship was again ordered, and this time weekly fines were to be imposed on those who did not attend their own parish church.

The far-reaching changes in liturgy in the reign of Edward VI stemmed from Protestant theology. The doctrine of Transubstantiation was abandoned: services of Holy Communion - round a table - replaced the Mass celebrated on a stone altar. Superstitious images were to be removed together with all that witnessed to the intercession of the saints, particularly the rood screen on which was represented the dying Jesus flanked on either side by the Blessed Virgin Mary and St.John. Few medieval furnishings apart from the font survive at Lydiard Tregoze. Unfortunately the churchwardens' accounts do not survive for the period. They would have recorded how speedily or reluctantly rector Hayes and the churchwardens acted to conform with the changes under Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I. There is, however, no doubt that they did conform to the changes, for John St.John (d. 1576) was a member of the 1529- 36 Parliament - and probably of the next one also - in which the Henrician break with Rome was adopted and steps were taken which would lead to the dissolution of the monasteries. Yet John St.John was put on the Commission of the Peace in the first year of Mary's reign and remained a J.P. until his death. He also served as Sheriff of the county in 1555-6 under Mary and in 1572-3 under Elizabeth. His loyalty cannot have been questioned, and that loyalty would be seen not least in the churches on his estates.<sup>40</sup>

In 1549 the clergy of the new English church were allowed to many.

Hayes made his will on 20 January 1570-/1.<sup>41</sup> Probate was granted on 12 February 1570/1. He was, therefore, aged about eighty-five when he died. His will states that he was 'parson of Lyddyard millysent and of Lyddyard T reigose ', that he wished that his body should be buried in the parish church of Lydiard Tregoze, and that all his assets and liabilities should go to William Maslin. The witnesses

to his will included Nicholas St.John and his son John St.John.

Alexander Thornton was presented in 1571 as successor to John Hayes. As with Walter Elyot (1445), Thornton suffered deprivation of the benefice, in 1576, for reasons that have not yet been investigated.

Thornton's successor was **John Petty.** He came from Hampshire, and was a Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in 1564. He was made BA on 18 April 1564. In 1576 he was instituted to Lydiard Tregoze, which he retained until his death, in 1612. In 1577 he added the vicarage of Wootton Bassett, which he held in plurality until his death. He signed the Bishop's Transcripts for Lydiard Tregoze in April 1608.

When, late in 1612, Petty was 'lyeing sickinhisbed' he was requested to make his will but he declined because he said, "I have but little to give: But that little which I have I gave to my daughter Ann, & John shall have the disposing thereof for her best maintenance".<sup>42</sup> The nuncupative will and the inventory that was made in 1614 are those of a man who would have had sympathy with whoever it was inspired Thomas Traherne (d.1674) to write 'Poverty', one verse of which runs:

I wonder'd much to see That all my wealth should be Confin'd in such a little room Yet hope for more I scarcely durst presume. It griev'd me sore That such a scanty store Should be my all.

The bond that the administrators of Petty's estate made on 1 July 1614 states that Ann Petty was his 'natural and lawful daughter' and John Petty was her brother. The inventory, presented at Salisbury on 22 September 1614, is of interest because it is the earliest inventory of the benefice house of Lydiard Tregoze that has as yet been discovered. It is here transcribed: contractions in the text have been expanded, and roman numerals have been rendered in arabic numerals.

In the hall		
Imprimis a table board with a frame & a forme		
Item two brasse potts, two dripping pannes, & a paire of rackes 15s.		
Item three broches [spits]	Is. 8	3d
In the butterie		
Item two barrells		8d
Item all the pewter, being 16 peeces	6s.	
Item one saltseller, & two candlestickes	Is.	
Item one more barrell		8d
In the parlor		
Item one featherbed, the bedstead	18s.	
Item two feather pillowes, & one feather	5s.	
Item one old rugge	6s.	
Item blankett	Is.	
Item two paire of shetes	8s.	
Item one old table board with a frame, & sixe joyne stooles	5s.	
Item two table clothes, & fower napkins		3s.6d

In the upper Chamber Item one feather bedd, a truckle bedstead one wome Item two Chestes, & a linnie cupboard		10s. 10s.	
In an other Chamber			
Item one featherbed, & a bedstead		6s.	8d
Item one old Coffer			8d
Item one wanning panne		Is.	8d
Item all his bookes	£1		
Item all his wearing apparell	£2	10s.	
In the barton			
Item one mare and a colt	£2		
Item in money, & debtes owed	£10		
Summa	£20	16s	2d

The benefice house could have been as small as the five rooms listed - hall, buttery, and parlour on the ground floor, with two bedrooms on the upper floor - but there may have been additional rooms that were empty when the inventory was made.

#### SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

**Thomas Marler**<sup>43</sup> was instituted as rector on 3 September 1612.<sup>44</sup> As the inventory of the goods and chattells of his predecessor was not taken until 29 July 1614 he may not have taken possession of the benefice house until after that date.

Marler, entered at Trinity College, Oxford, received his B. A. on 9 July 1600, anM.A. on 20 May 1605, and a B.D. on 6 July 1618. On 27 June 1625 he was collated as archdeacon of Salisbury.<sup>45</sup> His archdeaconry covered roughly the southern part of the county of Wiltshire, and consisted of the deaneries of Potteme, Wilton, Wylye, Chalke, and Amesbury, though it excluded the sub-deanery of Salisbury. He continued to hold both the rectory and the archdeaconry until his death. He was buried at Lydiard Tregoze on 20 May 1643.<sup>46</sup>

With Marler's incumbency we have the first evidence of the employment of assistant curates. The Bishop's Transcripts for 1621-2 were signed by a William Headstone, who also made the transcription, and the churchwardens. The Transcripts for 1635-6 were signed by Thomas Haines and the churchwardens. Haines transcribed the Registers for 1632-3 and 1635-6. After his signature on the second of these transcripts he added 'Curat ibid'. On 17 February 1639 Susanna Kent alias Wolbome made her will, in which she desired that Mr Haines should deliver her funeral sermon and that 10s. should be paid to him.<sup>47</sup> This evidence of assistant curates must be read in the light of Marler's normal residence at Lydiard Tregoze. He signed four of the seven sets of Bishop's Transcripts that survive from his incumbency, and in 1635 was included among the contributors from Lydiard who paid Ship Money.<sup>48</sup>

Marler was approximately the same age as Sir John St.John (d. 1648), 1st Baronet, and may well have known each other at Oxford. (Sir John matriculated from Trinity College on 3 April 1601.) It was during his incumbency that the interior of the church was transformed with new furnishings and fittings and with the splendid range of St.John monuments.

Despite the guess of John Walker<sup>49</sup>, there is no evidence that Marler was a 'Sufferer' in the Civil W ar. Matthews<sup>5</sup>" adds the information that his will, made at Lydiard and dated 18 May 1643, was proved at Oxford on 14 July 1643, and contained a bequest of £50 to his old college Trinity for the repair of the chapel. (Probate was granted by officials of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury at Oxford, where the Court had moved because of the war, but the will apparently has not survived.)

Marler enjoyed a close friendship with Edward Hyde, later created earl of Clarendon. Hyde had married the niece of Sir John St. John, although the marriage ended with her death six months later. Property came to Edward Hyde with the death of his father, and Marler acted as advisor and agent for him in regard to his properties in Purton. Eight of the weekly letters survive that Marler wrote to Hyde, and they come from the period 1 December 1640 to 26 May 1641.<sup>51</sup> These were difficult days for the Church and the Crown, and Marler was hungry for news. He was a diligent follower of events in London, and was greatly concerned about the growing opposition to the church, its leadership and clergy. He was far from sanguine about the future - "I can only pray that al may be for the best though I have little reason to hope." He asked Hyde how he could resign from the Commission of the Peace before he suffered the indignity of being excluded. News also was shared about Sir John St.John and his family - his sisters Lady Villiers and Lady Apsley, his brothers-in-law Sir George Ayliffe and Sir Giles Mompesson, and his daughter Lady Lee - many of whom Marler knew personally as a result of their visits to Lydiard. The letters are conversational yet scholarly, and show that Marler was well-read.

Marler was succeeded by **William Blackburne.** He was born *c*. 1606, the son of William Blackburne of Billing, Lancs., and entered Brasenose College, Oxford, as a commoner and matriculated at the age of seventeen on 20 October 1626. He received his B. A. on 10 July 1628, and his M.A. as of St.John's College on 26 May 1631. He was incorporated at Cambridge in 1633. He became vicar of Charlbury, Oxfordshire, in 1641, and rector of Lydiard Tregoze in 1643. Both of these appointments he held until his death, which occurred on 10 March 1644/5. His was buried at Lydiard, and his grave-slab in the sanctuary of the church has a long inscription in Latin<sup>52</sup>, which, in translation, testifies to his reliable memory, quick mind, remarkable learning, gentle manners, unusual powers of conversation, and upright life.

Blackburne's brief occupation, which lasted about two years was followed by that of **Timothy Dewell**, rector for forty-five years.<sup>53</sup>

Much is known of Timothy Dewell's background and life. He was born about 1616, the son of John Dewell, one of the leading citizens of Reading and mayor of the town in 1635-6. The Dewells were prosperous tradespeople in Reading. John Dewell's will - proved, PCC, 31 August 1653 - shows him to have been a man of modest property and describes him as 'gentleman'. In addition to an inn, the Cardinal's Hat, with its seven acres of 'mondaie ground' in the King's Mead, his will disposed of three other houses in Minster Street, Reading, as well as a woollen-draper's business and a butcher ' s shop, both of which were let to tenants. The will of Timothy Dewell shows how he preserved this inheritance and enhanced his estate. His grave slab, in the sanctuary of Lydiard Tregoze church, is incised with his assumed arms which approximate to the arms of the ancient family of De Welle, from whom he perhaps believed himself to have descended.<sup>54</sup>

Timothy Dewell matriculated as a commoner at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, on 13 June 1634 at the age of fourteen. (A cousin George Dewell had matriculated at the same college eight years previously, so had Thomas Hedges who married Timothy's sister. The connection with Magdalen Hall continued, for four of Timothy 's sons and a grandson were entered there.) Timothy received his bachelor's degree on 15 October 1636, and his M.A. on 15 June 1639. In 1661 he received the honorary degree of D.D.

Dewell was made deacon<sup>55</sup> on 22 December 1639 with a title to serve as assistant curate at Rodbourne Cheney, near Swindon, where his brother-in-law Thomas Hedges was incumbent.<sup>56</sup> The curious fact is that, although Dewell was made deacon in 1639, he was not ordained priest until 31 March 1645.<sup>57</sup> His subscription on ordination appears in the Oxford diocesan records, and he is listed as a member of Magdalen Hall in the Protestation Roll for Oxford University, dated 21 February 1641/2, although he is marked as being absent when the members of the Hall took the oath.<sup>58</sup> Dewell may have combined a fairly nominal title with a continuance of his academic life in Oxford.<sup>59</sup>

It was in 1645, the year of his ordination to the priesthood, that he was made rector of Lydiard Tregoze. (It is not known who made the presentation.) He was no stranger to the parish, for another sister, Grace (d.1668), was living at Mannington with her husband Peter Kibblewhite and then-daughter Grace. (The importance and closeness of the Kibblewhites to rector Dewell is seen in that they apparently were buried in the chancel of Lydiard Tregoze church, the area reserved for incumbents and their families.)

Timothy Dewell married twice. His first wife was Elizabeth Knight (d. 1687) of Greenham, co. Berks., by whom he had three sons and two daughters according to the inscription on his grave slab in the chancel. Five more sons were born to his second wife, Anne Saunders (d. 1711), a daughter of the rector of Pangbourne, co.Berks. The very long inscription on his grave slab, in Latin, speaks of him in translation as 'a very worthy rector of this church .... With what labour for the gospel he worked and how greatly he fed his flock his life and conversation show.'

The closest bonds of affection and respect existed between the Dewells and Sir Walter and Lady Johanna St.John, whose letters give ample evidence of this.<sup>6</sup>" Sir Walter's eldest son and his sisters came from Battersea to stay with the Dewells whilst they recuperated from illness. The rectory was next door to the manor house, and the Dewells would look forward to Sir Walter and Lady Johanna and their family when they came to Lydiard, and to their friends and relatives when they enjoyed the hospitality of Lydiard Park, amongst whom were Sir George and Lady Ayliffe, the Countess of Rochester, and Lord Chancellor Clarendon. Henry St.John - later created Viscount St.John - came to Lydiard as a child in the care of the Dewells. On his marriage to Lady Mary Rich, his father Sir Walter put him into possession of the family estates at Lydiard Tregoze, and he and his bride often stayed at Lydiard, and it was there, in 1678, that she died after the birth of the future Viscount Bolingbroke.

Timothy Dewell received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity at Oxford. Lord Clarendon had been made Chancellor of the University in October 1660. His first appearance at Oxford in his new dignity took place during the following September. To mark the occasion seventy-four men received honorary degrees, of whom forty-five received doctorates. This flood of honorary degrees brought financial rewards in the form of fees to the University, status to the recipients, and a certain amount of grumbling from the Fellows. In answer to this grumbling the Chancellor wrote to the Vice-Chancellor and stated that he had put forward the names of only four or five candidates.<sup>61</sup> That Timothy Dewell's honour was on the nomination of the Chancellor is almost certain, even though it may have been at the original instance of Sir Walter. The honorary degree testifies to the friendship and accord that existed between Dewell, Clarendon, and Sir Walter. These three may well have had much in common in regard to politics, with a firmly-held respect for common law, for parliament, for precedent and good order.

Dewell and Sir Walter were together in sharing the views of 'parish Puritans' and those of presbyterian sympathy. At the Restoration both would be prepared to accept a modified episcopacy, a revised Book of Common Prayer, and a return to the parochial organization of pre-Commonwealth days. Earlier

Dewell had made public his own support for the presbyterian cause. He had grown up in the trading community of Reading - those whom Slingsby Bethel described as 'the industrious sort of people', amongst whom there was that reforming atmosphere of Puritan opinion which was one of the causes of the civil wars. In 1647 and 1648 *Testimonies*, which were presbyterian manifestoes, were signed by nine hundred ministers in London and the provinces. The first *Testimony* was by ministers in London who asserted their belief that 'Presbyterial Government is that Government which is most acceptable to the mind of Jesus Christ, revealed in Scripture' and sadly 'lamented Englands generall backwardnesse to embrace' this form of government which they had already in part put into practice. They declared their devoted adherence to *The Solemn League and Covenant*, and their abhorrence of many prevalent errors, especially the proposal of a general toleration. The undated *Concurrent Testimony of the Ministers in the County of Wilts* was signed by eighty-two ministers, who included Dewell and his neighbour Robert Whitfield, rector of Lydiard Millicent.<sup>62</sup> (There is no evidence that Dewell was himself a member of the Westminster Assembly.)

Dewell was rector for forty-seven years, from 1645 till 1692. After the death of Edward St.John in 1645 he witnessed the erection of the 'Golden Cavalier' monument in his memory. Three years later he witnessed the burial of Sir John St.John, 1st Baronet, with its amazing attendant display of armour and banners. In the 1680s he witnessed the enlargement of the Triptych, and it may have been in his time that the new splendid altar rails were introduced and the chancel ceiling repainted. It is tempting to guess that it was also in his time that the nave, as seen in the Lloyd model of 1840, was re-ordered with a dominant two-decker pulpit placed on the north side of the nave and facing the manorial pew. It was also during Dewell's incumbency that a very large number of the incised memorial slabs were placed in the floor of the church to remind us of those who considered themselves leaders of local society, the Yorkes and Kemps of Bassett Down, the Viletts of Mannington, Lady Newcomen at Midgehall, and the Hardymans of Chaddington.

The monumental inscription on Dewell's grave, quoted above, speaks of his worthiness as rector. Of his preaching no record appears to have survived. Of his pastoral activity there is some evidence from probate documents that he had an active concern for his parishoners. There is an isolated reference to him in a booklet on Stratton St.Margaret church, written by Dr. Fred Fuller, which states that Dr.Dewell was the person authorized to receive the results of the brief for the great fire of London.

Dewell's long incumbency, with Sir Walter and Lady Johanna as close friends, appears to have been one of the golden ages in the story of Lydiard Tregoze church.

Timothy Dewell died, aged seventy-six, on 27 May 1692. His successor **Stephen Charman** was instituted, on the presentation of Sir Walter St.John, on 8 June, twelve days after the death of his predecessor.<sup>63</sup> He was already known to Sir Walter, for he witnessed the signature of the latter on a St.John Chancel Trust Deed of Apportionment on 10 July 1685. Charman died 1 May 1714, aged seventy. The inscription on his grave in the chancel has the directness and matter-of-factness of the Yorkshireman that he was:

Here Lyeth ye Body of Stephen Charman Rector of Lydiard Tregoz Wilts Departed this life May ye 1st AD 1714 Aged 70 years. Stephen Charman was bom c.1643, the son of Stephen Charman (d.1668), rector of Hemsworth, Yorkshire. Stephen CharmanSr, became rector of Hemsworth in 1637 and also of Staincross in 1650. In 1648 he was a signatory to *Vindiciae*, and in January 1657/8 was made Assistant to the Commission for the West Riding. In 1662 he was ejected from his living because of his nonconformity.<sup>64</sup>

Stephen Charman Jr matriculated at New Hall Inn, Oxford, on 14 November 1661, aged eighteen. He received the degrees of BA and MA in 1671. The gap between matriculation and the award of his degrees is explained by the fact that, on 8 September 1662, he was one of seven students in his college who declared before the Vice-Chancellor that they did not approve of the doctrine of the Church of England. Three of them conformed shortly afterwards, but Stephen Charman, John Harris, John Herring, and one other continued in their opinions for some time. It was not until 4 June 1674 that Stephen Charman was ordained priest in the diocese of London. It is not known what his opinions were in 1692. He may have changed, as the times were also changing. Sir Walter was a Whig in politics, and one who was not prejudiced against dissent. He sent some of his sons to a school in Battersea that was conducted by a minister who had been ejected in 1662.<sup>65</sup>

Stephen Charman was normally resident in the parish. By his wife Elizabeth - he had three sons and a daughter who appear in the parish registers: Samuel, buried in 1717; Stephen, baptized and died 1694; Joseph, baptized in 1695; and Mary, baptized in 1699.

# EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Ten days after the death of Stephen Charman, **Abel Clerke** was instituted on the presentation of Sir Henry St.John, created Viscount St.John in 1716.

Abel Clerke was the son of Abel Clerke of Witney, Oxfordshire. He entered Queen's College, Oxford, as a commoner, and matriculated on 13 May 1707, at the age of seventeen. He received the degree of BA in 1711, and was instituted at Lydiard on 11 May 1714, at the age of about twenty-four. There is good evidence of his continual residence. He regularly signed the minutes of the vestry minutes throughout his incumbency.

Upto the time of Clerke's incumbency it had been the practice to change churchwardens annually according to a rota which listed the farms and holdings in the parish. From 1714 this practice was abandoned, and it became thereafter usual for churchwardens to serve for longer periods. Another change that is noticeable is that, whereas Clerke's predecessors were buried in the chancel of the church, his own much-defaced gravestone is set in the path outside the south porch of the church. (The fact that it is in the path probably means that it has been moved to this position when the path was relaid at some time.) The inscription on the stone is to the memory of Elizabeth Clerke, who was buried on 25 March 1736, aged sixty-nine, and of rector Clerke, who was buried on 30 December 1736, aged forty-eight. It is not known whether Elizabeth was mother or wife to Abel Clerke: no names of any children they may have had appear in the parish registers.

Clerke's successor was **James Smith**, who was instituted on 18 January 1736/7 on the presentation of Henry, 1st Viscount St.John. It is not easy to be sure about Smith's university education. *Venn* appears to have conflated a father and his son in his listing. It is likely that Smith Jr was bom *c*. 1696, that he entered Caius College, Cambridge, in 1714 aged fourteen, and that he was the son of James Smith who was vicar of Stow Bredon, Norfolk, in 1720. An entry in the burial registers of Cobham, Surrey, records the burial of James Smith Jr:

Buriedl747... The ReverendMr. Smith from Hackney, Rector ofLidiyard Tregoze in Wiltshire & son to the Rev: Mr. Smith the Present Vicar of this Parish burned in a vault April] 24.

James Smith, then, died at Hackney, and was a son of James Smith (d. 1750), vicar of Cobham. Further information about Smith was kindly provided, in 1984, by a former member of the Friends, the late Mrs Diana Tyrwhitt-Drake of Effingham, Surrey, whose husband Colonel Tyrwhitt-Drake was descended from a sister of the rector of Lydiard Tregoze and had in his possession 'a family book composed in 1817'. This family book stated that James Smith Sr was at one time of Kentish Town and that he served as curate at Battersea. (No record has survived at Battersea of this curacy.) Smith Sr was vicar of Cobham from 1745 till his death in 1750, married Elizabeth -, and had by her a son James Smith Jr and a daughter Mary Anne, who married James Skene (d. 1736) an ardent Jacobite, and was an ancestor of Colonel Tyrwhitt-Drake. The family book also states that the wife of James Smith Jr was named Susanna, and by her had a son James (bapt. 1727), who was disinherited by his father, and two daughters Frances Helen (1731-1810) and Grace (bapt. 1734). Frances Helen, Grace, and their mother Susanna were buried in 'a family vault' at Battersea.

In 1741 an application was made on behalf of James Smith III, son of James Smith rector of Lydiard Tregoze, for admission to Winchester College by scholarship as of the kin of William of Wykeham through Danvers.<sup>66</sup> The application was not successful, but light is shed on the links between the Smith family and Battersea.

James Smith Jr married Susannah Bull, daughter of James Bull (d. 1713), a Turkey merchant of Battersea, and his wife Frances (d. 1738), who was a daughter of Sir John Fleet (d.1712). (Sir John Fleet served as MP, was Lord Mayor in 1693, and signed the Trust Deed for the foundation of Sir Walter St.John's School, of which he was one of the first twelve Governors.) James Bull had a vault created in Battersea church for himself and his family, and it is likely that Susannah Smith and her two daughters were buried in it. It is also likely that it was James Smith Jr - and not his father - who was curate at Battersea, and it was when he was in that capacity that he met and married Susannah Bull. His links with Battersea and some of its important families would explain why Henry, Viscount St.John, presented him for the rectory at Lydiard Tregoze.

It does not appear that James Smith was able, for whatever reason, to take his residence at Lydiard Tregoze as seriously as did his predecessor. He signed the vestry minutes for the first four years only of his incumbency. The *Liber Visitationum* (WRO) shows that he was excused attendance at the triennial visitations in 1738 and 1741, and that he was in London at the time of the 1744 visitation.

With James Smith we have the first clear evidence, for more than a century, of a curate appointed to serve the benefice, that is one who was appointed and licensed as deputy to take over the cure of souls during his absence of the rector. James Parrott signed the vestry minutes as 'curate' in 1744, 1745, and 1746. Further evidence of his status is shown by the fact that he appointed one of the churchwardens in each of those three years

**Charles Brinsden** succeeded James Smith in 1747 on the presentation of Henry St.John, Esq., formerly 1 st Viscount B olingbroke. His title, granted in 1712, had been lost through attainder in 1715. (Some of his rights were restored in 1725.) In 1742 his father, Henry, 1st Viscount St. John, had died. About1739 'Bolingbroke' had ceded to his half-brother John (d. 1748) the Lydiard Park estates. This arrangement enabled John to set about the remodelling of the mansion house.

Charles Brinsden was a son of John Brinsden of St.Martin' s-in-the-Fields, Middlesex, gent. Brinsden matriculated from Balliol College on 14 March 1725/6, aged seventeen. He received his BA in 1729 and his MA in 1737. Evidence for his ordination comes from the margin of the record of the first of two dispensations that he was granted for holding two benefices.<sup>67</sup> In the margin is noted that he was made deacon on 13 May and ordained priest on 20 May 1733 by the bishop of Llandaff.<sup>68</sup> Brinsden

became chaplain to the Rt. Hon. James, Duke of Chandos, and also vicar of Queen Camel, Somerset. On 11 November 1737 he received a dispensation from the Archbishop of Canterbury to enable him also to hold the rectory of Marksbury, Somerset, the two parishes being not more than twenty-nine miles apart. (The value of the living at Queen Camel is there stated to be £64*per annum*, and the value of Marksbury to be £48.7.1 *Id per annum.*) The appointment as Chaplain to the Duke of Chandos was superceded by that of Chaplain to the Rt. Hon. Henry, Earl of Clarendon. Brinsden resigned the living at Queen Camel, and received a dispensation on 11 May 1747 as rector of Marksbury to enable him also to hold the living of Lydiard Tregoze, the two parishes being about twenty-six miles apart. (The value of the living at Lydiard Tregoze is there stated to be £170 *per annum*.)

In August 1754, during Brinsden's tenure of Lydiard Tregoze, the new marriage registers came into use as required by Hardwicke's Marriage Act. Lor the first time signatures appear for the minister officiating at a marriage. This information, together with the signing of the vestry minutes and the appointment of churchwardens, gives some information about the activity of curates. (Between August 1754 and Brinsden's death in 1780 there were 107 marriages in the church. He officiated at only 13 of them.) James Parrott continued for some time after Brinsden was appointed. The name of Jeremiah Davies as curate appears between January 1758 and April 1761. Davies was followed by John Suach, whose name appears from August 1765 till March 1775. Suach was followed by William Jones, whose name appears from July 1777 till February 1780.

James Parrott accompanied Brinsden at the bishop's visitation in August 1747. Brinsden was excused from appearing in 1750,1756, possibly in 1759, and in 1767, but appeared in person in 1753,1763, 1770,1773,1776, and 1779. In 1770 a Mr. Newcombe accompanied Brinsden at the visitation, but it is stated that the former, although acting as curate, was not licensed.

The parish registers at Lydiard Tregoze record the burial there of Elizabeth, wife of the Rev. Mr. Brinsden, on 11 October 1757. Charles Brinsden died in 1780.

Brinsden's successor was **Richard Miles.** Miles was born in 1747, the son of Thomas Miles of Wootton Bassett. He matriculated at Balliol College on 14 May 1766, aged eighteen. He received his BA in 1770 and his MA in 1792. In 1780 he was instituted as rector of Lydiard Tregoze on the presentation of George Watson, esq. Frederick (d.1787), 2nd Viscount Bolingbroke, was undoubt-edly patron of the living, but he must have sold the right to the next presentation, possibly many years before. (In 1761 Lord Bolingbroke had sold the next presentation at Battersea, and in 1763 he sold the manor and the advowson of Battersea to the trustees of Earl Spencer.) Lord Bolingbroke took little interest - except for the profits - from his Lydiard estates. Lydiard Park appears to have been let to tenants: Lord Powis was a tenant sometime before 1783.<sup>69</sup>

In 1783 bishop Shute Barrington addressed a series of questions to the incumbents of his diocese.<sup>7"</sup> In his reply Richard Miles stated that he was made deacon on 23 September 1770, was ordained priest on 14 June 1772, and was instituted as rector of Lydiard Tregoze on 31 March 1780. The following are the answers that he sent to the bishop. Where necessary, extracts from the questions have been added in square brackets to explain his answer:

- 1 Divine Service is performed every Sunday morning at eleven o'clock. It never was remembered to have been performed twice a day. The people of the parish are principally dairy men, and in the afternoon are employed in their country business which cannot be neglected.
- 2 [Divine Service on weekdays] On Christmas Day and Good Friday only.
- 3 [Divine Service performed by] Incumbent.
- 4 I serve no other cure.
- 5 [The holy sacrament of the Lord's Supper is celebrated] Four times a year, at Easter, Whitsuntide, Michaelmas, and Christmas.

- 6 We have generally about 16 or 18 communicants. I cannot say exactly how many there were at Easter last, but the number never varies very much.
- 7 We have none. [Papists]
- 8 We have none. [Presbyterians, Independents, Anabaptists, or Quakers.... or any who profess to disregard religion, or who commonly absent themselves from all public worship of God]
- 9 We have the misfortune to have no school in the parish where the poorer sort might be taught their catechism, and was I to call on them to send their children to church on Sundays to be catechized, I fear it would be in vain. I never could learn that any of my predecessors had succeeded.
- 10 Our register book of births and burials is duly kept and in good preservation; returns of births and burials have been regularly made into the registrar's office. The register books go back as far as the year 1605, but I believe they are not all perfect.
- 11 There is a register book [according to the Act against clandestine marriages] duly kept.
- 12 We have none. [Chapels of ease in the parish]
- 13 I have nothing more than copies of such terriers as are to be found in your Lordship's registry at Salisbury, since which there has been no augmentation made to the living.
- 14 We have neither free school, alms-house, or other charitable endowment in our parish; nor have any lands or tenements been left for the repair of the church or for any other pious use.
- 15 Our churchwardens are chosen every year in the Easter week, one by the rector, the other by the parishoners.
- 16 We have no school whatsoever in the parish.
- 17 I reside at Wootton Bassett, the parish adjoining. On coming to the living I found but an indifferent house, and being a single man and having very near relations at Wootton Bassett, I found it most convenient to board with them.
- 18 The money given at the offertory is distributed among the poor communicants and, if any surplus, to the poor of the parish.
- 19 I know of none. [Any matter ... of which it may be proper to give the bishop information]
- 20 Wootton Bassett is the nearest post town.

The records of Miles' s long incumbency of fifty-nine years do not suggest that he over-busied himself in parochial affairs. He appointed his churchwarden only three times, in 1783,1804, and 1805: curates appointed a further seven times. Whereas at one time the office of churchwarden was passed to someone new each Easter, members of the Matthews family - William, John, and Jacob - served successively as rector's or minister's warden for all those fifty-nine years.

From the signatures in the parish registers and on vestry minutes it is possible to list those who acted as curates - William Evans from November 1782 till November 1784, Humphrey Evans AB from October 1785 till August 1795, William Goodenough from October 1795 till August 1796, Richard Wetherell from April till October 1797, Jeremiah Audry from October 1798 till July 1799, John Kinneir in September 1799,Thomas Richards from September 1799tillNovember 1802, John Wayte Vilettfrom October 1814 till July 1830, Septimus Bellas from October 1830 till September 1831, and Giles Daubeney, who succeeded Miles as rector, from November 1831.

William Evans - deacon 1777 and priest 1778 - was also curate of Lydiard Millicent, and he made the returns for that parish to the 1783 visitation queries from the bishop. (In his reply Evans stated, 'As the rector [of Lydiard Millicent] is upward of eighty, I hope I shall not be required to apply for a licence.')

On 30 November 1786 Humphrey Evans (d. 1813) married Elizabeth lies, daughter of John lies of Studley Farm. He became rector of Glanville Wootten, Dorset in 1793, and predeceased his wife. One of the - now collapsed - table tombs to the west of the west door of Lydiard Tregoze church was erected over the grave of Elizabeth Evans 'of Swindon', who died 16 December 1827.

Richard Wetherell contributed a guinea in May 1798 as his volunary contribution 'towards the exigencies of the State.'<sup>71</sup>

In 1826 William Cobbett recorded his biting criticism of Richard Miles's stewardship:72

I went out of my way to see Great Lydiard.... all, except the Church, is in a state of irrepair and apparent neglect, if not abandonment. The parish is large, the living is a rich one, it is a Rectory; but, though the incumbent has the great and small tithes, he, in his return, tells the parliament that the parsonage-house is worn out and incapable of repair! And, observe, that parliament t lets him continue to sack the produce of the tithes and the glebe, while they know the parsonage-house to be crumbling down, and while he has the impudence to tell them that he does not reside in it, though the law says that he shall!

In 1824, Henry St.John had succeeded his father George Richard St.John, as 4th Viscount St.John. Henry had married, in 1812, the co-heiress Maria St.John-Mildmay (d. 1836). Henry and his wife undertook the first major work on Lydiard Park since its remodelling about 1740. They had the kitchen area and ancillary rooms entirely rebuilt. Next door there was the dilapidated rectory. In 1830 Richard Miles concluded an agreement with Lord Bolingbroke for an exchange of land. Lord Bolingbroke acquired the old rectory and its gardens running down to the river. He gave land further away from the church and built a new rectory there.<sup>73</sup>

It is unlikely that Richard Miles ever occupied the new rectory. It is more likely that Giles Daubeney, curate and later rector, was the first occupant.

Richard Miles died 4 September 1839, aged ninety-two, and was buried in Lydiard Tregoze churchyard in a vault situated in the corner formed by the north wall of the chancel and the east wall of the north aisle. The vault cover is inscribed and bears the same information that appears on the wall-tablet above the rectory pew in the chancel: that rector Miles was buried with his mother-in-law Elizabeth Knight, who died 28 July 1814 aged eighty-nine. They were joined in the vault by his wife Mary, who died 29 August 1841 aged eighty-seven.

Six weeks before his death, on 27 July 1839, at 68 Pulteney Street, Bath, rector Miles enriched the parish by establishing a blanket charity for all time. He conveyed to the curate Giles Daubeney and to churchwardens Cornelius Bradford and Jacob Woodward and to their successors as Trustees the sum of £700 in 3% Consols for ' the purchase of Blankets, Bed Linen and other articles of alike nature to be selected according to the discretion of the said Trustees for the time being and to distribute the same yearly and every year at Christmas for ever amongst such of the deservi ng poor of the said Parish of Lydiard Tregoz as shall not for the time being be receiving Parochial Relief.<sup>74</sup> (The charity was highly regarded by the recipients of the blankets or bedding. The charity exists to this day. Since the 1894 Local Government Act the churchwardens as trustees have been replaced by nominees of the Parish Council.)

## NINETEENTH CENTURY

In 1836, by Order in Council, the county of Dorset was transferred from the diocese of Bristol to that of Salisbury in exchange for the deaneries of Malmesbury, Chippenham, and Cricklade which went to the diocese of Bristol and Gloucester. The diocese of Bristol had been created by Henry VIII in 1542, and was revived as a separate diocese in 1897.

The will of George Richard (d. 1824), 3rd Viscount Bolingbroke, devised the advowson to his second wife, and expressed the wish that the next incumbent after Richard Miles should be either the Hon.

Ferdinand St John, the eldest legitimate son by his second wife, or, if he were not in holy orders, the Rev. George Frederick St.John, his eldest illegitimate son by her.<sup>75</sup> At a date that has not yet been discovered but before the death of Richard Miles, the next presentation was sold - presumably by Lady Bolingbroke - to Mrs Martha Collins of Betterton, Berks, the widowed mother-in-law of the Rev. Giles Daubeney, since 1831 curate of Lydiard Tregoze. (This sale did little to improve the relations between Lady Bolingbroke and her daughter-in-law, the wife of the Rev. George Frederick St.John.<sup>76</sup>) Daubeney was instituted as rector on 16 September 1839.

**Giles Daubeney**<sup>77</sup> was born on 26 January 1796, the son of Giles Daubeney of Cirencester and his wife Elizabeth, who was the daughter of a Surgeon-General in the army. (He was also nephew of the Rev. Charles Daubeny DCL (1745-1827), who was archdeacon of Salisbury from 1804.) Giles Daubeney matriculated from Brasenose College on 4 February 1814, but *Foster* does not record that he proceeded to a degree. On 17 June 1819 he married Katharine Collins. By her he had five children that are known: Giles Warren, who died in infancy; Amelia Elizabeth (b.c. 1821), who married in 1843 the Rev. Henry Drury (1812-63), vicar of Bremhill from 1845, Chaplain to the House of Commons 1857, and archdeacon of Wiltshire from 1862; Charles Joseph (1826-44); Ellen Katharine (b.c. 18 31), who married in 1871 Richard Lewin; and Giles John, who was baptized at Lydiard Tregoze in 1833 and drowned while bathing at Oxford at the age of nineteen.

Daubeney was appointed curate to Richard Miles in 1831, and he and his wife and their three children will have moved into the new rectory when it was built. The Census Returns, 1841 to 1871, give a picture of the rectory household. In 1841 and 1851 there were four servants living in: a groom who doubled as coachman, a lady's maid, cook, and housemaid. In 1861 the number of servants living-in had increased to five. By 1871 the first Mrs Daubeney had died. Either he or his second wife appear to have become unwell for there is a certificated nurse as one of the four servants who were living-in. He died on 12December 1877, at the age of eighty-one, after forty-six years at Lydiard Tregoze, eight as curate and thirty-eight as rector.

If Timothy Dewell's years as rector were a golden age in the seventeenth century, then the years that Giles Daubeney was rector were a golden age in the nineteenth century. He was comparatively wealthy, well-connected, and a magistrate. In his time the interior of the church was re-ordered and the school at Hook was established 'for the education of the labouring, manufacturing, and other poor people of the parish of Lydiard Tregoze'.<sup>78</sup> The vestry minutes, and the several account books kept by the churchwardens, the overseers of the poor, and the surveyors of the highways give the clear impression that Daubeney played a prominent part in the life of the parish.

The model of the church that Thomas Lloyd made about 1839 shows the internal arrangement of pulpit and pews that Daubeney knew in his first years in the parish. The pulpit for parson and clerk was set against the first column on the south side of the nave and faced the manorial pew. The seating to the East of the pulpit faced West, anyone sitting there would have the altar behind them. Galleries to accommodate singers, musicians, and overflow congregation were sited at the west end of the nave and of the south aisle. Once he was made rector, Daubeney set about the re-ordering of the interior. Mr Rose was paid £419 9s. Od for his work in repe wing the church. Those pews that were not replaced - including the manorial pew - were reduced in height. The pulpit was moved to its present position. Some sort of heating system was introduced, no doubt for the first time. Mr Gardenor received payment of 14s. 2d for half-a-ton of coal in 1840. The musicians were replaced by some sort of organ. In 1842-43 Mr York was paid for repairs to the organ. In 1859 the galleries were removed, and a new west window was inserted possibly when the two smaller windows in the east wall of the chancel were also replaced. During Daubeney's time the vestry, an extra dormer window in the roof, and buttresses to the chancel were added. Lydiard Tregoze church had been brought into the nineteenth century, and the changes would have received the approval of archdeacon Daubeny and of contemporary ecclesiologists.

The names of five curates are known. The Rev. Thomas Ansell Marshall was licensed on 16 March 1851 at an annual stipend of £60.<sup>79</sup> His successor, the Rev. Henry Benson Fendall MA was licensed, at the same stipend, on 19 September of the same year. Mr. Fendall's curacy was short, for his grave at Lydiard Tregoze records that he died 12 May 1852, aged twenty-six. The name of the Rev.R.G. Hurle appears in the registers from 1868: from 1869 Daubeney ceased to take baptisms or burials, although he continued to certify the annual returns to the diocese. Further evidence of Daubeney's increasing incapacity is seen in that Richard Bradford took the chair at the annual vestry meetings from 1868. The Rev.H.B. Jenkins followed Mr. Hurle in 1873. From late in 1876 and for about nine months, the curate was the Rev. Ebenezer Humphrey Jones. Mr. Jones succeeded in being appointed to a parish in Shropshire, but he returned to Lydiard Tregoze as rector in 1900.

Many changes took place whilst Daubeney was rector. Not least was the effect of the abolition, in 1868, of compulsory church rates. Upto that time, if pews were to be replaced or repairs carried out on the fabric of the church these charges were added to all the normal running costs of the church, and the churchwardens were able to cover their expenditure by levying a rate on all property in the parish. (The only collections were at services of Holy Communion, and these collections were given, according to the rubric in the Book of Common Prayer, for the relief of the poor.) With the abolition of these compulsory rates, it was possible to continue with a voluntary rate. This was tried at Lydiard Tregoze until 1875-76 - with ever-diminishing returns. When the new incumbent succeeded Daubeney, the vestry bit the bullet and introduced collections at all services.

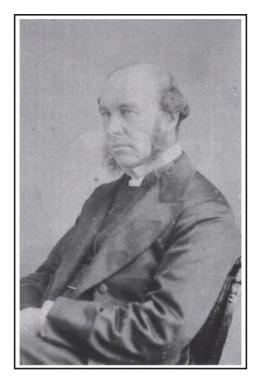
The possibility of the sale of the next presentation, pioneered, as far as the St.Johns were concerned by the 2nd Viscount Bolingbroke when he sold the next presentation to Battersea, was investigated by the 5th Viscount.8" He contacted Stark & Co., Ecclesiastical Agents & Surveyors, of The Strand, in 1863 and again in 1867 to see what money could be raised from a sale during the lifetime of Giles Daubeney. Stark & Co. replied on 18 April 1867, and said "The Incumbent as perhaps you are aware is a remarkably fine hale and strong looking man and any one seeing him naturally thinks that a vacancy would probably not occur for some years." They suggested that the next presentation might be advertised for sale but at the reduced price of £4,300. Further correspondence between Lord Bolingbroke and Stark & Co. took place in 1870. (In 1886-87 there was further correspondence, and Stark & Co. wrote, ".... at a forced sale this presentation with immediate legal possession would not command more than about £3,500.) The 5th Viscount was successful in finding a purchaser: he was Francis Sharp Powell MA, Barrister-at-Law, MP, of No. 1 Cambridge Square in the county of Middlesex. Powell was a son of the Rev. Benjamin Powell JP of Bellingham Lodge, Wigan, and of Horton Old Hall, Yorkshire, and his wife Anne, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Wade of Tottington, Lancashire. After rector Daubeney died, on 12 December 1877, Powell presented a younger brother Thomas Wade Powell as the new incumbent.

**Thomas Wade Powell** was bom at Wigan on 25 December 1829. He was admitted as a pensioner at St.John's, Cambridge, on 26 June 1849. He received the degree of BA in 1853 and that of MA in 1856. He was made deacon at Ripon in 1853 and ordained priest there the following year. He served four curacies: Keighley, Yorkshire, 1853-60; St. Bartholomew's, Salford, Lancashire, 1861-62; Altrincham, Cheshire, 1862-67; and as minister of the Chapel of Ease of St.Mark's at Dunham Massey, Cheshire, 1868-70. In 1870 he became vicar of Christ Church, Latchford, and remained there till 1878. Daubeney had died, so Powell was instituted as the new rector of Lydiard Tregoze on 25 February 1878.

It has not as yet been discovered why Powell's tenure of the rectory was so brief: he only stayed just over one year at Lydiard Tregoze. In 1879 he exchanged the Lydiard rectory for the vicarage of Aspatria, Cumberland, where he remained until 1885. His last parish was that of St.John's, Y ork Mills, Ontario, Canada. He returned to Carlisle from Canada, and died there on 17 June 1896.

The vicar of Aspatria, with whom Powell exchanged parishes, was Canon Shipman.

Thomas Trafford Shipman was the son of William Shipman, a fanner, of Sedgbrook, Lincolnshire. He was admitted a pensioner at St.Catherine's, Cambridge, on 6 March 1851. He received the degree of BA in 1855, and that of MA in 1860. In 1856 he was made deacon at Carlisle, and was ordained priest the following year. He served two curacies: Barbon, Westmorlanmd, 1856-58, and Christ Church, Carlisle, 1858-59. In 1859 he manied Margaret Sydney, second daughter of the Hon.J.H. Roper-Curzon. From 1859 till 1866 he was rector of Scaleby, Cumberland, and then became rector of Nether Denton until 1872. In 1872 he became vicar of Aspatria. He was made an honorary canon of Carlisle. He exchanged Aspatria for Lydiard Tregoze, and was instituted there on 1 April 1879. He died on 27 August 1884, aged fifty-three. He was buried at Radnor Street cemetery, Swindon, no doubt due to the shortage of burial spaces at Lydiard Tregoze.



Shipman's successor was the Rev. **Henry George Baily.<sup>81</sup>** He was instituted on 10 February 1885 on the presentation of the 5th Viscount Bolingbroke. He was aged seventy when he became rector of Lydiard Tregoze. It looked like a retirement post after his thirty-eight years of distinguished, energetic and sometimes turbulent years as vicar of Swindon. He hated anything that appeared to him like interference in his work, and as such he regarded the activities of the Parish Council in regard to the Burial Ground at Hook.

Baily was bom on 8 December 1815, the son of George Baily, woolstapler of Caine. (A second cousin was E.H. Baily (1788-1867), the celebrated sculptor whose works included the statue of Nelson in Trafalgar Square.) The Baily family were the leading clothiers in Caine and played a significant role in the political and municipal affairs of the borough.

After schooling at Tilshead, Baily was admitted as a scholar at Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1839. In 1843 he received his degree of BA, was made deacon and ordained priest at Chester, and became Perpetual Curate of Hurdsfield, Cheshire. In the same year he began eighteen months of deputation work on behalf of the London Jews' Society, 'the claims of whose organisation he advocated in all parts of the United Kingdom.' The following year he married Elizabeth Mignon (1817-1910), daughter of Major Richards of the East India Company 's Service. (By her he had twelve children, three sons and four daughters of whom survived him.) He received his MA in 1845.

In 1847 he began thirty-eight years of ministry in Swindon. He came to the parish just as the new town was being established, and worked vigorously for the parish of the old town in its greatly altered circumstances.<sup>82</sup> The old church of Holy Rood was inadequate. Despite the protestations of church-rate payers he set out replacing the building. Christ Church was completed in 1851 to the design of

Sir Gilbert Scott at a cost of £8,000. On the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone, Baily preached a moving sermon:

.... this occasion... is, under God, connected most closely with the preservation of true religion among us; and this it is which constitutes at once the most secure defence of our Sovereign and her throne, and affords the truest safeguards of our liberties.\*\*

Baily was a staunch Evangelical and a great preacher. On one occasion the sermon lasted for one hour and twenty minutes 'without any sign of impatience from the congregation'. He published sermons and several pamphlets, including A *sermon against Popish aggression, Litanies for Sunday Schools, Ten reasons why l love my Church,* and *Ten reasons why l love my Prayer Book.* His wife ably supported him. No doubt amongst other things, she wrote a poem entitled, *The Sabbath.* Its 127 lines have marginal references to twenty-seven quotations from the Bible and one from the Athanasian Creed. (Any profits from the publication were devoted to the Lord's Day Observance Society.) The poem begins:

Oh Holy Blessed Sabbath! In our land Christians are called upon to make a stand! To buckle on their armour, fight their way, And claim th 'observance of the Sacred Day.

It goes on, "But should not education *first* be turn'd to hear of God ...?" Both she and her husband were keen on Church teaching for children. He was a member of the first Swindon School Board and opposed its undenominational policy. In 1871 the parochial schools were rebuilt in King William Street.

Baily was a Tory of the old school and a great fighter for his party. Both at Swindon and at Lydiard he fanned the glebe himself. At one time he kept a famous breed of pigs. At Lydiard they made and sold their own butter.



In front of the rectory on the occasion of the marriage of Miss Llorence Baily, 3 September 1891 (Report 29, 46.)

At the age of seventy, Baily moved from Swindon to Lydiard Tregoze. It looked as though it would be a fruitful and peaceful time, and it would have been so had it not been for the last stage of the reorganization of local government. From Elizabethan times the vestry in non-borough areas had been charged with great responsibilities and given considerable power. The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, which created Unions, and the Highway Act of 1835, which created highway districts, had removed areas of responsibility from vestries. In 1894 the Local Government Act transferred the remaining civil functions of vestries to new parish councils and parish meetings. It also created Rural and Urban District Councils.

A parish meeting was held in Hook School on 4 December 1894, with rector Baily in the chair, to elect nine members for the new Parish Council.<sup>84</sup> The minutes record that he 'opened the meeting with a few sensible and practical remarks.' Nine days later the new Parish Council met for the first time: their need to establish their identity is seen in two of the resolutions that they passed at that meeting. They decided that, 'All arrangements for Burials [at Hook] and the care of the Cemetery be in the hands of C.Price Jnr. for the time being', and that the Chairman 'have an intervies with the Rev. Henry G. Baily on the Question of the Charities.' There was also the matter of the custody of the tithe map and its schedule, which was to pass into the keeping of the Parish Council. The tithe map and other parochial records were eventually - and reluctantly - handed over, and rector Baily reconciled himself to the Parish Council appointing the managing trustees for the Miles Charity. But the burial ground was a very different matter.

The story of the burial ground is long, very complex, and quite unedifying. As far back as 1880 the vestry had decided that the churchyard was overcrowded and that Lord Bolingbroke should be asked to grant land to enlarge it. Nothing happened, and the matter was allowed to drop. Rector Baily took up the matter. The Privy Council were asked for a closure order, which was eventually granted and to operate from 1 July 1887. Lord Bolingbroke offered some land near to Park Copse, which for a variety of reasons was thought to be unsuitable. The local Board of Guardians declined to provide a burial ground for the parish, and so the vestry appointed a Burial Board under the 1853 Burial Act. Lord Bolingbroke offered half-an-acre of land at Hook, and the first burial there took place on 26 August 1891 despite the fact that Lord Bolingbroke had not conveyed the land to anyone. The following November the vestry took an important decision - ' that the new burial ground shall be held and used in like manner, and subject to the same Laws and Resolutions in all respects, as the existing Burial Ground or Churchyard of the Parish. ' Between 1891 and 1894 the Burial Board met quarterly, held three elections, issued precepts on the Overseers, and were recognized as the burial authority - despite the vestry decision of 14 November 1891 - by the Local Government Board.

The day before the first meeting of the Parish Council, in 1894, the Burial Board met and heard that Lord Bolingbroke did not intend to convey the cemetery land to them but to the new Parish Council. The Burial Board sent 'all Books and Accounts with Cheques balance of funds in the Bank' to the Parish Council the following day, and the sexton put his keys on the table. As a corpse was awaiting burial and as they had the keys and all the books the Parish Council, somewhat taken by surprise at the turn of events, set about administering the cemetery. The one person who knew nothing about what was going on was rector Baily. War broke out between the rector and the Parish Council, which lasted until the end of 1898. Locks were fitted by both sides, the police were called in, solicitors were appointed by both sides, appeal was made to the District Auditor and the Secretary of State at the Home Office. Baily won the day on the score of the vestry decision of 14 November 1891, but undoubtedly he lost a great deal of standing in the parish through the conflict. (Attempts were made in 1903 and 1904 by the church to transfer the cemetery to the Parish Council by Order in Council, but these were abortive. The cemetery remains in the care of the Parochial Church Council and happily has financial support from the Parish Council.)

Rector Baily died on 8 May 1900, aged 84, and was buried at Christ Church, Swindon. A brass plate above the pulpit in Lydiard Tregoze church was erected in his memory. His widow, aged 92, was buried with him on 28 January 1910.

## **TWENTIETH CENTURY**

The Rev. **Ebenezer Humphrey Jones**<sup>85</sup> was chosen by Mary, the widowed Lady Bolingbroke, as the new rector, and he was instituted on 5 October 1900.

Jones trained for the ministry at St.Bees, and was made deacon in 1864 and ordained priest the following year. In all, he served five curacies: Northwood, Staffordshire, 1864-66; St.George's Brandon Hill, Bristol, 1867-70; St.Paul's, Bristol, 1870-72; Christ Church, Swindon, under the Rev.H.G. Baily, 1872-76; and, for about nine months, Lydiard Tregoze 1876-77. He was rector of Fitz, Shropshire, 1877-80, andrector of Johnston and vicar of Steynton, Pembrokeshire, 1880-1900, before becoming rector of Lydiard Tregoze.

In April 1877, before he left the curacy at Lydiard Tregoze, the Rev. Giles Daubeney wrote a testimonial for him:

Though he has only been here for about nine months he has won the hearts of the Parishoners by the zeal and earnestness which he has manifested in carrying out the various duties of a Christian Minister, especially to the aged and sick poor, to whom he has been most kind and attentive. His abilities as a Preacher are far beyond the common run, the fruits of which have been exemplified by large Congregations, and I feel assured that by God's blessing he has been the instrument of awakening many a sleeping soul to the realities of Gospel truth. As his Rector I cannot but lament his departure, and consider that by writing these few lines in sincerity and truth, I am only giving testimony to what is due to his real worth and merit.

His work in Pembrokeshire received notable mention in *The Illustrated Church News* of 28 April 1894, which also carried his photograph:

How much depends upon the efforts of a fervent and hard-working priest may be gathered from the growth of Church work in the parishes of Johnston and Steynton, Pembrokeshire. Thirteen years ago the Rev. E. Humphrey Jones, who has charge of these parishes found them almost given over to Nonconformity. With ruinous churches, sparse congregations, and the whole machinery of the Church out of joint, he had a herculean task before him. Nothing daunted, however, he set to work in right good earnest, and by his ceaseless activity, well-organized system of parochial visitation, and able discourses, he has brought about the most gratifying results. These two parishes cover an area of about 10,000 acres, and have a population, entirely agricultural, of over 1,000. The two churches which have been thoroughly restored at a cost of £2,028, afford sitting accommodation for 600 people.

Some of his printed sermons survi ve as examples of his force and style. He was no stranger to the tasks of restoring church buildings. At the Easter vestry meeting, 1901, he proposed that a programme of work should be undertaken on Lydiard Tregoze church, and the Diocesan Architect, C.E. Ponting FS A, was commissioned to survey the building and supervise the work. The building was put in good order. The great bonus of the work was the careful uncovering of the wall paintings: the most unfortunate aspect was the removal of the plaster panels in the nave ceiling. In 1902 the work was completed by the replacement of the old organ by a new instrument made by Sweetland of Bath.

Rector Jones had an interest in history, and became a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. (In the 1960s one of the Steynton rate-books was found in the Lydiard Tregoze safe and returned to its proper

place: one wondered whether some of the Lydiard Tregoze archives had also wandered.)

No record has been found of a curate during Jones's incumbency, but it is interesting to note that the Rev. W.H. Willetts - rector 1936-56 - did a short-term locum for rector Jones.

E. Humphrey Jones married Wilhemina Frances (-), who died, aged 43, in 1895. A two-light window was placed in Steynton church to her memory. He married, secondly, Gertrude Maria (-), who died in 1945. There were several children, one of whom became archdeacon of Brazil and hoped to follow rector Harrison as incumbent of Lydiard Tregoze, but pre-deceased him. Jones retired in 1914, and went to live at Newnham. He died 17 January 1926, aged eighty-nine, and was buried in the family grave, with a large Celtic cross as headstone, in Steynton churchyard. In his will he provided for a suitable memorial:

I direct my Executors to obtain the necessary authority for and to erect or place in the small window next to the Holy Table on the south side of the Chancel of Steynton Parish Church a stained glass window of suitable design and colouring in memory of me at a cost of not less than Forty pounds and also in case of my said wife shall remain a Widow a small Tablet of Brass suitably inscribed to her memory to be placed beneath the said window.

The window, depicting Simeon, Anna, the Blessed Virgin, and the baby Jesus in the Temple, was dedicated in 1927, and the brass plate to his widow was added in due time.

The secessor to the Rev. E. Humphrey Jones was the Rev. **Alexander Herbert Harrison.** He received his BA at Cambridge in 1887 and his MA in 1891. He was made deacon at Colchester in 1888, and ordained priest at St.Albans in 1890. He served in four parishes: King'sWalden, 1888-91; Hadleigh, 1891-92; Penn, 1893-1905; and Eccleshall in the diocese of Lincoln, 1906-15. In 1915 he became rector of Lydiard Tregoze, and remained so until his death. With some independent means, Mr and Mrs Harrison were able to enjoy the kind of domestic help that was fast becoming rare in the twentieth century.

At the Easter vestry in 1915 it was resolved to replace the existing *Church Hymnary* books with copies of *Hymns Ancient & Modern*. About 1918 Lady Bolingbroke allowed a Sunday School to meet in one of the ground-floor rooms of the house, and those who attended were given a biscuit and a glass of milk.<sup>86</sup>

An older, bachelor, brother the Rev. David Percy Harrison was rector of Lydiard Millicent from 1905. He was proficient with his gun and was a great authority on natural history. He encouraged Vernon, 6th Viscount Bolingbroke, as a young man in his interest in all forms of local fauna and flora.

Mr. E. Bishop, auctioneer of Swindon, and Mr. Louis Wilson, a local bell-ringer, approached rector Harrison behalf of the Freemasons of Swindon who wished to cover the cost, estimated to be £300, of the refurbishment of the bells in memory of the Rev. H.G. Baily. Mr. Harrison 'turned them down flat'.<sup>87</sup>

Rector Harrison died at the age of seventy-three on 26 February 1936. His ashes, with those of his wife Emma, who died on 15 August 1954, aged eighty-six, are in the churchyard at Lydiard Tregoze. There were no children of the marriage.

Having been a short-term locum for rector Jones many years before, the Rev. William Henry Willetts returned to Lydiard Tregoze as rector in 1936. He was bom on 18 December 1882. He studied at Durham, receiving his L.Th. in 1911, BA in 1913, and MA in 1916. He was made deacon in 1911 at Durham, and ordained priest the following year. He served two curacies: St.James, Gateshead,

1911-13 and St. Paul's, Widnes, 1913-17. For the sake of the health of his elder daughter he took the living of Kirk German, Peel, Isle of Man, 1922-26, but his pastoral bent was to the industrial parishes of St.Catherine's, Wigan, 1926-30, and StMatthew's, Hull, 1930-36.

When he became rector the St.John family were in their closing years at Lydiard Park. Lady Bolingbroke died in 1940, and her trustees conveyed the house to the Corporation of Swindon in 1943. Although the house was acquired for social and cultural purposes, little could be done until building restrictions were eased well after the war ended. The parkland was requisitioned as a prisoner-of-war camp and hospital, and, after the war, the hutted camp became short-term accommodation for civilians. A school, with 33 on the roll in 1953, and a welfare centre were established there. The Camp at that time accommodated about 127 families. Rector Willetts took a continuing interest in all who came to the site - Germans, Americans, and the post-war families.

Rector Willetts served on the parish council of Lydiard Tregoze, and for eight years acted as its chairman. St.Mary's church was not well-supported when Mr. Willetts came. In his nineteen years as rector, 'more regular worshippers came than the church had previously known within living memory.' Among those worshippers were a group of young people who proved to be - and some still are - a great source of strength to the church. He instituted the annual service to which the Mayor and Mayoress, Aldermen, Councillors, and officers of the Borough of Swindon were - and are still - invited. Lydiard Tregoze church is well-known for its monuments and fittings: rector Willetts was always on the alert lest the church should not be regarded, first and last, as a House of God. He was quoted in the *Wiltshire Herald & Advertiser* on 20 March 1953 as saying, "I get so fed up with archaeologists who come down here and regard it as a museum piece."

In 1951 he was made an honorary canon of Bristol. He retired, to live at Mursley, in 1956, and died on 18 November 1960, at the age of seventy-seven. His ashes, with those of his wife Edith (1884-1961), are beside those of his predecessor in Lydiard Tregoze churchyard. In 1964 the five bells were refurbished and rehung, and a sixth was added in memory of Canon Willetts

Canon Willetts was the last rector of Lydiard Tregoze. An Order in Council, dated 29 June 1956, created 'The United Benefice of Lydiard Millicent with Lydiard Tregoz', the Rev. Ronald Birch Camley, the then-rector of Lydiard Millicent, becoming the first rector of the united benefice. The rectory at Lydiard Millicent was designated the parsonage house of the united benefice, and the rectory and glebe at Lydiard Tregoze were sold.

#### THE VALUE OF THE BENEFICE

As the manorial system in this country developed in early days, a church with its attendant priest to serve one or more manors became, through the initiative of landlords, a normal feature of local life.

The local priest was a freeman, exempt from labour-dues, and endowed with his own land. His only duty to the community, apart from his spiritual functions, was that he normally kept the bull and boar which served his parishoners's beasts.... He was, in fact, a small freeholder living upon his glebe which he normally tilled himself....... In addition to his glebe, which was generally reckoned as twice that of the villein, the parish priest could claim from his people certain dues. But his most important source of revenue apart from the glebe was in tithe, the right to collect one-tenth of all produce whether of the land or of beasts.<sup>87</sup>

Benefice income varied considerably as the produce of nature varied from place to place, and even from time to time in a particular place as scarcity replaced abundance or as the result of the relative popularity or efficiency of the parish priest. At all times there will have been a tendency for some shortterm agreements to be made to rationalise the payment of tithes. Out of his income the parish priest was required to contribute to the needs of the wider church, to keep the chancel in repair, to meet charges such as a pension for a predecessor, and to respond in some way to the needs of the poor.

A thousand years has seen the mosaic of widely differing kinds of payment, in fees and dues and in kind, being replaced by a prosaic monthly bank credit from the Church Commissioners. Some information can be gained about the value of a benefice from surveys like the 1534 *Valor Ecclesiasticus* and from nineteenth- and twentieth-century listings of clergy. The 1747 Dispensation to Charles Brinsden to allow him to hold Lydiard Tregoze in addition to the rectory of Marksbury stated that Lydiard Tregoze was 'valued at £10. 5. 5d., but worth £170 *per annum*. The annually-published *Clergy List* gave very varying statements of benefice income. In 1870, for example, the rectory at Lydiard Tregoze was stated to be worth £628, in 1886 £500, in 1906 £574 gross and £400 net. The varying amounts will reflect varying charges on the benefice as well as varying levels of income.

Terriers, the return to the diocese of a schedule of property but not of variable fees and dues, where they survive, are of interest. They tell us little about total income, but are evidence of the social standing of the incumbent.

Two such terriers survive from the seventeenth century, one is dated 1608, from the time of rector John Petty and is incomplete through damage, the other is dated 1677 and is the work of rector Timothy Dewell. This latter terrier is detailed, and shows that the possessions of the benefice were the parsonage house with its outbuildings, garden, and orchard, 8 7'A acres of glebeland, the right to graze horses on certain properties, annual payments amounting to £27.10s. Od. for such tithes as had been compounded, and tithes in kind from the remainder of the parish. The terrier is of such interest that it is here transcribed:

Wiltes. A Terrier of Glebelandes and other possessions belonginge to the Church of Lydiard Tregoze Anno Domini. 1677.

- Imprimis One Parsonage House, and other Outhouses, a Barne and Stable belonginge thereunto.
- Item One Garden walled partly with Brick, and partly with Stone, adjoyninge to the South End of the House.
- Item One Orchard adjoyninge to the North End of the House.
- It: One little Grounde called the Pleck conteyning by Estimation One Acre
- It: One Grounde called the Parsonage Close, adjoyninge to the Orchard aforesaydConteyninge by estimation Thirty Acres.
- Item One Meadow adjoyninge to the Parsonage Close, called the Hamme conteyninge by Estimation Fouerteene Acres.
- Item one parcell of Meadow Grounde Lying in the Grounde of Mr. Thomas Hardyman conteyning by Estimation Halfe and Acre.
- Item One ground Called Prinnells, conteyninge by Estimation Twelve Acres.
- Item One Grounde called Claypeece, conteyninge by Estimation Six Acres.
- Item One Grounde called Blacklands, conteyninge by Estimation Twelve Acres.
- Item One Hamme Lying in High Meade, alias Tenants Mead, conteyning by Estimation Fower Acres.
- Item One parcell of Meadow adjoyninge to Caw=illan Bridge Brocke Conteyninge by Estimation Eight Acres
- Item One Horselease in the Parke of Lydiard Tregoze
- Item a Composition of Five pounds quarterly, issuinge out of the Auncient Demeanse of Lydiard Tregoze

Item a Composition of Sixteene Shillinges per annum, issuinge out of Meyington [Mannington]
 Item a Composition of Sixteen Shillinges per annum, issuinge out of Tootehill
 Item a Composition of Eight Shillings per Annum, issuinge out of Whitehill
 Item One Horselease, or a lease for a Mare and Colt, One yeare in Meighington, and the other yeere in Tootehill
 Item an Ancient Composition, issuinge out of the Manner of Midgehall for which I receive yeerly of John Pleydall Esqr Fifty Shillinges all the Coppy holdes belonging to the sayd Manner being involved in the Composition
 Item an Ancient Composition of Foure Nobles per Annum, issuing out of Studly Farme an Ancient Composition of Five Nobles per Annum, issuinge out of Can Court Farme

All the rest of the parish pay Tythes in Kinde

The next complete statement of the income of the benefice comes from the Apportionment of the Rent Charge in lieu of Tithes, which was made in 1839 and confirmed by the Tithe Commutation Commissioners in 1841. The move to commute all surviving tithe payments-in-kind for cash payments was a welcome part of the reforms of the church, and was a logical conclusion to a long process of such commutation. The extent to which such commutation had already taken place in Fydiard Tregoze parish is seen in the fact that more than half of the acreage was already, by 1839, subject to cash payments. The parish contained 5142 acres 34 perches, but of this, apart from the glebe, only 2311 acres 2 rods and 20 perches were subject to tithe payment-in-kind. The drawback with commuted payments lay in the fact that they had been computed on a long-since out-of-date valuation. In the following list of fixed payments the name of the occupant in 1839 is in round brackets.

- £5. 0. Od from the Governors of the Charterhouse for Mannington Farm (Richard Strange) and Toothill Farm (William Plummer) - 416 acres 3 roods 6 perches, and 8s. 6d for Whitehill Farm (John King) - 67 acres 3 roods 5 perches.
- **£1.13. 4d** from the Master, Fellows, and Scholars of Pembroke College, Oxford, for Can Court (Rawleigh Eddolls) 219 acres 3 roods 7 perches.
- **9s.** from the Rev. Joseph Walker for Studley Farm (Henry Price) 199 acres 19 perches.
- **8s. 3d** from George Mantell for Studley Grange Farm (Edward Davis) 147 acres 2 roods 30 perches.
- **7s. 4d** from Anthony Mervin Reeve Storey for Bassett Down Estate (Anthony Mervin Reeve Storey and Giles Edmonds his servant) 192 acres 16 perches.
- **8s.** from the tithing of Midgehall, the Earl of Clarendon owning the first nine properties, which comprised:

Midgehall (Cornelius Bradford) - 382 acres 9 perches
Spittleborough (Mary Woodward) - 360 acres 1 rood 6 perches
Wickfield (William Mundee) - 235 acres 1 rood 14 perches
Baynards Ash (Elizabeth Sheldon) - 156 acres 2 roods 33 perches
Braydon Fane Farm (John Feighfield) - 93 acres 3 roods
Notts (Bartholomew Horsell) - 81 acres 26 perches
Shorts (John Woolford and William Sheldon) - 19 acres 1 rood 35 perches
Philmores (Thomas Philmore) - 10 acres 38 perches
Hawkins's (Cornelius Bradford) - 5 acres 1 rood 13 perches
Woodland - 14 acres 2 roods 16 perches
Quidhampton (Giles Edmonds) owned by John James Calley - 96 acres 3 roods 35 perches.

In 1830 there was an exchange of lands between Richard Miles as rector and Ford Bolingbroke in connection with the building of the new rectory.<sup>88</sup> A map and valuation of lands was prepared by

Robert Hughes of Wroughton. He estimated that 64 acres 3 roods 1 perch of glebe land with its timber was equal in value to 77 acres 1 rood 36 perches with its timber belonging to Lord Bolingbroke, that is £4,745.15s. The rector gave up the parsonage site to the east of the church, Parsonage Close, The Ham, Little Ham, Prinnels, and Clay Pits, and received in return the meadows of Great Shannel, Horse Ground, West, East, and North Freshbrook, and Fir Plantation. Ford Bolingbroke acquired the existing rectory buildings and, in return, built the new rectory.<sup>89</sup>

To the 77 acres of glebe that were acquired by exchange, there has to be added the 2 acres of the new rectory, outbuildings, and gardens, and 11 acres 1 rood 3perches of Blacklands Close. Thus the glebe in 1839 comprised 90 acres 2 roods and 39 perches, and this was in the occupation of the rector Giles Daubeney. Daubeney also rented a further 26 acres from Ford Bolingbroke.

The rector was also entitled to the foremath or first cut of hay from 10 acres which was part of Brook Mead and from the whole of Parsons Ham (5 acres), both belonging to Ford Bolingbroke. In December 1844 an agreement was reached between Giles Daubeney and Ford Bolingbroke whereby Daubeney exchanged the foremath on Brook Mead and the whole crop from Parsons Ham together with his part of East Freshbrook for Ford Bolingbroke's piece of East Freshbook

In 1839 the award for the benefice amounted to  $\pounds 603.18.5d$  for the great and small tithes from 2311 acres according to the market value of com at the time. This was in addition to the  $\pounds 8$ . 14. 5d which was the fixed payment on the 2740 acres for which commutation had already been made. (If these ancient commutations had not been made and if the same rate had been applied to these estates as were applied to the 2311 acres, the 1841 Award would have been an additional  $\pounds 716$  instead of the  $\pounds 8.14$ . 5d. that was actually received from these estates.)

The composition for Mannington, which included Toothill and Whitehill Farms, was undoubtedly made when Thomas Sutton, the founder of the Fondon Charterhouse, purchased the estate in 1605 to form part of the endowment of the foundation. (In 1677 the annual fixed payment for tithes amounted to £2 together with the right of some grazing: in 1839 it was £5.) In 1616 Sir John Benet purchased Can Court as endowment for Pembroke College, Oxford, and the tithes would have been commuted at that time. In 1677 the fixed annual payment was 5 nobles, which is exactly the sum of  $\pounds 1.13$ . 4d payable in 1839.

The other four properties for which composition had been made - Studley Farm, Studley Grange Farm, the Basset Down estate, and the tithing of Midgehall - arise from the fact that, up to the Dissolution, all belonged to the Cistercian Abbey of Stanley, which from 1154 was at Bremhill, near Chippenham.

The manor of Midgehall was among the estates granted to Stanley Abbey between 1151 and 1154 by Henry, Duke of Normandy, later Henry II.<sup>9</sup>" Among the many privileges that were accorded to the Cistercian Order was exemption from the payment of tithes to parochial clergy. In 1228 the abbey agreed to make an *ex gratia* payment of 8s. annually and in perpetuity to the rector of Fydiard Tregoze.<sup>91</sup> After the Dissolution the new owners of Midgehall continued to pay the sum that the rector had agreed, in 1228, to receive in lieu of tithes, and this was the sum paid in 1839. (For some reason thatisnotimmediatelyapparentJohnPleydellpaid50s.in 1677 for the manor of Midgehall.) By 1460 Stanley Abbey had acquired Studley Grange also.<sup>92</sup> In 1677 the compounded tithe amounted to 4 nobles or £ 1.6.8d annually. The manor or grange of Studley was divided into three separate holdings - Studley Grange, Studley Farm, and the Basset Down estate - which, by 1839, contributed between them the sum of £1.4.7d.

As a footnote to these very incomplete comments on the value of the benefice can be added the comment of Anthony Trolloppe in chapter 14 of *Framley Parsonage* (1861):

*Our present arrangement of parochial incomes is beloved as time-honoured, gentlemanlike, English, and picturesque - but indefensible.* 

# NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> David Walker, *An Ecclesiastical Miscellany*, Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society Records Section, vol. XI (1976), and *Report* 29 (1996), 3-18.
- <sup>2</sup> Topographical Wiltshire Collections of John Aubrey, ed. Canon Jackson (1862), 183-85. Wilts Notes & Queries, vol. VI, 338.
- <sup>3</sup> The Register of Simon de Gandavo, 1297-1315, is the earliest to survive. Canon Jackson lists the following gaps in the Registers: 1300-1 many leaves, some institutions 1328,1354-61,1366-75, parts of 1474-75, part of 1481, all 1482-84, part 1485, August 1499 May 1502, 1557-60, 3 March 1584/5 24 January 1591/2,14 October 1596 12 November 1598,6 October 1645 21 June 1660, end of 1689 beginning of 1694.
- <sup>4</sup> *Liber Regis*, ed. John Bacon Esq. (1786)
- 5 Office copies of two letters written by Harold Dale of H. Bevir & Son, Solicitors, Wootton Bassett, to the Rev.W.H. Willetts. One, dated 24 May 1943, reads, "I have informed 'the people concerned' that, unless it is 'appendant' to the property, the right of patronage cannot now be sold separately, and there are only two courses open - either to append it to the Mansion House (which may get into the hands of the house breakers!) or for the Estate to keep it. With all the property gone, then interest will naturally cease." The other, dated 7 October 1943, reads: "I had great difficulty in getting the sale of the Advowson through. Lord Bolingbroke objected strongly to its sale, but Trustees have no option but to realise an asset which might at any time be rendered valueless by your resignation. I have been in touch with the Diocesan Solicitor and am awaiting the draft Conveyance from him." By Order in Council, dated 17 April 1944, transfer was made of the advowson to the Bishop of Bristol from Charles Cyril Clarke, Diocesan Solicitor. (The reference to the asset being rendered valueless by the resignation of Canon Willetts is hard to understand. Section 1 of the Benefices Act, 1898 (Amendment) Measure, 1923, provided that a right of patronage should be incapable of sale only after the benefice had twice been vacant after 14 July 1924.) "
- <sup>6</sup> Peter Heath, *The English Parish Clergy on the Eve of the Reformation* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1969) 63, 68.
- <sup>7</sup> Peter Heath, *op. cit*, 44-45.
- <sup>8</sup> The fortified manor house of Eaton Tregoz in the parish of Foy has totally disappeared.
- <sup>9</sup> Bruce Coplestone-Crow, 'The Fief of Alfred of Marlborough in Herefordshire in 1086 and its Descent in the Norman Period' in *Transactions* of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, vol. XLV part II (1986), 387.
- <sup>10</sup> David Walker, *op. cit.*, *1*, 8, 39, 40-41, 53, 55-57. *Report* 29 15.
- <sup>11</sup> See G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*, and *DNB*.
- <sup>12</sup> Nothing remains of the buildings at Ashperton. An oval platform, 58m x 45m wide, is surrounded by a wet moat which opens out almost to a square and is crossed by a causeway to the east. The church lies within an outer enclosure.
- <sup>13</sup> Quoting a letter from Harold Kay to F.T. Smallwood.
- <sup>14</sup> *Feet of Fines* 1323.
- <sup>15</sup> G. Oliver, *Lives of the Bishops of Exeter*, 80.
- <sup>16</sup> Feet of Fines 1364.
- <sup>17</sup> *The Register of John Waltham, Bishop of Salisbury 1388-95* (Canterbury & York Society, 1994), no. 253.

- <sup>18</sup> *Report* 29, 19, 30.
- <sup>19</sup> *Report* 25, select pedigrees after p.48.
- <sup>20</sup> S.T. Bindoff, *The House of Commons 1509-1558* (History of Parliament Trust), 254.
- <sup>21</sup> *Report* 21, 32-34, and 22, 35-39.
- <sup>22</sup> *Report* 24, 31 and 33.
- <sup>23</sup> *Registrum Simonis de Gandavo*, vol. II, 639.
- <sup>24</sup> *Registrum Simonis de Gandavo*, vol. II, 869.
- <sup>25</sup> Registrum Rogeri Martival, vol. I, 285
- <sup>26</sup> *Registrum Rogeri Martival* vol. I, 340.
- <sup>27</sup> *Registrum Rogeri Martival*, vol. I, 239.
- <sup>28</sup> The Register of John Waltham, bishop of Salisbury, 1388-95 (Canterbury & York Society, 1994) no. 214.
- <sup>29</sup> *WAM*, 15
- <sup>30</sup> Peter Heath, *op. cit*, 114.
- <sup>31</sup> Calendar of Patent Rolls Henry VI (1452-61), 461. Report 29, 31.
- <sup>32</sup> The Register of Thomas Langton, bishop of Salisbury 1485-93 (Canterbury & York Society, 1985), no. 94.
- <sup>33</sup> PRO Prob 11/11. PCC 13 Horne. *Report* 29, 33.
- <sup>34</sup> Article in Grove's *Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, 5th edition, ii 511. W.H. Gratton, *Early Tudor Composers* (Oxford, 1925).
- <sup>35</sup> British Library, Add. MS 17803, where the plainsong setting is stated to be by 'docter cooper'. <sup>36</sup> *WAM*, 33, 232.
- <sup>37</sup> Stephen Friar, A *Companion to the English Parish Church* (Alan Sutton, 1996), 373.
- <sup>38</sup> VCH *Wiltshire* 3, 29 n.4.
- <sup>39</sup> Liturgy and Worship, ed. W.K. Lowther Clarke (SPCK, 1954), 147.
- <sup>40</sup> S.T. Bindoff, *The House of Commons 1509-1558* (History of Parliament Trust), 254.
- <sup>41</sup> WRO. Consistory Court of the bishop of Salisbury.
- <sup>42</sup> WRO. Consistory Court of the bishop of Salisbury.
- <sup>43</sup> *Report* 9, 1-9.
- <sup>44</sup> Register of Bishop Cotton.
- <sup>45</sup> Davenant, *Registeri*, John le Neve, *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1541 -1857 VI Salisbury Diocese*, compiled by Joyce Horn (London, 1986).
- <sup>46</sup> WRO. Bishop's Transcripts.
- <sup>47</sup> WRO. Court of the archdeacon of Wiltshire, proved 20 May 1640.
- <sup>48</sup> *WAM* 50, 166.
- <sup>49</sup> John Walker, *The Sufferings of the Clergy* (1714), vol. II, 63.
- <sup>50</sup> A.G. Matthews, *Walker Revised* (1948).
- <sup>51</sup> Bodleian Library. MS Clarendon vols. 19 and 20, items 1460, 1470, 1493, 1503, 1506, 1513, 1521, and 1530. They appear in transcription in *Report* 9, 408.
- <sup>52</sup> Text in *Report* 10, 42.
- <sup>53</sup> *Report* 6, 50-72.
- <sup>54</sup> The arms appear also on the adjacent grave slab for his sister Grace and her husband Peter Kibblewhite (d. 1667) and on the grave slab of his daughter Elizabeth (d. 1670) who married Charles Vilett and is buried under the north end of the altar 6 crescents in pile (3,2, and 1), for crest a demi-boar erect charged on the shoulder with 3 annulets. The anus attributed to De Welle were: Gules, 6 crescents (3, 2, and 1) Argent, a bend compony Or and Azure.
- <sup>55</sup> Bishop of Salisbury's *Subscription Book*.
- <sup>56</sup> It is assumed that the Thomas Hedges who married Anne Dewell and was overseer for his father 's will is the same Thomas Hedges who was made vicar of Rodbourne Cheney in 1626. Members of the families of Hedges, Kibblewhite, and De well are brought together in a series of documents

- WRO 212A: 268, bundle 99 - concerning the advowson of Rodboume Cheney.

- <sup>57</sup> Bodleian Library. MS Oxf. dioc. papers e.13
- <sup>58</sup> Oxfordshire Protestation Returns, 1641-2, Oxfordshire Record Society, 36, 108.
- <sup>59</sup> *Foster* does not indicate that he was a Fellow.
- <sup>60</sup> Reports 27 51-102; 28 56-94
- <sup>61</sup> Life and Times of Anthony Wood ed. Andrew Clark (Oxford, 1891), 1 41
- <sup>62</sup> A.G. Matthews, *Calamy Revised* (Oxford, 1934) 552ff
- <sup>63</sup> *Liber Regis*, ed. John Bacon (1786)
- <sup>64</sup> Edward Calamy, *The Nonconformists ' Memorial*, abridged by Samuel Palmer (1802), **III** 437, and A.G. Matthews, *Calamy Revised* (1934), 111
- <sup>65</sup> Frank T. Smallwood, 'Conventicle and School in the Vicarage', *The Baptist Quarterly* XXIV no. 5 (January 1972), 205-8
- <sup>66</sup> G.D. Squibb, *Founder's Kin* (Oxford, 1972) App. IV C Other Foundations. Winchester College Muniments 21188-90
- <sup>67</sup> Lambeth Palace Library. Vicar-General Act Book 1734-50 VB 1/8, 90, 330
- <sup>68</sup> There is a gap between 1731 and 1744/45 in the ordination records of the diocese of Llandaff in the deposit held by the National Library of Wales.
- <sup>69</sup> Winchester College Muniments. MS Williams M/PW/36. *Report* 6 97
- <sup>70</sup> Wiltshire Returns to the Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783 ed. Mary Ransone. Wiltshire Record Society XXVI1
- <sup>71</sup> *Report 6* 105. Rector Miles headed the list with a subscription of ten guineas.
- <sup>72</sup> William Cobbett, *Weekly Register* LX, col, 12 and 13, 30 September 1826
- <sup>73</sup> Wilts R.O. 305/6
- <sup>74</sup> Brass plate on the south wall of the nave of Lydiard Tregoze church. *Report 4* 61-62
- <sup>75</sup> Will of George Richard, 3rd Viscount Bolingbroke. *Report* 22 35-39
- <sup>76</sup> Bodleian Library, *Ten Days Abroad. Reports* 9 37-42; 22 37
- *Report* 24 29-36. Giles Daubeney variously spelt his surname with or without the penultimate
   'e' at different times in his life. The family grave has both spellings.
- <sup>78</sup> *Report* 22 53
- <sup>79</sup> Glos. R.O. GDR 362 463, 499; 363 476, 736, 741
- <sup>80</sup> Wilts R.O. 305/12
- <sup>81</sup> *Report* 4 62-69. Obituary notices in *Devizes Gazette* 10 May 1900, *North Wilts Herald* 11 May 1900, and *Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Magazine* 31 92
- <sup>82</sup> VCH, Wiltshire IX 92
- <sup>83</sup> Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 13 June 1850
- <sup>84</sup> The information which follows is derived from the Parish Council Minute Books, the Parish Council Burial Register, their Letter Book, and related correspondence.
- <sup>85</sup> *Report 22> \{)-24*
- <sup>86</sup> *Reports* 8 30, 19 10
- <sup>87</sup> Communicated, in a letter of 13 October 1961, the late Louis A. Wilson of Wootton Bassett who was one of the ringers on the occasion of the 6th Viscount's coming of age.
- <sup>88</sup> Wilts R.O. 305/16^
- <sup>89</sup> The fact that Lord Bolingbroke was responsible for the building of the new rectory can be assumed from the fact that he acquired the old one. The plan of the new glebeland, drawn by J. Gosling (Wilts R.O. 305) states that on the new glebe 'Lord Bolingbroke proposes to build a new Parsonage House.'
- <sup>90</sup> VCH Wiltshire IX, 80.
- <sup>91</sup> Wiltshire Topographical Collection of John Aubrey, ed. Canon J.E. Jackson (1862), 184.
- <sup>92</sup> VCH *Wiltshire* **IX**, 82.

## THAMESDOWN NEWSLETTER

1996 was a busy and successful year, marred only by a burglary in October in which, most notably, two clocks were stolen from the State Bedroom, On the positive side our exhibition and events programme was busier than ever with a number of new ventures and collaborations. We also made some interesting acquisitions and undertook detailed restoration work in the State Rooms.

I hope many of you took advantage of your free entry entitlement to the House to come and see our **Victorian Lydiard exhibition.** Gathering together so many 19th century photographs of the Lydiard estate, the people who worked their and the St. Johns themselves was a fascinating task. A lifelike model of Lady Bolingbroke displaying her black lace evening gown provided the focus for a Victorian room setting which also featured a superb painted china vase and stand which originated from the House and has been kindly loaned by one of our 'Friends', Mr Malcolm Titcombe.

In December the Victorian theme was extended with a festive display of dried flowers and evergreens throughout the State Rooms. **Christmas in a Country House** was researched and created by Iloristry students at Lackham College (near Chippenham). We are hoping to team up with Lackham again this Christmas for another fragrant and eye catching display.

Lydiard's Victorian era has been given a lasting record through the display of a portrait of **Henry 5th Viscount Bolingbroke.** The portrait is the only painting known to exist of Lord Henry, who is best remembered for his dispute with the Great Western Railway over the sounding of their factory 'hooter'. It has been kindly given to Lydiard Park on long loan according to the wishes of the late Mi-Nick Western, a descendant of the 5th Viscount.

A much appreciated gift of a different nature, **The Last Crusade**, is an account by Mr Denis Pitcher describing Henry Mildmay St. John's journey from Lydiard Park to Gallipoli in 1915. The account draws on family letters between Lady Bolingbroke and her eldest son Henry who was badly injured in Gallipoli but survived to return home to Lydiard Park.

**Conservation programmes** have continued with the cleaning of a portrait of the 1st Viscount Bolingbroke which has been returned to the main Hall in a considerably brighter and more stable condition. An ornamental giltwood stand which has languished m the stores for years has also been completely restored and put on permanent display in the Dining Room.

On the **Restoration** front Georgian brass door plates missing from some of the State Room doors have been replaced with specially made reproductions and the mechanics of part of the original servants bell system repaired and preserved. This has entailed casting new ornamental bell pull levers to replace those missing and the reinstatement of tasselled cord pulls in the State Bedroom and Library. The crimson cord pulls which are based on historic designs have been hand made specially for Lydiard Park. They represent a family memorial gift in remembrance of the late Mrs Joan Walters, a founder member of The Friends of Lydiard Tregoz.

Last year the park provided entertainment for hundreds of people who came to watch Shakespeare's comedy *Much Ado About Nothing* on a warm summer evening in July.

Picnics, costumed drama, music and the floodlit setting of the House combined so successfully Heartbreak Productions will be returning again this year to perform *A Midsummer Nights Dream* on 26th and 27th July.

The Friends staged their own event in October with *Music For An Autumn Evening* in aid of the restoration of the Church Hatchments. Moneys raised from this event will provide a starting point for the project. On the same weekend Lydiard Park and St. Mary's church were visited by over 1000 people as part of **Heritage Open Days.** My thanks to those Friends who used this opportunity to man the house and church, distributing leaflets and information.

I continue to value your support immensely and hope that you continue to use and enjoy Lydiard Park in 1997.

Best wishes,

Sarah Finch-Crisp (The Keeper, Lydiard Park)

## THE FRIENDS OF LYDIARD TREGOZ.

## Officers for 1996-97:

President: Mr. H.G.M. Leighton, M.A., F.S.A.

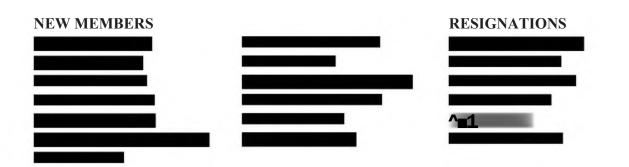
Vice-Presidents: Field-Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Dr. Arnold Taylor, C.B.E., M.A., D.Litt., Docteur h.c. (Caen), F.B.A., Hon.V.-P.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.

Secretary: Mrs Sarah Finch-Crisp, B.A.,

Treasurer: Mr. Richard Clarke^^^^^

Committee: The Rev. Rob Buries. Mr. Tom Hassall, M.A., F.S.A., M.I.F.A. Mr. Russell Weymouth.

Editor of Report: Canon Brian Came, B.Com., F.S.A.,



## Copies of the Report are deposited with:

The British Library. The Bodleian Library. Cambridge University Library. The College of Arms. The Society of Antiquaries. The Society of Genealogists. The Public Record Office at Kew. The Council for the Care of Churches. Battersea Library. Sir Walter St.John's Association. Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Society. Glamorgan Record Office. Wiltshire Record Office. Wootton Bassett Historical Society. The Borough of Thamesdown. Swindon Public Library. Swindon Museum. Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, USA.

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#### **INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.**

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1996

To Postage	50.86	By Subscriptions	515.32
Telephone	2.84	Donations	68.95
Stationery	56.60	29th Refreshments	65.43
Photocopying	6.09	Bank Interest	0.90
Report <b>29</b>	285.00	Occasional Papers	161.00
St.John Papers	160.00	C oncert/Hatchments	257.58
29th Anniversary Expenses	30.38		
Wiltshire Local History			
Forum Membership	5.00		
	596.77		
Add:			
Excess of Income			
over Expenditure	472.41		
	£1069.18		£1069.18
			=======

# BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER 1996.

	Accumulated Fund			
	31st December 1995	222.63		
Add:				
	Excess of Income			
	over Expenditure	472.41		
		(05.04		
		695.04		
	Current Liabilities:		Current Assets_	
	Fees in advance	59.00	Current a/c	11.43
		59.00		11.15
			Suspense Dep. a/c 257.58	
			Deposit a/c <u>483.03</u>	
			1	
			Total Deposit	742.61
		£ 754.04	_	£ 754.04
				======
	Richard T. Clarke.			
	<b>TT</b> (75)			

Hon. Treasurer.

Audited & found correct. R.E. Entwisle, A.C.M.A.

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## FRIENDS OF LYDIARD TREGOZ

#### LIST OF MEMBERS

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#### INDEX TO REPORTS 21 - 30

ADDENDA & CORRIGENDA 21 38,73; 22 42-43; 23 48; 24 68; 27 36-37; 29 45 ADLINGTON, Thomas 29 74 ALEXANDER, priest 30 21,26 APSLEY, Sir Allen 25 52; 27 86; 30 9-13 ARCHER, Michael, author 22 41 - , Robert, 23 36, 41 ATHERESTON, William de, rector, 30 22,27 ARTHINGTON, Rev. Thomas 28 90-93 **ASSISTANT OVERSEER 22 69** AYLIFFE, cousin 27 61; 28 92 - , Lady 28 92-93 BAILY, Henry George, rector 29 46; 30 23,42-45 BALL, Sidney, Contributor: Lydiard Tregoz and Troisgots 23 25-26; The Lydiards and Kilvert's Diary 28 21-22 BALLARD'S (Banner's)ASH FARM 23 33, 38 BARKER, Brig. Charles, Contributor: Oliver, Lord Chief Justice 30 3-7 **BARNES** family 22 64 BARRELLS 26 4-6 BARRIOS, President 26 49-65 BASSETT DOWN 24 37-53, 59; 23 33, 38 - , House and Farm, 23 33, 38 BASTARDY, Filiations of 24 8-10 BATH, Sarah 24 9 BATTERSEA, SIR WALTER ST.JOHN'S SCHOOL, 22 6 - , Foundation Records 22 25-34 - , in the year 1750 23 1-9; 27 3-27; 28 32-33 - , history 29 46 - ,school song 22 7 BAXTER, Rev William, 27 100 **BEAMES William 24 10 BEASANT** family 22 64 - , John & Edith 24 3, 7 - , William 22 67 BEAUCHAMP of Bletsoe 29 19-20; 30 22,25 - , Margaret 29 19-25; 30 25 BEAUCLERK select pedigree 21 17 - , Aubrey 29 83-84 **BEAUFORT Lady Margaret 29 24-31** BECKENHAM, Kent 28 46 BENTELE, John de, rector 30 22,27 BERNARD, John & Elizabeth 27 71; 28 79, 83 BEWLEY, John 23 35, 41 BINCKNOLL FARM 23 33, 38 BLACKBURNE, William, rector 30 22,32 BLAGROVE FARM 23 33, 38 **BOLINGBROKE ARMS 22 67** 

BOLINGBROKE, Viscountess:

- , Charlotte (Collins) 24 67
- , Lady Diana (Spencer) 21 24-27
- , Frances (Winchcombe) 21 9
- , Baroness Isabella Charlotte Antoinette (Hompesch) 29 66-67, 69-85
- , Marie Claire (de Marcilly) 21 9
- , Mary Emily Elizabeth (Howard) **30** 16-17,23

BORTON, Robert, rector 30 22,27

BOWKER, Charles & James 22 64

BRADFORD, Cornelius & Richard 23 36, 41; 30 39

BRIND Jane 24 9

BRINSDEN, Charles, rector **30** 22,36-37

- BRODERICK family. Select pedigree 23 46-47
- , Sir Allen **27** 52, 56, 65, 72, 86, 95; **28** 61
- , Lady 27 88
- BROOK FARM **23** 33,39
- BROOKES, Susannah 24 4

BROWN, Bamaby & Mrs 22 68

BROWNE, John 21 59

BULLOK, Richard, rector 30 22,28

BUNCE Mary 24 3

BUSSON, George 23 37, 41

BUTLER family. Select pedigree 22 40

- ,Mary **24** 8

BUYURULDI 28 95-96

CAN COURT 21 59; 23 34; 28 22

CANDY, William **23** 37,41

CARDEN, Arthur E. Contributor: Robert Knight, Earl of Catherlough 24 54-58. Author: The

Knights of Burrells 28 50-51

CAREY, Francis 23 35, 41

CARNE, Canon Brian. Contributor: *Frederick 2nd Viscount Bolingbroke* **21** 15-46; *Twenty-first Anniversary Meeting 22* 1-7; *The Will of George Richard 3rd Viscount Bolingbroke 22* 35-39; *Giles Daubeney, Curate and Rector* **24** 29-36; *Hompesch* **24** 62-65; *Notes on the Fabric and Fittings of St.Mary's Church* **25** 1-28; *General the Hon. Henry St.John* **25** 57-67; *The Wootton Bassett Hiring Fair* **26** 7-25; *Churchwardens* **26** 35-47; *The Friends of Lydiard Tregoz. 25 and not out* **26** 66-72; *St.John Papers* **27** 41-102; **28** 55-99; **29** 57-87; *The Wills of Lady Johanna and Sir Walter* **28** 34-45; *Insights into the Life of Sir Walter St.John* **30** 8-13 CHADDINGTON FARMS (Great and Little) **23** 34, 39 CHAMBERLAIN, Guy Contributor: *The St.John Family in Malta in 1814* **21** 11-14 CHAPPELL, Charles **27** 81, 100; **28** 83-84, 86-88, 90-91 CHARMAN, Stephen, rector **30** 22,34-35 CHEERE, Sir Henry **29** 35-38 CHURCH BAZAAR, 1901 23 16

CHURCH HILL FADM 22 24 20

CHURCH HILL FARM 23 34, 39

CHURCHWARDENS 26 35-47; 30 36,38

- CHUTE, Johanna 27 84
- CLARENDON ARMS 22 67
- CLARK, Benjamin & John 22 64

- , James & Georgina 22 54

- , Jonas Sr & Jr 23 33, 35-37 CLARKE, Hannah 24 3, 8 - , Hester, Viscountess St.John, 21 18 -, Richard T. Contributor: The Cottage Dame School at Hook 22 47-57 CLERKE, Abel, rector 30 22,35 CLEVERLEY, Stephen 23 33, 41 COB GUTTER 22 65 COLE, John 23 35, 41 COLLECTOR OF RATES & TAXES 22 69 COLLINGBOURN, William James 23 33,41 COLLINS, Charles & George 23 33, 41 - , Charlotte, Viscountess Boligbroke 24 67 CONSTABLES, Appointment of 24 10-11 CONYNGTON, Robert, rector 30 22,27 COOKE, Colonel Thomas 28 78 COPLESTONE-CROW, Bruce. Contributor: Tregoz of Ewyas Harold, 1198-1300 29 2, 3-18 COWLEY, John 24 3 COWPER (COOPER), Robert, rector 22 2-3, 6; 30 22,28 COX, James & Lucy 22 67 CREW, Abner 22 64 CRUCHES (Creeches) FARM 23 34, 39 DAUBENEY, Giles, rector 24 29-36; 30 20,23,40-41 DAVIS, Edward 23 37, 41 DAY, Charles & Henry 23 34, 41 DECKETTS, William 22 67 DEWELL, Timothy, rector, & Mrs 22 3; 27 73, 96, and passim 51-102; 30 22,32-34 DIBBLE, Mrs Ann 23 37, 41 DIGBY, George, Earl of Bristol 23 60 DRESS and FASHION 21 1-10 DRURY, Henry, William & Charles 22 64; Charles 23 36,41 DUNTHORNE, Philip. Contributor: Three Che ere s for Lydiard Park 29 2, 35-38 EARL GREGG SWEM LIBRARY, The 28 49 FASTI LAZE (Shaw) FARM 23 36, 39 EDDOLLS, Rawleigh & Robert 23 34, 41 EDMONDS family 22 64-65, 68 - , Giles 23 33, 36, 41 EDWARDS family 23 34, 35,41 - , John, article on wall painting in church 22 41

ELECTIONS 1660 27 59-63

ELLISON, Harry, James, & William 23 34-37,41

ELYOT, Walter, rector 30 22,28

EMBLING family. Select pedigree 22 40

ENGLEFIELD Lady 27 59-60

EVELEIGH family **22** 47-51, 56

- , Henry & Simeon 23 36, 41

- , Henry **29** 85-86

EVANS, Charles F.In memoriam 22 46

EWYAS HAROLD 29 3-18

- , Priory **30** 21,24

Farms and Occupying Farmers in the Nineteenth Century 23 33-44 - , and farm workers 26 21-24 FERRIS family 22 65 - , Charles & Francis 23 36, 41 FERSHAM, William of, rector 30 21,27 FINCH-CRISP, Sarah. Contributor: Thame shown Museums News Letter 23 45; 24 67-68; 26 48; 27 31-32; 28 54; 29 51-52; 30 54-55. Lord Bolingbroke and the Swindon Hooter 24 12-19. Radio Interview 24 22-25 FISHER, Edmond 22 68, 69 FLAXLANDS FARM 23 34 Fonmon Castle 25 45-47 FOX, Charles James 29 68-70, 74 FRAMPTON, Henry 23 35, 41 FREETH, Robert & John 23 36-37, 41 - , Thomas 24 9-10 FRIENDS OF LYDIARD TREGOZ 22 2 - ,25 and not out 26 66-72 - , list of members 26 73-75; 30 58-59 FURNESE, Select Pedigree 21 16 - , Anne, Viscountess St. John 21 18 - , Henry 29 60, 65 GERRARD, John 22 69 GERRING, George 22 65 GILES, John & Ann 24 10 - , Zachariah & Martha 24 3, 7 GLEBE FARM 23 34 GLEED family 24 4 - , Adam & Cornelius 22 65 - , Caroline 24 7 - , Hannah 24 3 GORHAM, Richard 27 56, 71, 82-83, 86, 99 GOUGH, Alfred & George 22 64 - , Frederick 23 37, 41 - , Gertrude 30 20 GRANDISON, family 30 21-22,24-25 **GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY 22 62** GREENWOOD, Jacob 24 5 GRIMSLEY, Eli & Caroline 22 68 GRYMES, Elizabeth 24 3 GRYNDEHAM, William, rector 30 22,27 GUZMAN, General Blanco 25 29-33 HABGOOD, Thomas 22 65 - Joseph 22 65, 69; 30 19-20 - , Kathleen Mary 30 19-20 HALE, Ann, Charles, Isaac, Martha, & Owen 23 34-35, 41 - , Isaac & John 22 65 HALL, Thomas 22 65 - , William & Martha 24 4, 8

HARDING, John 23 33, 37, 41 - , Rhoda 24 3 HARDYMAN, Thomas 27 50-102, 28 55-99 - , Henry 27 90 HARDYMANS 23 34 HARRISON, Arthur Herbert, rector 30 23,46 HAWKINS, Susannah 23 36, 41 HAY LANE WHARF 22 64 HAYES, John, rector 30 22,29-30 HIETT, Joseph 23 33, 41 HIGHGATE FARM 23 Frontispiece, 35 HILL, Benjamin 24 9 HILLE, John, rector 30 22,28 Hiring Fair at Wootton Bassett 26 7-25 HISCOCK, Edward 30 16-17 - , Ethelbert 23 33, 41 - , family 24 3 HISCOCKS, James 22 65 HITCHCOCK, Alfred 22 68, 69 - , Jesse Frances 22 67 - , Jessie & Norman 22 65 HOLLAND, Rachel 24 3-5, 7 HOLT, John of, rector 30 21,27 HOMPESCH, Baron von 29 74, 80 - , Grandmaster Ferdinand von 24 62-65 - , Baron Franz von 24 67 - , Baroness Isabella Charlotte Antoinette, Viscountess Bolingbroke 29 66-67, 69-85 - , William von 29 84 HOOK, Attendance Officer 22 69 - , Burial Ground 24 26-28 - , Dame School 22 47-57 - , Residents in nineteenth century 22 64-67 - , Schoolteachers 22 68 HOOK FARM 23 35 HORSELL, Capt Bartholomew Sr & Jr 23 35, 41; 26 7; 28 3-17 - , Elizabeth 28 9-13 - , Henry William 28 13-17 - , William Bartholomew Coleman 23 35, 41; 28 8 HOWARD family. Select pedigree 23 46 - , Mary Emily Elizabeth, Viscountess Bolingbroke 30 16-17,23 - , Walter 22 67 HOWE, Richard Grobham 27 50, 53, 92-93; 30 9-13 HUMPRHIES, Abraham, Elizabeth, & John Cole 23 35-36, 41 HUNT, Ann 24 3-4 - , John 22 68 - , Mary Ann 24 4 HYDE, Edward, Earl of Clarendon 25 52; 27 65, 68, 89, 94; 28 81, 85; 29 53-56; 30 32-33 - , Henry, Viscount Combury 27 89, 101

INGRAM, Joyce 24 68

JACOB, William L. Contributor: Frederick, 2nd Vicount Bolingbroke, Lord of the Turf21 40-46; Henry St.John, A Lord Viscount in Lilliput 22 8-24; Lydiard Tregoz in Directories in the Nineteenth Century 22 58-72; Rev. Ebenezer Humphrey Jones and the Restoration of the Church ofSt.Mary, Lydiard Tregoz, 1901 23 10-24; The Principal Farms and occupying Farmers of Lydiard Tregoz 1839-1895 23 33-44; Lydiard Tregoz and the Poor Law 24 1-11; The Maskelynes of Basset Down 24 37-53; Waiting for Gemal Blanco Guzman 25 29-33; Grand Masonic Demonstration 25 33-44; President Barrios of Guatemala 26 49-65; Charles St.John and his Publisher: John Murray of Albemarle Street, London 28 23-31; Further Notes on the Writings of Charles St.John 29 39-45 JARMAN, David. Contributor: Gabriel Pleydell, a Tudor Gentleman and his Family Connections 28 18-20

JONES, Ebenezer Jones, rector 23 10-24; 30 19,23,41,45-46

KEEN, Robert 24 9
KEMPSON, E.G.H. In memoriam 22 46
KENDRICK, Grace 27 87, 89, 95
KERLEY, George 22 65

, James 24 4
, Samuel 22 67

KEYNES, John Maynard, quoted: *The Great Villiers Connection* 26 1-3

KIBBLEWHITE, James 23 33, 41
, Peter & Grace 27 81, 83, 95; 30 33 *Kilvert's Diary and the Lydiards* 28 21-22
KINCHIN, Martha, Thomas, Thomas Coster, Thomas Richard Plummer, William, William Plummer 23 33, 37, 41-42
, Matilda Elizabeth, funeral 23 13
KING, John, Richard, & Sarah 23 33, 42
, Rev Walter R. Contributor: *Lady Luxborough, Burrells, and the Pictures at Lydiard* 26 4-6 *Knight, Robert, Earl of Catherlough* 24 54-58 *The Knights of Burrells* 28 50-51

LAMBERT, David. Contributor: Lydiard Park - Swindon's Own Arcadia 27 28-30 LANDFEAR, Thomas 23 37, 42 LARGE, Charles, Thomas, & William James 23 33, 37,42 LAWRENCE, Joan. Contributor: If only 'Oily hadn't died 22 44-45 - , Donor 22 40; 28 49 LEE, family of Quarendon and Ditchley 30 8-13 - , Sir Henry 27 50, 51 LEIGHTON, Frederick & Mrs 22 68 LINGE, Abraham van 22 40-41 LORDSHIPS OF MANORS - LYDIARD TREGOZE & HOOK 29 48 LOST ESTATE, The. Exhibition 23 27 LOVE, John & Elijah 22 66 LOWER HOOK FARM 23 35 LUFFMAN, Samson 22 69 LUXBOROUGH, Henrietta, Lady 24 54-57; 26 4-6; 28 50-51 LYDIARD PARK - , Architecture 27 29; 29 46

- , Country Park 23 27
- , Drawing Room **24** 22-25
- , Fireplaces **29** 35-38

- , Furnishings 22 40-41
- , Land 23 35, 36
- , Lost Estate, Exhibition 29 46
- , Pediment 29 62
- , Plate 27 52-53, 73; 28 54, 83
- , Portraits 21 1-10; 23 47; 24 67; 26 4-6, 48; 27 32; 29 51, 61-62, 64-66; 30 54
- , Rooms 27 83-84
- , Sound Broadcast 23 27, 32
- , Susanna and the Elders 27 34-35
- , Swindon's Own Arcadia 27 28-30
- , War Years, The **28** 46
- , Window 22 41

Lydiard Tregoze in Nineteenth Century Directories 22 58-72

McMAHON, Michael 22 66 MANNERS, Frank 23 35, 42 MANNINGTON FARM 23 35; 27 81; 30 33,50 MANSER, George, Jane, & Fanny 22 68 MAPLEDURHAM, manor 25 48-49 MARCILLY, Marie Claire de, Viscountess Bolingbroke 219 MARLER, Thomas, rector **30** 22,31-32 MARSH FARM 23 35; 28 3-17 MASKELYNES OF BASSET DOWN 24 37-53 **MASONIC DEMONSTRATION 25 38-44** MATTHEWS, William, John & Jacob 30 38 MEAD, Mary 24 4-6 MICHEL, John, rector 30 22,27 MIDGHALL, farm 23 36, 39; 27 59; 28 81, 89; 30 49 MILDMAY, family 26 28-29 MILES, Richard, rector **30** 22,37-39 MOBEY, William 22 66 MO(U)LDEN, William & Henry 22 66 MONCRIEFF family. Select pedigree 23 46 - , Lt. Col. John G. Contributor: The grave of C.W.G. St. John 24 66 MORRIS, Roger, architect 27 29 MULLINS, Elizabeth 22 1; 24 67; 28 52 MUNDEE, John, Robert, & William 23 34, 37, 42

NEWCOMEN, Lady **27** 59-60, 82, 87 NEWTON, Stella Mary. Contributor: *Dress and Fashion in the Portraiture at Lydiard Tregoze* **21**1-10 NORTH, Margaret. Contributor: *My Memories of Lydiard Tregoz* **30** 14-18 NORTHWODE, Agnes, Lady **30** 22,25 - , Otto, rector **30** 22,27 NUTLAND, William 22 66

ODY, George, George William, Nelson, Noah, Sarah, Walter 23 34-36, 42 - , family **24** 4 PADBROOK'S 23 36, 39

PARISH - , Clerks **22** 68

- , Constables 22 69 - , Officers 22 68 - , Rate Books 22 63ff PATRICK, Rev Simon 27 74, 82 PEGLER family 2270 PEPLER, Henry 22 69 PERRY, Joseph 22 66 - , Mary 22 68 PETTY, John, rector 30 22,30-31 PHILLIPS, John & Harry Tucker 23 37, 42 PHILMORE, Thomas 23 34, 42 PLEYDELL SOCIETY 27 34, 29 47 PLEYDELL, Charles 28 89-90 - , cousin 28 81 - , Gabriel 28 18-20 - , John 27 59, 68; 30 49-50 - , StJohn 28 89-90 - , William 28 21 PLOUGH, Jacob, rector 30 22,29 PLUMMER, Edward, Mary, & William 23 36, 37, 42 POOR LAW, 24 1-11; 27 34 POPE, Alexander 22 8-24 PORCELAIN 21 21-23 PORT, Adam de, of Warnford 25 34-37 POWELL, Thomas, Schoolmaster at Battersea 23 1-9; 25 1-9; 28 32-33 - , Thomas Wade, rector 30 23,41-42 Praters in Wiltshire 1480-1670 21 59-60 Prater, Prather, Prator, Praytor in America 29 46 PRICE, Henry 24 10-11 - , Cornelius, Richard, & Charles 22 66 - , Cornelius, Elizabeth, George, Henry, Richard, & William 23 35, 37, 42 PRIDDY, William 23 37,42 PURLEY church, Berks 25 50-52 - , manor 25 48 PURLEY'S 23 36, 40 PURSE family 22 69 - , Sarah 22 67 Purton and District, Records and Recollections of 28 51 QUICK, Herbert 22 67 QUIDHAMPTON 23 36 RADNOR, William of, rector 30 21,27 RAD WELL, John de, rector 30 22,27 REBBECK, William A. 23 36,42 RECTORY, Lydiard Tregoze 30 14-18,23 - , Land 23 34; 30 48-50 - , Glebe Farm 30 48-50 REEVES, Thomas 23 34, 42

REMOVALS 1774-1861 24 3-8 RENT ROLL, Kent 29 62-64

- , Surrey 27 52-53; 28 97-99 - , Wiltshire 27 74-75; 28 96-97 REYNOLDS, Henry 23 34, 42 - , William & Susannah 24 3, 7 RICHENS, Sarah 24 3, 8 The Ricketts Connection 26 26-34; 27 36-37 ROBBINS, Alec. Author: Records and Recollections of Purton and District 28 50; Contributor: Edward Hyde, Lord Clarendon 29 53-56 ROCHESTER, Ann (St.John), Countess of 27 50, 59, 92; 28 46-50; 30 8-10 - John, Earl of 218 ROCKLEY, Wilts. 25 66; 29 80-81 RUDLER family 24 4, 6-7, 8 - , Ann, Henry, John, Richard, Thomas, & William J. 23 33, 35-36, 42 RUMMING, Ann, John, Thomas, & William 23 35, 39,42 ST.ALBANS, Robert of, rector 30 21,27 ST.JOHN DATABASE 29 47 ST.JOHN family. Select pedigrees, 25 facing 49 ST.JOHN PAPERS 27 41-102; 28 55-99; 29 57-87 ST.JOHNS OF BLETSO - , Lady, portrait 25 54-56 - , Sir John, family 29 20-23 ST.JOHNS OF FARLEY CHAMBERLAYNE 26 28 ST.JOHNS OF FONMON - , Sir Oliver 22 44-46 ST.JOHNS OF KEYSOE - , Francis 27 66 - , Oliver LCJ 27 51, 53, 56, 63; 28 60-61, 82-83; 30 3-7 ST.JOHNS OF LYDIARD MILLICENT - , Nicholas & Bridget 27 80-81, 95 ST.JOHNS OF LYDIARD TREGOZE, BATTERSEA, etc - , as Patrons 30 26 - , Ann, Countess of Rochester 27 50, 59, 92; 28 46-50; 30 8-10 - , Anne (Furnese), Viscountess St. John 21 18 - Barbara, Lady Villiers 27 79-81, 93 - , Barbara (d.1700) 27 99 - , Charles Louis 21 47-49 - , Charles William George, 21 61-62; 26 31-32; grave 21 53-54, 24 66; notes on his writings 28 23-31,29 39-45 - , Charlotte (Collins), Viscountess Bolingbroke 24 67 - , Diana (Spencer), Viscountess Bolingbroke 21 24-27 - , Edward (Golden Cavalier) 21 9 - , Elizabeth (d. 1702/3) 28 79-80 - , Hon. Ferdinand 22 35 - , Col. Ferdinand (d.1930) 29, 71, 77 - , Frederick, 2nd Viscount Bolingbroke 21 15-46; 23 47-48; 24 67; 25 54; 30 26 - , Sir Frederick Robert 21 49-52; 25 29-33; 26 49-65 - , Rev. George Frederick 22 35-39; 25 38-44; 29 67, 85; 30 26 - , George Richard, 3rd Viscount Bolingbroke, will 22 35-39; 23 47-48; 24 62-63,67; 26 27; 29 66-70; 30 26,39-40

- , Henrietta, Lady Luxborough 24 54-57; 26 4-6; 28 50-51

- , Henry (d. 1679) 28 88
- , Henry, 1st Viscount Bolingbroke, 2119; wit 2154-56; and Dean Swift 2162-63; *Lord Viscount in Lilliput* 22 8-24; dedication by Voltaire 24 60-61; works 28 49; letters 29 57-66; 30 22
- , Henry, 1st Viscount St.John 27 69-70, 73, 74; 28 43-46; 29 65; 30 22
- , Gen. the Hon. Henry 25 57-67; 29 80, 82; portrait 26 48
- , Henry, 4th Viscount Bolingbroke 27 30; 29 81, 85-86; 30 39
- , Henry Mildmay, 5th Viscount Bolingbroke 24 12-19, 67; funeral 24 20-21; portrait 30 54; 30 23,41
- , Hester (Clarke), Viscountess St.John 21 18
- , Isabella Charlotte Antoinette (von Hompesch), Viscountess Bolingbroke 29 66-67,69-85
- , Lady Johanna 21 6, 8; 27 46-102; 28 55-99; 30 3,8-9,33
- , Johanna 27 82
- , John (1576) 27 43-44; 30 22,26,29
- , Sir John, 1st Bt 21 3, 5-6; 25 50-51; 27 28-29,45, 72
- , Sir John, 2nd Bt 21 56-59; 27 46
- , John, 2nd Viscount St.John 21 17; 27 29-30; 29 57-66
- , Joseph Henry 29 67, 69, 70-85
- , Mary Emily Elizabeth (Howard), Viscountess Bolingbroke 30 16-17,23
- , Nicholas and Elizabeth, monument 21 20-34; 25 49; 27 43-44; 30 22,26
- , Oliver, Viscount Grandison, arms 25 50-51
- , Robert William 21 12-13; 29 68-69, 77
- , Vernon Henry, 6th Viscount Bolingbroke 22 5-6; 30 15-17,23
- , Sir Walter 27 46-102; 28 40-43, 55-99; 30 3,8-13,22,33-34
- , William 25 53-54
- ST.JOHNS OF MALTA IN 1814 21 11-14
- ST.JOHNS OF THORNBURY
- , Cecile Violet Annie 28 21
- , Admiral Henry Craven 29 43-45
- ST.JOHNS. Others
- , General Richard 29 47
- ST.MARY'S CHURCH, Lydiard Tregoze, 22 61
- , bells 30 46-47
- , benefice, value of 30 47-51
- , churchwardens 26 42-47
- , curates 30 31,36-39,41
- , east window 22 41, 59, 63
- , monuments 21 1-10, 20-34
- , Notes on fabric and fittings 25 1-28
- , organ 23 17, 30 19-20
- , organists 30 19-20
- , Patrons 30 21-26
- , pews & gallery 24 36; 30 40
- , rectors 30 21-47
- , repairs 22 59
- , restoration, 1901 23 10-24
- , sexton 22 69
- , sound broadcast 23 28-30
- , triptych 21 3-5
- , wall painting 22 41; 23 22-24
- , 1994 meeting 28 46
- SAEGAR, Edward, Mrs, and William 23 33, 42

SANDHURST, ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE 29 70-73 SAUNDERS, George 22 66 - , James 22 67 SCHOOLTEACHERS AT HOOK 22 68 SEDGMOOR, Enclosure 21 28 SHELDON, Elizabeth, John, & William 23 33, 37,42 - James 22 67 SHIPMAN, Thomas Trafford, rector 30 23,42 SHROPSHIRE, Oliver 27 54, 58-59; 28 62, 93-94; 29 46-47 - , Richard 21 57; 27 33 - , Samuel 21 57; 27 33 SHROPSHIRES, INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF 27 33 SLADE, Edmund Hercules 23 35, 37, 42 SLY, Richard 23 36, 42 SMALLWOOD, the late Frank T. Contributor: Adam de Port, of Wamford, co. Hants 25 34-37; history of Sir Walter St.John School 29 46 SMITH, Charles 22 67 - , George, John, & Napoleon 23 34, 42-43 - James, rector 30 22,35-36 - , Richard & Anna 27 50, 77, 82, 91 - , William 22 66-67, 70 SPENCER, family. Select pedigree 2116 - , Lady Diana, Viscountess Bolingbroke 21 24-27 SPITTLEBOROUGH FARM 23 36, 37 STANLEY, Abbey of 30 50 STORY MASKELYNE, Anthony Herbert Reeve & Mervyn Herbert Nevil 23 33, 40, 43 - , Nevil 28 22 STRANGE, George, James, & John 22 66 - , Julia & Richard 23 35, 43 - , Richard 24 10-11 STRATTON, James & Richard 23 36, 43 STUDLEY FARM 22 64, 65; 23 37, 39 SUSANNA AND THE ELDERS 27 32, 34-35 SWIFT, Dean Jonathan 21 62-63; 22 8-24 SWYER family 22 47-54, 57, 68, 69 TALBOT, cousin 28 77-78 TAYLOR, Dr Arnold. Contributor: Sir Walter St. John 's School, Battersea, Foundation Records 22 25-34; Sir Walter St. John's School, Battersea, in the year 1750 23 1-9, 27 3-27, 28 32-33 - , John, 24 3 - , Dr John G. 22 41-42; 23 1; 24 61; 27 41 Thames down News Letter 23 45; 24 67-68; 26 48; 27 31-32; 28 54; 29 51-52; 30 54-55 THATCHER, William 22 68 THEOBALDS, James 22 66 THORNETON, Alexander, rector 30 22,30 TILLY, H or W 22 69 TITCOMB(E), Malcolm 30 20,54 - , Thomas & Elizabeth 24 3,8 - , William 22 66 - , William Oliver 23 34, 43

TOOTHILL FARM 23 37 TREGOZ family 23 25-26; 30 24 - , of Ewyas Harold 29 3-18 TRILLE, Miss 22 68 TRIPTYCH 21 3-5 TROISGOTS 23 25-26 TUCK, Charles Frederick, Thomas, & Jane 23 35, 39, 43 - , Thomas 22 68 The Great Villiers Connection 26 1-3 VILLIERS - , Barbara (St.John), Lady Villiers 27 79-81, 93 - , Barbara, Lady Castlemaine 21 8; 27 68, 79-80, 101; 28 60 - , George, Viscount Grandison 27 86 - , William, Viscount Grandison 21 6 VINES, Charles 23 36, 37, 43 WAKEFIELD, Isaac 22 66 WARNFORD, co. Hants 25 34-37 WATERLOO, BATTLE OF 29 77-80 WATERS, David 22 69 WEST GALLERY MUSIC ASSOCIATION 27 34 WHEATSHEAF INN 22 67, 69-72 WHITE, Humphrey 23 36, 43 WICK FARM 23 37, 39 WICKENS, James 29 74 WICKFIELD FARM 23 37 WICKS, John & Charles 22 66 WILKINS, Henry 22 66 WILLETTS, William Henry, rector 30 14-18,23,46-47 WILLIAMS, John. Contributor: The Horsells of Marsh Farm 28 3-17 - , John & Sarah 22 67 WILLIS, Ednest & John Ambrose 23 34, 37, 43 - , George 22 67 WILMOT, John, Earl of Rochester 21 8 WILTS & BERKS CANAL 22 62 WILTSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM 29 48 WILTSHIRE SOUND. Radio Broadcast 23 27-32 WIMBLEDON, manor of 28 88 WINCHCOMBE, Frances. Viscountess Bolingbroke 21 9 WINDMILL LEAZE FARM 23 37 WINTERBERG, John, priest, 30 21,26 WOODLAND 22 35-39; 27 45-46; 29 58-60 WOODSHAW FARM 23 37 WOODWARD, Jacob & Mary 23 36, 37, 43; 30 39 WOOLFORD, James Young, John Young 23 36, 43 - , William 22 67 WYATT, James & Mrs 22 68

YOUNG, Brig. Peter. In memoriam 22 46

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