

Droxford Church Rectors (notes)

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Peter Rusciniol, 1231

A letter of 1231 from the Pope to Master Peter Rusciniol of Drochoneford is the first reference to a Rector of the parish. Four years later Master Rusciniol appointed a vicar in his place, being too busy to reside in the parish himself.

John de Berwyk (Berewyk, Berewick), 1280

According to the Calendar of Patent Rolls, John de Berwyk was presented to the Church of DORKENSFORD, on 1st December 1280, which was then in the gift of Edward I by reason of voidance of the See of Winchester. He was a Clerk of the King's Bench from 1279, but was not 'a university man'.

From 1283 to 28th November 1290 he was Treasurer & Keeper of Queen Eleanor's gold, and briefly of her Wardrobe from September to 28th November 1290). Before November 1290 Queen Eleanor had granted John de Berwyk houses in Seving Lane, London. In 1291 Edward I granted him the Manor of West Betchworth in Surrey. At his death in 1312 John de Berwyk was still holding it of the Earl of Gloucester.

Nicholas de Audeby, 1289 - 1308

On 29th May 1289 the Bishop of Winchester, John of Pontoise, by letter from Gascony, collates Master Nicholas de Audeby to the Rectory of Droxford. Investiture by Bishop's Ring.

In 1291 a Dispensation was granted to Master Nicholas de Audeby by the Council of Lyons for holding the church of Fawele (Fawley??) with the chapel of Exbury, and after it the Rectory of Droxford, without papal dispensation. In 1298 he was granted protection for two years.

Nicholas de Audeby died on 2nd Sept. 1308.

1298 Richard de Audeby

John de Drokensford, 1308 - 1310

28th September 1308: Sir John de Drokensford, clerk, is presented to the benefice of Drokensford by its patron, Henry Woodlock, Bishop of Winchester.

25th Dec. 1308: JOHN DE DROKENSFORD is nominated by King Edward II as Bishop of Bath & Wells (Dictionary of National Biography).

Philip de Drokensford, 1310 - 1315

5th November 1310 a mandate from Henry Woodlock, Bishop of Winchester, inducts Philip de Drokensford to the Rectory of Droxford. On the same date Philip de Drokensford is granted a licence for seven years' study.

1322 Michael de Drokensford, 1322
- (?)1367

On 21st December 1315, Michael de Drokensford, clerk, is presented to the benefice of Drokensford by its patron, Henry Woodlock, the Bishop of Winchester.

He is awarded a Dispensation for being under age and not in orders, holding two benefices without being ordained until the proper age.

Sir Richard de Hamptone, 1367 - 1374

Parson of Droxford

(Miss F.B.Collins)

John Dounye, 1374 – 1375

John Dounay to the Church of Droxford on the death of Richardde Hamptone 1374.

1375/6 = John Dounay clerk to the church of Abyngewathe on a lapse. Richard Gomfrey clerk to Droxford on resignation of John Dounay.

(Per Miss F.B. Collins)

Richard Gomfrey, 1375 -

RICHARD GOMFREY.

1375/6: Collated to the church of Droxford on the resignation of John Dounay.

1377: Instituted to the canonry and staff of Sharesull in collegiate church or free chapel royal of Penkeith on exchange with Roger Briclesworthe: under com: (??) of Roger Archbp. Dublin, dean of the said collegiate church. (Per Miss F.B. Collins)

1377 Roger de Bryclesworthe

1390 John de Swafham

1390: Collated to Droxford. Was William of Wykeham's private secretary. (Wykeham Reg., f.203)

1392: rector of Droxford (Winchester Coll. MSS. 13239/64)

1394: Died.

1394 William Nortone

WILLIAM NORTON.

1394: Collated to rectory of Droxford on the death of John de Swafham. Also canonries of Salisbury and Wells.
(Per Miss .B. Collins)

1423

13 Kal. March 1423: POGGIO DE FLORENCIA, papal writer and a member of the Pope's household, is the RECTOR OF DROKENESFORD.
(See Dr. Andrew's slips at HCRO)

Michael Clene/Cleue

26th April 1477: Letter of dispensation re. 'one other benefice', etc. to MICHAEL CLENE, Rector of the parish church of DROKENESFORDE in the diocese of Winton, I.U.B.
(Cal. Of Papal Registers - Papal letters 1471 to 1484, Vol. 13, Part II, page 571).

9th September 1480: To MICHAEL CLEUE, Rector of CRAWLEY in diocese of Winton (formerly held with Rectorship of DROXFORD) - (he) 'now having resigned the sad church (of DROXFORD). (Cal. Of Papal Registers - Papal letters 1471 to 1484, Vol. 13, Part II, pages 728/729).

1480 David Persons

16 Sept: To DAVID PERSONS, Rector of DROKENNESFORD in the diocese of Winton, I.U.B. – dispensation to hold one other cure.

(Cal. Of Papal Registers – Papal letters 1471 to 1484, Vol. 13, Part II, page 787).

? - 1485 William Holden

1485: Lately rector of Droxford. (Ch. Comm. Acct. Roll for Droxford). (Per Miss F.B. Collins).

1533 – early 1559 (see WILL) Dr.
Cuffoldes

1533. Valar Ecclesiasticus. Vol. III,
p.23.
(cf. Newport Wills). (Per Miss F.B.
Collins)

1559 to 1582/3

JOHN WILLYAMS. (Corpus
Christi Coll., Cambridge, No.
122). Rector. Comp. Nov. 16.
1559. vice Will. Cowfold. Non
coningnatus. Mediocriter doctus.
Residet; hospitalis. Ibidem degst.
Non predicat. Null. All.
Beneficia.

1613 to 1628 Christopher Hurst.

1583 – Thomas BILSON, Rector of Droxford).

Incumbent of Droxford. Born at Marlborough. Married Margaret ALEXANDER, born 1586, daughter of John ALEXANDER of Hartley Wispall and Amy BILSON, 3rd. Child of Harmon BILSON (NB. 1583 – Thomas BILSON, Rector of Droxford). Memorial tablet to her in Broughton Church(nr. Stockbridge), full inscription given in the Hants Field Club Proceedings, Vol. XIX, pt. 1, pp.39/40.
1604. Incumbent of Bimpton, Somerset.
1604 - Eling, Hants.
1609 – Chilbolton, Hants.
1612 – Hambledon, Hants.
1613 – Droxford, Hants.
1614 – Prebendary of Winchester.
1628 – Buried at Hambledon, Hants. (Three daughters)

(Per Miss F.B. Collins)

1596 to 1613 John Harmer

JOHN HARMER. RECTOR of Droxford. (Per Miss F.B. Collins)

1628 Richard Neile.

Richard Neile, 1628 - 1642

RICHARD NEILE. Rector of
Droxford. (Per Miss. F.B. Collins)

Parish Register 17th January 1642.
Buried 'Mr. Richard NEILE, Rector of
Drockenforde'.

Nicholas Preston, D.D. , 1642 - 1650

Mr. Robert Webb, 1650 - 1660

Nicholas Preston, D.D., 1660 – 1664

William Hawkins, S.T.P., 1664 –
1691

As well as Rector of Droxford, William Hawkins was a Prebendary of Winchester Cathedral. In 1676 he married Anne, daughter of the famous angler Isaak Walton, who had published *The Compleat Angler* twenty-three years earlier. It is likely that Isaak Walton spent some of the remaining seven years of his life at the Rectory in Droxford, and fishing in the Meon.

George Fulham, 1691 - 1700

Thomas Goodwin, 1700 - 1701

1701 - Parish Burial Register

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

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 badly worn by the feet of the bell-ringers but reads:-

HSE

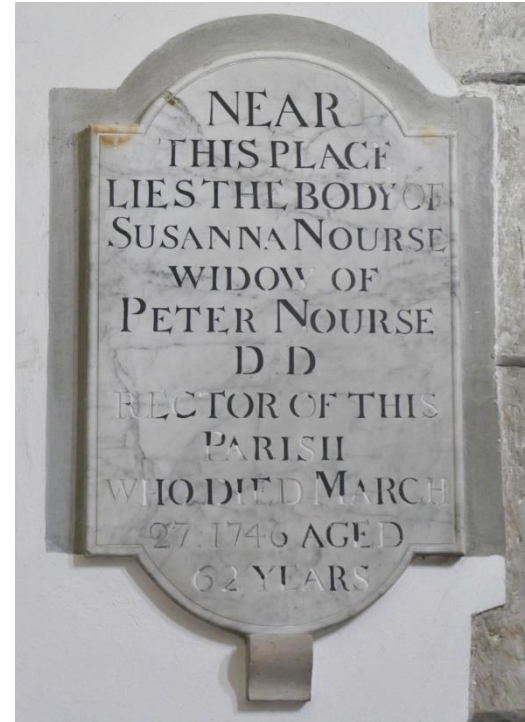
P. NOURSE

S.T.P

Hujus Ecclesiae Rector

Obijt 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.

Doctor Lewis STEPHENS, 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 Churchyard. 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, 1746-1782 -
Memorabilia

(Also Rector of Bishops Waltham)

Wife CATHARINE (daughter of John NEWWEY, 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).

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.'

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 to 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.)

Doctor James CHELSUM, 1782-1801 -
Memorabilia



A Cameo portrait of him is in the Church Vestry. 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 and for Locking the Gate of the said Way’.

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. In gratitude for his donation of Longmead to the Rectorial Glebe of Droxford - Doctor JAMES CHELSUM, DD, Rector, For himself and posterity dedicates this tribute In the year of our Lord 1789.’ 26th

On 22nd July 1789 the 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 Expense 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’ - ‘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)

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.’ 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.’

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



'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.'

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



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

Rev. Stephen BRIDGE, 1868 -1886
- Memorabilia

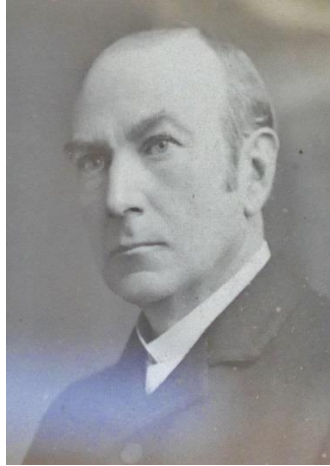


'For a long period the character of the Church services in Droxford Church was that of the extreme Evangelical type. The Rev. Stephen Bridge was of that type of Churchmanship. The pulpit came from his former church, St. Matthew's, Denmark Hill, and the stained glass in the east window of the Lady Chapel is a memorial to Stephen Bridge and his wife Margaret.

Rev. R.G. Harrison 1886-1902 -
Memorabilia

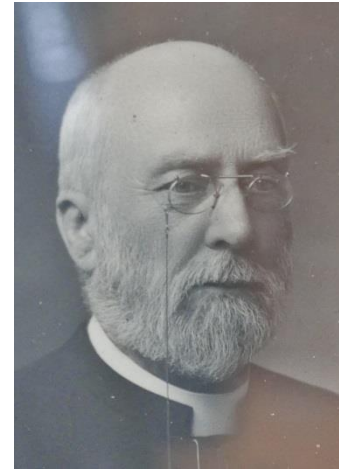
He 'was a stalwart Protestant & Evening Holy Communion prevailed in his day, but was discontinued by Canon Vaughan'. He is buried in the Churchyard under the wooden paling of the Rectory garden.

Rev. Canon John Vaughan 1902-1910 - Memorabilia



He 'was a liberal Evangelical, a student, naturalist, antiquarian and one of the early pioneers of Biblical criticism'. Canon John Vaughan carried out a major programme of restoration in the church, resulting in the re-discovery of many medieval features, He was Residentiary Canon of Winchester, and is buried in the Cathedral.

Rev. Canon Stephenson 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'.

Rev. Leonard Etheridge 1926 -
1946 - 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 PCC'.

In his time the following were 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.