

Droxford Church Notes

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'Notes (taken from Gordon's blue folders)

Circa 1250 (1)

The south wall is pierced to make the south aisle. The present pillars are part of the old wall. The south doorway is moved outwards.

Late 1200's (1)

The north wall is pierced to make the north wall and chapel. The present pillars are parts of the old wall. The north doorway is moved to its present position.

Circa 1300-1329 (1)

The south chapel is built and the north chapel is rebuilt. At about this time John de Drogenesford improves the inside (and possibly the outside) of his native church.

The two chapel windows are built good examples of early Decorated work).

1390-1394

John de Swafham – 1390 private secretary to William of Wykeham – 1394 Rector of Droxford – died 1394.

Late 1400's /Early 1500's (1)

The north and south aisles are widened, their doorways again being moved outwards.

The east window is built.

8th July 1597 (CRO)

Lease of various manors from the Bishop to Queen Elizabeth, including the site of the manor of Droxford as defined in lease from Bishop Gardiner to Philip Bensted of Droxford, Yeoman, 27th July 1554 (the Bensted family had held the lease of the demesne lands since at least the early 1500's (per Bishopric pipe rolls).

1599 (1)

The tower (with stair turret) is built (or rebuilt).

Note: In an inventory of church goods at Droxford made 15th July 1552 (Public Records Office) is included ' Foure belles in the Steple' . (Memorabilia)

1676 - Religious Census of all persons aged 16 or over- (Hants Field Club, 1907-1910, page 70)

CONFORMISTS

345

PAPISTS	2
NON-CONFORMISTS	20

1680

Papist Recusants:- Thomas BOTTOM of DROXFORD and MARGARET his Wife.

(H.C.R.O., Box 5 of Hampshire Pamphlets in Map Room – ‘Hampshire Papist Recusants 1680’)

1684

‘The Presentm^s of the Churchwardens of the Parish of DROXFORD for the year 1684:

... all is well ... saving ... that the rooffe of our Church and some of the Windows want some small mending which shall be done forthwith.

We have a register Booke but it is of Paper.

Wee have noe Paper booke for the registering of preachers but it shall be provided ...

Wee have a Chest which is at present out of use ...

Wee have no such Terrier as is ... mentioned ...

The Minister of the place hath usually beene absent 3 (partes) of the year and present one att severall seasons ...

The Perambulation hath not been yearly observed but with intermission; ...

John PERRIN, Thomas CLEVELEY and his wife, Simon FFRYE and his wife, Cuthbert REAVES and Mary his wife come very seldom to Church ...

Cuthbert REAVES came into Church in the time of Divine Service with his hatt on and kept it on all the time he stayed there; ...

Wee believe that there are severall persons above sixteen yeares old that doe not communicate according as is required; there is also an infant of Thomas CLEVERLEYS unbaptized and the children of Simon FFRYE unbaptized as far as we know. We present that some of the persons within mentioned have beene denounced excommunicate above (tenne years since) and that Hannah ADDAMS the Wife of John ADDAMS – ever – to Church or out of her house and that the Wide of Thomas CLEVERLEY hath not beene as yet Churched.

Wm. HAWKINS Rect^r.

Simon HATCH

John CLUER

the marke of John X (PIERRE)’

} Churchwardens

1689

Date stone on South wall of Droxford Manor House.

14 April 1722 – Death of Rector - Memorabilia

Peter NOURSE, buried beneath the altar of Droxford Church. Rector 1701 – 1722. Also Prebendary of Winchester and Chaplain in Ordinary to Queen Anne. His grave stone was moved from the altar to the belfry floor when the sanctuary was tile-floored (between 1868 and 1886). Inscription now (1934) badly worn by the feet of the bell-ringers but reads:-

HSE
P. NOURSE
S.T.P
Hujus Ecclesiae Rector
Obijit April 14
1722 Aetatis suae 59

There is a wall tablet to his widow and one of his two daughters, Mary MYNGS and Elizabeth NOURSE, on the N. wall, behind the organ.

1701 – Parish Burial Register

‘Peter NOURSE, D.D., succeeded Thomas GOODWIN in the Rectory of Droxford & was inducted June 4th, 1701.’

1716 – Memorabilia

Gallery erected at West end of DROXFORD CHURCH (faculty obtained).

Doctor Lewis STEPHENS, Rector, 1722- 1745 – Memorabilia

‘He was a man of some private means and a cultured man of literary tastes, Chaplain to the Bishop of Winchester. His grave, unidentified, is in the Chirchyard. His monument is a large circular tablet let into the wall of the South chapel ... It is possible that he built the Old Rectory He bequeathed a chest of old books to the Parish, a number of works against popery and an extract of his will in the Parish Register bequeaths the books ‘ ... to the Parish Church of Droxford to remain there for ever in a press made at my expense for that purpose to and for the use of the Curate of Droxford whenever the Rector of the Parish aforesaid does not reside in person. The press is to be kept in one of the ‘side isles’ of the Church.

Dr. Stephens also bequeathed a piece of land called ‘Longmead’ to the Rectory Glebe – ‘It is the narrow meadow between the River Meon and the ditch popularly called the ‘dead river’ which rises in the middle of the field called ‘Town Meadow’ and joins the River at the end of the Rectory property. ‘Longmead’ is a useless piece of ground. It was bequeathed – subject to the lifetime of Mrs Philadelphia STEPHENS to whom a rent of 30/= was to be paid – to his

successors in the living for a term of 500 years. It was copy-hold land, held from the Lord of the Manor.'

Doctor James CUTLER, Rector, 1746-1782 – Memorabilia

(Also Rector of Bishops Waltham)

Wife CATHARINE (daughter of John NEWEY, S.T.P., Dean of Chichester) dies 12/12/1770, aged 50, and is buried with him in the S. aisle of the Church (Black stones). He died 15/3/1782, aged 65. He endowed a Charity (see board in Church belfry).

On account of the damp Dr. CUTLER tried to move his predecessor's bequest of old books from the Church to the Rectory, but the lawyers of his day were of the opinion that the strict letter of the Will must be adhered to. He therefore notes in the Parish Register: 'The lawyers are of opinion that the press and books could not be removed into the Parsonage House, so that they will be in great danger of being damaged by the damp. Let not therefore such inconvenience be imputed too the negligence of the succeeding Rector, who differed in opinion and would have taken greater care of them.' (However, some later person did remove them to the Old Rectory dining-room where they lay in a chest until 1930 at least.)

2nd June 1763 – Vestry Minutes

Vestry records that 'A New Common Prayer Book is this day received & allowed for the use of the Rector: The Clerk to use the old one'.

24th April 1764 – Vestry Minutes

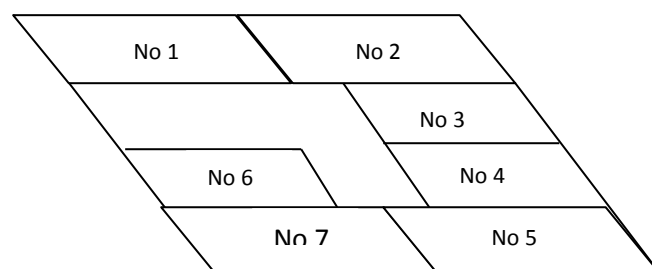
Vestry agreed 'To pay John HOLLAND £2-2-0 annually as Vestry Clerk'.

9th April 1765 – Vestry Minutes

Vestry resolved that 'a new Pulpit and Reading Desk (shall be) erected in the Church at the expense of the Parish'.

4th December 1766 – Vestry Minutes

Vestry Minutes show the plan of the gallery pews at the west end of the church, erected by the owners shown below 'at their joint expense':



- No 1 Christopher Myngs Esqre.
No 2 Mr James Harman
No 3 John Adams / William Binstead
No 4 John Adams / William Binstead
No 5 Mr James Harman
No 6 Christopher Myngs Esq. / Mr James Harman
No 7 Christopher Myngs Esqre

December 14th 1766 – Vestry Minutes

‘The new Cushion of Crimson Velvet, together with a Crimson Cloth, laced and fringed, for the Pulpit and Reading Desk (Pr. £17:19:1½) are the Gift of the Rector (The Revd Mr Cutler) as a proof of his readiness to promote a decent provision for the Publick Worship; and a small token of his respect for a Parish with whom he hath been so many years connected.’

20th April 1767 – Vestry Minutes

Vestry agreed to buy ‘a new Surplice for the use of the Minister & such a one as the Rector shall think most proper & also a Book of the Church offices’.

June 18th 1771 – Vestry Minutes

Vestry resolved ‘... that John DENNETT the Church Warden of Shidfield be cited into the Spiritual Court for not making up his Accounts for last year’.

10th March 1772 – Vestry Minutes

Vestry agreed ‘... that the south Chancel should be repaired at the expense of the Parish as soon as it can conveniently be done’.

Doctor James CHELSUM, Rector, 1782-1801 – Memorabilia

‘A Cameo portrait of him is in the Church Vestry. The Burial Register has this entry: ‘Buried May 1st 1801 Rev. James CHELSUM, D.D., Rector of this parish, aged 63 years.’ His grave is not identified and no monument exists in the Churchyard ... (He) appears to have been rather a pugnacious gentleman who was not a ‘persona grata’ with his parishioners and they perhaps desired to forget him quickly.’

In 1789 Dr CHELSUM erected the stone monument at the end of the terrace walk in the Old Rectory Garden ‘To the memory of Lewis Stephens , D.D.’ (Q.V. 1722) In gratitude for his donation of Longmead To the Rectorial Glebe of Droxford Doctor JAMES CHELSUM, D.D., Rector, For himself and posterity dedicates this tribute In the year of our Lord 1789.’

15th July 1783 – Vestry Minutes

Vestry agreed ' ... that whereas great offence has lately been given to well disposed Persons by the profaning of the Sabbath by persons openly playing at different Sports on the Sabbath-day, in opposition to the established Laws of the Land, proper extracts of the Laws in force against persons absenting themselves from public worship & profaning the Lord's day, be transcribed and affixed to the Church Doors, signed by the principal Parishioners; they declaring at the same time their resolution to correct and suppress such abuses & profanations.

I.CHELSUM, Rector.
Jos^h WINKWORTH.
Thomas PARRATT.
William WASSELL.
John HOLLANDS.
John SHAYER.
Thomas BIGGS.'

27th July 1785 – Vestry Minutes

Vestry agreed 'that no organ shall be set up or erected in the ... Parish Church & that the organ now there shall be immediately returned to the Donor GEORGE POWLETT, Esqr., with our thanks for his liberal intentions'.

(Signed by 47 'principal inhabitants')

(Last Vestries were 23 December 1783)

26th September 1785 – Manor Court Baron

'We present the Reverend James CHELSUM for Digging Down the Church Way leading from Poppy Hill to the parish Church of Droxford opposit to the Dwelling House and Garden of the aforesaid on the West of the river Leading from Droxford to Soberton to Droxford and for Locking the Gate of the said Way'.

13th February 1788 – Vestry Minutes

' ... It was agreed by all the Officers & Parishioners present, Moses Goodiff the Rector's Church Warden only excepted, that a Rate of Three Pence on the Pound shall be made for the necessary repairs of the Church & expenses that may attend the repairs of the Parish Bible & other usual charges; and also that the said Bible which is now in the Custody of Moses Goodiff a Churchwarden of the sd. Parish & of whom it has been demanded shall forthwith be sent to Mr. Blagden a printer at Winchester, agreeable to directions given by us at a former Vestry; And ... that if the sd. Moses Goodiff or any other person or persons who

may by or thro' his means or procurement have gotten the possession of the sd. Bible shall refuse or neglect to deliver up the same (then) the other Church Wardens of the sd. Parish shall, without further demand or delay, commence & Prosecute an action at Law against him, them or any of them for detaining & refusing to deliver up the sd. Book;'

4th June 1788 – Vestry Minutes

A loose minute (the Vestry Book having been mislaid!) records the acceptance of a proposal '... to erect a Gallery at the east End of the Church for the Accommodation of the Singers of the Parish by private subscription ...'.

(Over the Chancel Arch, per 'Memorabilia')

28th July 1788 – Vestry Minutes

Vestry resolved that Mr Robert PORTER shall succeed John Holland as Vestry Clerk '... who has just resigned; And it is also agreed that if John HOLLAND does not keep the Church Clock in better order he shall be discharged'. (Clerk's salary agreed at £5-5-0d. per annum on 11/5/1789).

22nd July 1789 – Vestry

Vestry resolved '.... that the offer of the Rev^d Dr Chelsum to present the Parish with an Organ (capable of being so fitted up as to need no Organist and to cause no Expence whatsoever to the Parish in general) be thankfully accepted ...'(to be paid for by private subscription. (20 signatures, including a shaky but neat 'Mary Myngs')

(Organ 'with two Barrels', per 'Memorabilia').

('It stood at the West end, on the floor. There was no entrance then to the Church through the Belfry. The West entrance was made at this time.' 'Memorabilia')

Easter Tuesday, 1790 – Vestry

Vestry resolved 'To get an estimate of the cost of ... inclosing with a wooden Screen that part of the Church hitherto used for a Vestry & of introducing a Fire-Place into the same'

19th July 1790 – Vestry

Vestry resolved to erect '.... a moveable Partition of the height of eight feet from the western part of the window on the north side of the Church.'

16th May 1791 – Vestry

Dr Chelsum (Rector) asks that the present Crimson-coloured Altar Cloth and Stools be now dyed purple '.... as being more suitable.'

4th September 1800 – Manor Court Baron

Presented: The Bishop of Winchester (Lord of the Manor!) for encroaching on common lands in Horders Wood without consent and contrary to Law and Custom of the Manor.

Rev. William GARNIER, Rector, 1801-1831 – Memorabilia

‘Buried at Wickham, to which place his family belonged. His monument may be said to consist of the Rectory garden, which he laid out, and of the Beech Walk, which he planted ... related to the then Rector of Meonstoke (Mr Poulter) who was a great lover of trees and an expert in their culture. These two Rectors planted avenues of beeches on their respective Glebe lands in order that they might walk under pleasant shade to each others’ houses.’

Married 1797 Lady Harriet NORTH, dau. of Bishop Brownlow NORTH, sister of Francis, 6th Earl of Guildford. (Miss F.B. Collins)

1800-1850 – Memorabilia

The woman’s effigy (? mother of JOHN DE DROKENSFORD), now in the S. chapel of Droxford Church, is recovered from the bottom of an old moat on its being filled in. This moat lay at the bottom of the field known as ‘Palace Meadow’.

8th April 1807 – Vestry Minutes

‘ ... 6^d per dozen should in future be paid for Sparrows as encouragement for the Destruction of that Kind of Virmin.’

18th June 1809 – Vestry Minutes

Vestry agreed ‘that James WESTBROOK (is) a proper person to serve the Office as Sexton of this Parish.’ (and he was so elected)

26th July 1813 – Vestry

Agreed at a Vestry Meeting ‘ ... that no further steps should be taken for the detection and conviction of the persons who are suspected of having stolen the Communion Plate from this Church ... (and) ... that the said Communion Plate should be replaced by subscription.’

30th July 1818 – Vestry Minutes

Vestry agreed that ‘Some pews to be repaired and Mr John DOLLAR to be asked to give an estimate for repairs to the Church Tower.’

3rd April 1822 – Vestry

‘Resolved that the said Vestry should be immediately adjourned to the White Horse inn.’

21st December 1826 – Vestry

Meeting adjourned forthwith ' ... to the House of Harry READING at the White Horse Inn in Droxford in Consequence of a Funeral now pending.'

5th September 1827 – Vestry

Vestry agreed '.... that more air should be given to the church by Casements etc, to the windows and that in the course of the ensuing spring the Church be whitewashed.'

Rev. J.A. Griffith COLPOYS, Rector, 1831-1868 – Memorabilia

'Non-resident Rector for many years, living at St. Leonards-on-Sea, where he died and was buried. He lived there for the sake of his second wife's health. His first wife was a daughter of John Bird SUMNER, who became Archbishop of Canterbury, and had married them in Droxford Church. Mrs COLPOYS and son are buried near the East wall of the Church.'

1847 – Memorabilia

- (1) New pews throughout the Church, much ancient oak being cast out and sold.
- (2) Both galleries removed.
- (3) New roof and ceiling – plaster cornices.

1868 -1886 – Memorabilia

- (1) Rev. Stephen BRIDGE, Rector.
- (2) Four square windows cut in north and south walls of chancel
- (3) Gift of Brass Eagle Lectern by Mr Richard Redfearn Goodlad of Hill Place in memory of his wife (died 1867).
- (4) Present pulpit placed in Church (from Rector's old Church, St Matthews at Denmark Hill).

'For a long period the character of the Church services in Droxford Church was that of the extreme Evangelical type. The Rev. Stephen Bridge was of that type of Churchmanship, while he liked the services to be decently and reverently conducted and was jealous for the appearance of the Church'.

He is buried in the Churchyard, near the S. porch.

1869 (1)

By the 'Bishops' Resignation Act' DROXFORD MANOR passes from Church ownership to that of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.'

1873

- (1) New organ at east end of north aisle.
- (2) Font moved from E. to W. end of N. aisle to accommodate it.

Rev. R.G. Harrison, Rector, 1886-1902 – Memorabilia

He 'was a stalwart Protestant & Evening Holy Communion prevailed in his day, but was discontinued by Canon Vaughan'.

He is buried in the Churchyard under the wooden paling of the Rectory garden.

Rev. Canon John Vaughan, Rector, 1902-1910 – Memorabilia

He 'was a liberal Evangelical, a student, naturalist, antiquarian and one of the early pioneers of Biblical criticism'.

'Residentiary Canon of Winchester. Buried at Winchester Cathedral. For his memorial in Droxford go to the Church and there 'si monumentum requires, circumspice.'

Rev. Canon Stephenson, Rector, 1910-1926 – Memorabilia

He 'was an old-fashioned High Churchman who was accustomed to much more outward ceremonial than he was able to introduce into a parish where tradition was so strong on the other side. He adopted the Eastward position for celebrating and wore the ecclesiastical colours in his stoles for the Eucharist, but beyond this he did not change the character of the Service'.

Memorabilia

Rev. Etheridge himself 'stated his intention of keeping up his own personal habit of bowing on passing the Altar. But he promised to make no change in the services without the approval of the people as expressed through the P.C.C.'. In his time the following was introduced:

- Sung Evensong (from Easter Day, 1926)
- Sung Morning Service (from Christmas Day, 1926)
- Lighted candles – but 'to prevent opposition, only for Celebrations before Morning Prayer – this practice came in, by a unanimous vote 'without trouble'.
- A robed choir (Easter Day, 1934) – two choir members, who had voted against robes, left it 'but the congregation and parish soon came to appreciate the change – people felt that their Church was now no longer 'peculiar' in the ordering of its services'.

Buried in Churchyard.

1932 – Memorabilia

Electric light installed in Church.

1934 – Memorabilia

'An oak flap table in the Vestry took the place of the former vestry table, which was actually the old Communion table of Victorian days and had been put in the Vestry in 1913 when the Jacobean altar was restored to its place. A faculty was obtained for the removal and destruction of this old and now worm-eaten piece of Victorian furniture and it was burnt to ashes on the Rectory premises'.

1935 – Memorabilia

Carved oak screen erected at E end of N aisle, requiring the removal of ' one complete pew, and part of a second which were faculty pews belonging to Swanmore House'.