

Droxford Church Rectors - Heritage

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Some Rectors of Droxford

Peter Rusciniol

- earliest known Rector of Droxford, mentioned in a Papal Register of 1231 which allowed him to take on an additional parish
- four years later another Papal Register records that he was too busy to reside at Droxford, and gave him permission to appoint a vicar in his place

John de Drokenesford

- son of a local squire
- Keeper of the King's Wardrobe for Edward I
- Chancellor of the Exchequer under Edward II
- presented as Rector of Droxford in 1308
- later became Bishop of Bath & Wells

Poggio de Florenzia

- **Rector in 1423**

Doctor Cuffold

- Rector from 1533 to 1559
- held office through critical period of the Reformation during the later years of Henry VIII, the reigns of Edward VI and Mary, and for a short time at the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth I
- an inventory of his property and possessions included beds, sheets, cushions, table cloths, books, bows and arrows, and a chessboard with chessmen

Thomas Bilson

- Rector in 1583
- appointed Bishop of Worcester in 1596, and then Bishop of Winchester in 1597
- preached the sermon at the coronation of James I
- leading member of the team that compiled the King James Bible
- buried in Westminster Abbey

Nicholas Preston

- Rector from 1642 to 1650, when he was ejected by the Puritans, and replaced by an Independent minister, Mr Robert Webb
- forcibly took back the position of Rector in 1660 after the restoration under Charles II
- buried in the south aisle of the church

William Hawkins

- Rector from 1664 to 1691
- Prebendary of Winchester Cathedral
- married Anne, daughter of Isaak Walton, who had written *The Compleat Angler*

Lewis Stephens

- Rector from 1722 to 1746
- founded the Parish Library
- circular memorial to him on the south wall of the Lady Chapel

Dr James Chelsum

- **Rector from 1782-1801**

John Adair Griffith Colpoys

- **Rector from 1831 to 1868**

Stephen Bridge

- Rector from 1868 to 1886
- an Evangelical churchman
- the pulpit was given by his previous parish of St Matthew's, Denmark Hill
- commemorated in the east window of the Lady Chapel, and by a brass plaque on its south wall

Canon John Vaughan

- Rector from 1902 to 1910
- residentiary Canon of Winchester Cathedral, where he is buried
- carried out a major programme of restoration in St Mary & All Saints
- re-discovered many medieval features that had been hidden under plaster and paint

Canon Leonard Etheridge

- Rector from 1926 to 1946
- introduced:
 - sung Evensong
 - sung Morning Service
 - lighted candles
 - a robed choir