

Some Rectors of Droxford

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Acknowledgements to the Rector and to Gordon Hope

Peter Rusciniol; John de Berwyk; Nicholas de Audeby; John de Drokenesford; Philip de Drokenesford; Michael de Drokenesford; Sir Richard de Hamptone; John Dounay; Richard Gomfrey; Roger de Bryclesworthe; John de Swafham; Willian Nortone; Poggio de Florencia; Michael Cleue; David Persons; William Holden; Doctor Cuffoldes; John Willyams; Thomas Bilson; John Harmer; Christopher Hurst; Richard Neile; Nicholas Preston; Robert Webb; Nicholas Preston; William Hawkins; George Fulham; Thomas Goodwin; Peter Nourse; Lewis Stephens; James Cutler; James Chelsum; William Garnier; J.A. Griffith Colpoys; Stephen Bridge; R.G. Harrison; John Vaughan; Jacob Stephenson; Leonard Etheridge; Gerald Page; Thomas Strangeways; John Townsend; John Beaumont; David Henley; Jim Foley; Stuart Holt; Tony Forrest

Doctor James Chelsum, 1782 - 1801



- A rather pugnacious gentleman who was not a ‘persona grata’ with his parishioners
- 15th July 1783 Vestry minutes record that ‘ ... great offence has recently been given to well disposed Persons by the profaning of the Sabbath by persons openly playing at different Sports on the Sabbath-day ...’
- Presented to the Manor Court in September 1785 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’
- His grave is not identified, and no monument to him exists in the churchyard

Rev. William Garnier, 1801 – 1831



- Laid out the Rectory garden
- Together with the Rector of Meonstoke, he planted the Beech Walk
- Married to Lady Harriet North, daughter of John Brownlow North, Bishop of Winchester

Rev. J.A. Griffith Colpoys, 1831 - 1868



- Non-resident Rector for many years
- Lived at St. Leonards-on-Sea for the sake of his wife's health
- Daughter of John Bird Sumner, Archbishop of Canterbury, who had married them in Droxford Church
- Mrs Colpoys and son are buried near the east wall of the Church
- Rev. Colpoys was buried at St Leonards-on-Sea

Rev. Stephen Bridge, 1868 - 1886



- The pulpit came from his former church, St. Matthew's, Denmark Hill
- The stained glass in the east window of the Lady Chapel is a memorial to Stephen Bridge and his wife, Margaret



Rev. Stephen Bridge, 1868 - 1886



- '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'

Rev. Stephen Bridge, 1868 - 1886



A photograph in the Vestry with the caption 'Droxford Church before the restoration which was made in 1903 by Canon Vaughan' gives some indications as to how St Mary & All Saints was furnished in the latter part of the 19th century.

Rev. R.G. Harrison, 1886 – 1902

He ‘was a stalwart Protestant & Evening Holy Communion prevailed in his day’

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

Canon John Vaughan, 1902 - 1910

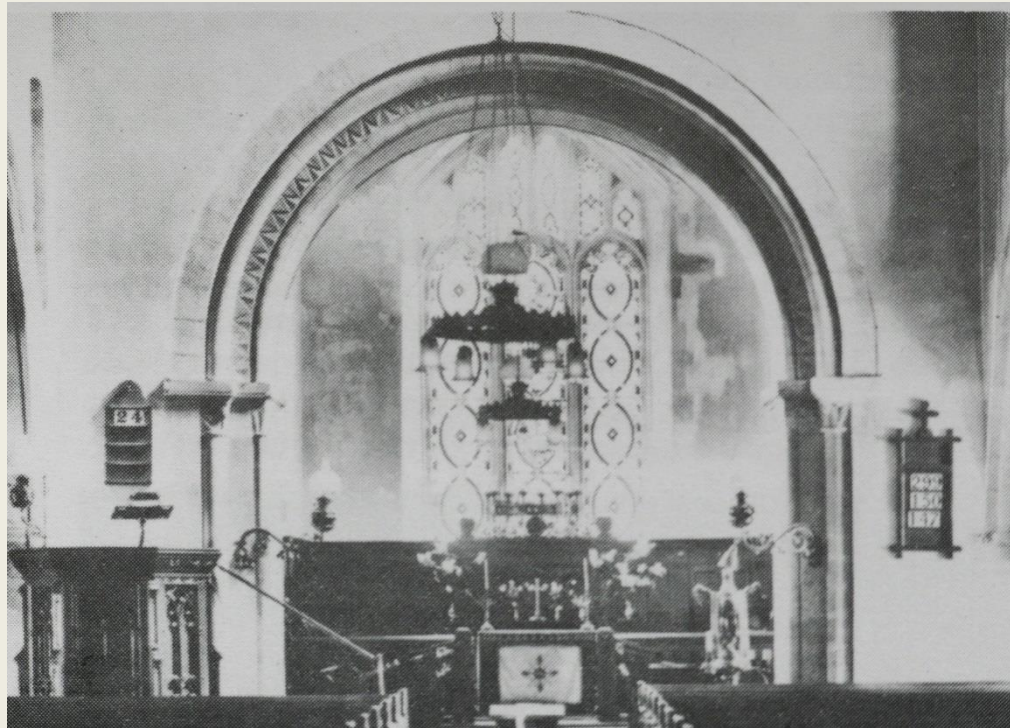


- Naturalist
- Antiquarian
- Literary works include 'The Memorials and Monuments of Winchester Cathedral'
- Vice-President of the Hampshire Field Club
- Early pioneer of Biblical criticism
- Residentiary Canon of Winchester Cathedral, where he is buried

- Carried out a major programme of restoration in the church
- Re-discovery of many medieval features



Canon John Vaughan, 1902 - 1910



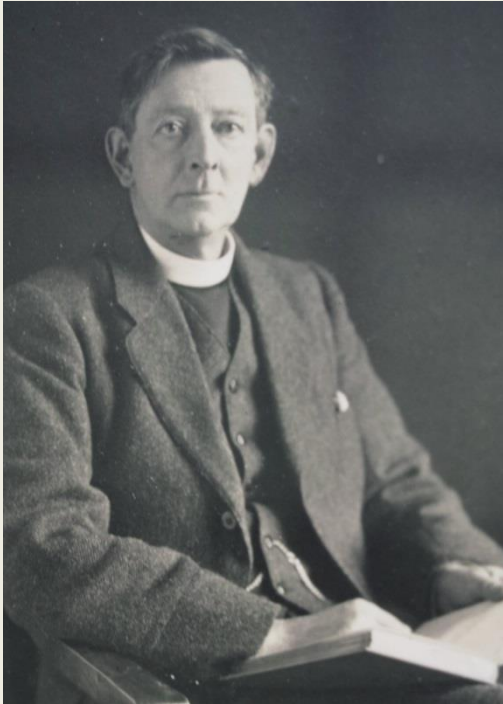
From a photograph in 'Droxford in the Meon Valley' by Kenneth Ward, showing the east end of the church as re-arranged by Canon John Vaughan.

Canon Jacob Stephenson, 1910 - 1926



Canon Stephenson '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'.

Canon L.S. Etheridge, 1926 - 1945



- Stated his intention of keeping up his own personal habit of bowing on passing the Altar, but promised to make no change in the services without the approval of the people as expressed through the PCC
- Canon Etheridge 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
 - Robed choir (Easter Day, 1934). Two choir members left as a result, but 'the congregation and parish soon came to appreciate ... that their Church was now no longer 'peculiar' in the ordering of its services'.

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Poggio de Florenzia, 1423

- In 1423 Poggio De Florenzia, papal writer and a member of the Pope's household, was the rector of Drokenesford



- Poggio Bracciolini
- In England from 1418 to 1423 at the invitation of Henry Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester

Poggio Bracciolini



- Born 1380 in Arrezzo, Tuscany
- Educated in Florence by Giovanni Malpaghino, a protégé of Petrarch
- Excellent Latin and exquisite handwriting
- Served in Rome under seven Popes, and became Apostolic Secretary
- Leading Renaissance scholar
- In 1453 appointed Chancellor of the Florentine Republic by Cosimo de' Medici
- Died in 1459 and buried in Santa Croce, Florence

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