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FORTY RECTORS OF ADISHAM.*

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- MASTER RICHARD was Rector in 1285 (Peckham's *Register*, 30).
 THOMAS DE UPTON, who held this benefice in 1288, was ordained priest at Croydon in March 1288-9 by Archbishop Peckham (*Register*, 135^a). One of the Prebendal Stalls at Wingham was conferred upon him in 1299, and he occupied it until 1311. He is buried in Adisham Church.
- RICHARD DE NORWICH was Rector in February 1349-50; when Archbishop Islip (*Register*, 12^a) gave him permission to celebrate divine worship in the Rector's Manse here. Perhaps the church was then under repair. In September 1356 the same Primate, at Tenham, issued a commission granting jurisdiction here to Ric. de Norwich and Master William Goudwyne "*juris peritus*" jointly and severally (*Register*, 127^b). He was presented to the Prebendal Stall or Canonry of Pedding at Wingham in 1352. King Edward III appointed him a Prebendary of St. Paul's in 1354, and Archdeacon of Norwich in 1355. He died in 1361.
- JOHN CODYNTON made his will in 1369, desiring to be buried in the chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr here. (Wittlesey's *Register*, 107^b.)
- RICHARD DE WARMINGTON, Canon of Chilton in Wingham College, whose will was proved in 1378, desired to be buried in the chancel here, next to the grave of Roger Dygge, who may have been a previous Rector. (Sudbury's *Register*, 100^b.)
- WILLIAM DAPAR was instituted, March 8, 1378-9, in succession to Warmington; but he, on the following day, effected an exchange with the Rector of Penshurst. He subsequently became Rector of St. Mary Moisy, Friday Street, London; and in 1386, Rector of Woodchurch.
- JOHN OVYNG, Rector of Penshurst, and Canon of Pedding at

* In 1292, the value of this benefice (with the chapelry of Staple) was 80 marks (£53 6s. 8d.) per annum. The valuation made in 1535 puts the tithes at £35 14s. 8d., and the rent of glebe at 8s. per annum; out of which income, £6 13s. 4d. per annum was paid to a priest serving at Staple; 26s. 8d. for proxies and synodes; and 20d. to the manor of Adisham for rent; leaving a net income of £28 1s. 0d. It was valued at £160 per annum in 1588, and in 1640; and at £500 in 1800. The tithes of Adisham were commuted at £719; and those of Staple at £592. The latter parish was made a separate benefice upon the death of Mr. Dickins in 1862.

Wingham, became Rector of Adisham March 9, 1378-9, by exchange. He had been Chantry Priest at Lukedale.

JOHN PROPHET, Chaplain to Archbishop Courtenay, occupied this benefice for four years, from 1382 to 1386; holding, also, a Prebendal Stall at Wingham. He became a Prebendary of Lincoln in 1387, and was preferred to the Rectory of Orpington in 1392, but vacated it for the Deanery of Hereford in 1393. Enjoying the favour of King Henry IV, he became a Secretary of State and a Prebendary of York both in (6 H. IV) 1404; and Prebendary of Leighton Buzzard at Lincoln in 1405. Henry V made him Keeper of the King's Privy Seal in 1411. In 1407 he was called to preside over York Cathedral; and while Dean of York he died, in 1416. A very fine monumental brass marks his grave, in the Church of Ringwood, Hants.

WILLIAM LYE, who was Rector of Hasely, in the diocese of Lincoln, obtained this benefice, May 20, 1386, by exchanging with Dr. Prophet. There is, however, another record of his institution in 1389, May 18. He held the Canonry and Prebendal Stall of Wimelingwold at Wingham. In December 1390, he exchanged that stall together with this benefice for the Rectory of Northfleet.

REGINALD DE COBHAM, one of the illustrious house of Cobham, became Rector, December 2, 1390, by exchange with Wm. Lye. He was a brother of Thomas de Cobham of Beluncle; of whose will, made in 1367, Reginald was an executor. He held the Rectory of Cowling* from 1364 to 1380 and probably longer. In 1377 he obtained, in Salisbury Cathedral, the Canonry and Prebendal Stall of Writlington and Fordington. That dignity he exchanged in February 1378-9 for the Rectory of Northfleet, which in 1390 he exchanged for the Canonry of Wimelingwold at Wingham, and this rectory. He died in 1402; and over his grave, in the north aisle of Cobham Church, there is a monumental brass representing him in a processional cope standing upon a long-stemmed bracket.

JOHN BOLDE was instituted March 22, 1430-1, by Archbishop Chichele (189^b).

VINCENT CLEMENT, S.T.P., who was collated November 23, 1444, by Archbishop Stafford (81^a), held the benefice only a few years. He obtained the Prebendal Stall of Twitham at Wingham, which he held at his death in 1475. He likewise held Prebends at Hereford (1452), Lincoln (1452), and Lichfield (1458); and he was Archdeacon of Wilts, Winchester, and Huntingdon.

* Another Reginald de Cobham, son of Henry 1st Lord Cobham, was Rector of Cowling from 1318 to April 25, 1325, when he is said to have died (*Regist. Spirit. Raffen.*, F, folio 73^a). In October 1320 this Reginald was still a minor, under age, and only in subdeacon's orders. Possibly Reginald the Rector of Adisham was born after the death of the former Reginald Cobham.

WALTER ESTON died in 1456, holding this benefice.

DAVID BLODWELL (Licentiate in Laws) was instituted May 4, 1456, by Archbishop Bourghier (63^b), in succession to Eston.

WILLIAM SAUNDIR was Rector of Adisham when he died, in 1472. He held the Prebend of Chamberlain Wood, in St. Paul's Cathedral, from 1456 to 1472.

JOHN PARMENTER (Licentiate in Laws) was instituted March 19, 1472-3, by Archbishop Bourghier (107^b). He had been Rector of Newchurch until February 1472-3, and he held the Canonry of Twitham at Wingham for one month, June 26 to July 24, 1475. He died in 1501, and was buried at St. Alphege Church in Canterbury, of which he was then Rector. An inscription on brass commemorates him there.

DAVID WILLIAMS was Rector of Adisham when he died in 1491.

HENRY COWPER, Bachelor of Law, was collated here December 31, 1491, by Archbishop Morton (151^a). He obtained, in 1493, a Canonry at Wingham, but he died in 1500, holding this benefice.

ROBERT WOODWARD (Doctor in Decrees) was instituted September 9, 1500, by Archbishop Morton (168^b). During twenty-six years he held the Prebendal Stall of Retling at Wingham (1505-31), but he resigned this rectory in 1523, when a pension of £24 per annum, out of its proceeds, was reserved to him, for his life. It was paid by three of his successors. He was Warden of All Souls' College, Oxford, from 1528 to 1533. While he was incumbent here, Archbishop Warham held his Visitation in 1511, when it was "presented" that the Lady Chancel was not tiled, and the *churchwardens* were directed to tile it. The churchyard walls needed repair, and a gutter spoiled a north wall of the church by its droppings.

THOMAS WELLES, S.T.P., Bishop of Sidon and Prior of St. Gregory's, Canterbury, was instituted December 7, 1523, by Archbishop Warham (385^a), whose chaplain he was, but he did not retain this benefice more than two years. A native of Hampshire, and a Wykehamist scholar, he became a Fellow of New College, Oxford, in 1484. He entered St. Gregory's Priory at Canterbury, and as a Canon there he was ordained, in June 1490, by the Bishop of Ely. From 1499 to 1505, he held the Rectory of Heyford Warren. Before 1511, he became Prior of St. Gregory's, and, in 1515, Bishop of Sidon. In April 1508 he had entered on the Rectory of Chartham. He likewise occupied the post of Arch-presbyter in Ulcombe Church until he exchanged it in 1512, March 31, for a Canonry at South Malling. In 1514 he was admitted Vicar of Lydd; he also held the Rectory of Woodchurch. In 1522 he was Vicar of Holy Cross, Westgate, Canterbury.

JOHN ALESSI resigned the Rectory of Adisham in 1526.

ROBERT CHALNER (Doctor of Laws) was instituted March 29, 1526, by Archbishop Warham (390^b). He held the Prebendal Stall of Pedding at Wingham; and died in 1541.

JOHN BLAND, a Protestant martyr, succeeded Chalner. He held the Retling Canonry at Wingham from March 14, 1542-3; for which at the dissolution a pension of £6 13s. 4d. was awarded to him. Upon the accession of Queen Mary he was undisturbed here until the 3rd of September 1553, when John Austen took the top of the Communion Table off its tressels, and laid it aside on a chest, setting the tressels together. On the 26th of November Richard and Thomas Austen came to him after the Communion Service was ended, and charging him with having pulled down the altar of the church (in former years), and the tabernacle in which hung the rood, declared they would have Mass there next Sunday. Nothing of the kind, however, was done, until the 28th of December, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, and of the dedication of Adisham Church, when the Priest of Stodmarsh was intruded, to say Mass. The Rector, Bland, addressed the congregation at Sermon-time, standing in the chancel door (*i.e.* the door of the rood screen). After a considerable time, he was interrupted by the churchwarden and the constable, who shut him up in a side chapel until Mass was ended. Ultimately, sureties for Bland's abstinence from preaching and duty were taken; but at the end of February 1553-4, he was sent to Canterbury gaol, whence he was not permitted to be bailed until the 5th of May 1554. He was examined in the Chapter House of the Cathedral, as to his belief, (respecting the mode of Christ's presence in the Lord's Supper,) before Archdeacon Harpsfield and Commissary Collins, on the 18th and on the 21st of May; a multitude of people being present on the second day. At the Sessions, held in Cranbrook in July, Sir Thomas Moyle ordered him to be put in the stocks, and confined in Maidstone gaol. There he was imprisoned until February 1555, when he appeared in irons, at the Greenwich Assizes, before Sir John Baker, Mr. Petit, and Mr. Webb, who ordered him to be delivered to the Ordinary. He was therefore sent to Canterbury Castle until the 2nd of March 1554-5, when, in the Cathedral Chapter House, Justices Oxenden, Petit, Webb, and Hardres, presented him to the Bishop of Dover, Commissary Collins, and Mr. Mills, as one strongly suspected of heresy. Remitted to Westgate prison, he was again brought before the Ecclesiastical tribunal, in the Chapter House, in March and in June, until he and four others were finally condemned on the 25th of June 1555, and delivered to the secular arm for punishment as heretics. Accordingly, at Canterbury, on the 12th of July 1555, the Rector of Adisham was

burned at the stake. His prayer before his execution, and his letter to his father, narrating the whole of the sad proceedings against him, during 1554-5, are preserved in Fox's 'Acts and Monuments of the Church,' chapter xi.

RICHARD THORNE DON, Bishop-suffragan of Dover, obtained the benefice from which Mr. Bland had been dragged to prison. He had been a monk of Christ Church, Canterbury, receiving the tonsure in 1512. He received Subdeacon's Orders March 26, 1513. At the Dissolution he was appointed by Henry VIII, in 1542, to the First Prebendal Stall in the Cathedral, which he held as a Protestant Divine throughout the reign of Edward VI. On the accession of Queen Mary, his Protestantism evaporated, and he actively persecuted his former colleagues. In Canterbury Hall at Oxford he had filled the position of *Custos*, circa 1528. He was consecrated Bishop-suffragan of Dover in 1545, or 1546, and he secured the benefices of Tenterden (1550-5), Lydd, Wrotham (1546), Bishopsbourne (1546), Great Chart, and Adisham, the last five of which he held when he died in 1557-8.

WILLIAM DEACON, who had been Thorne don's curate here, was collated March 12, 1557-8, by Archbishop Pole (76^b). He held this benefice for 21 years, but resigned it November 4th, 1579.

WILLIAM SMITH succeeded Deacon in 1579. In his time the Registers were fair-copied upon parchment, for the sixty years 1539-98. He vacated this benefice in 1602.

MARTIN FOTHERBY, a younger brother of Dean Fotherby, was collated January 24, 1602-3, by Archbishop Whitgift, whose chaplain and kinsman he was. He had been a Fellow of Trinity Coll., Camb., Vicar of Chislet 1592-4, Rector of St. Mary le Bow, London, 1594; Rector of Chartham 1596-1618; Canon of the Eleventh Prebendal Stall at Canterbury 1596-1618. He became Chaplain to James I, and was Bishop of Salisbury from 1618 to March 1619, when he died, and was buried in London at All Hallows, Lombard Street.

WALTER BALCANQUELL was presented to this benefice by King James I, and instituted by Archbishop Abbot (i., 435^a) October 7, 1618. In 1625 he entered in the Register a notice of the accession of Charles I, with a prayer for his long life and preservation for the glory of God. He was Rector of Kingstone 1632, as well as Master of the Savoy in London, and had been promoted in 1624-5 to the Deanery of Rochester, which he held together with these benefices. Ultimately he became Dean of Durham in 1639; and dying on Christmas-day 1645 was buried at Chirk.

JOHN OLIVER, D.D., who succeeded Dr. Balcanquell, became President of Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1644, whence he

was ejected in 1648. In 1660 he petitioned the House of Lords for restoration to it May 18, and for this rectory on June 20. The Parliamentary Committee of Religion on January 5, 1640-1, directed him and other Licensers of the Press to be summoned before them for *licensing unorthodox books*. Dispossessed by the Parliament, in 1643, he lived just long enough to see the Restoration both of Charles II and of his own benefice. In July 1660 he was made Dean of Worcester, but he died, at Oxford in October 1661.

PETER DU MOULIN (whose father of the same name was a French Refugee for the sake of religion, whom Archbishop Abbot collated to a Prebendal Stall at Canterbury) succeeded his father in the Fourth Prebend at Canterbury, and was instituted to the Rectory of Adisham in November 1661. It would seem to have happened, that when Dr. Oliver was dispossessed, in 1643, Dr. Du Moulin became minister here; although one Charles Nichols is mentioned by Lewis, as being dispossessed here in 1662. Du Moulin died in October 1684, and was buried at Canterbury Cathedral, where his wife Ann had been interred January 19, 1680. His curate, Mr. Robert Dalechampe, had been buried in the Cloisters there on the 11th January 1678.

JOHN BATTELY, S.T.P., who was born November 11, 1646, in the parish of St. James's, Bury St. Edmunds, and obtained a Fellowship in Trinity College, Cambridge, succeeded Dr. Du Moulin here November 19, 1684. In 1688, on the 5th of November, he was collated to the First Prebendal Stall in Canterbury Cathedral; having previously been installed as Archdeacon of Canterbury on the 24th of March 1687-8. It is said that he brought from the Cathedral that Early English carved panelling which formerly constituted the reredos of the high altar in Adisham Church, but is now in the south transept. He died October 10, 1708, and was buried in the Cathedral on the 14th.

JOHN GREENE, S.T.P., held this benefice for eight or nine years from November 1708. He resigned it upon his promotion to the Rectory of St. Martin's in the Fields, London, in February 1717; whence he was preferred to the See of Norwich in 1721.

BALTHAZAR REGIS, S.T.P., was Rector of Adisham during forty years, from March 1717 to January 5, 1756-7. With this benefice he held the Rectory of Little Mongeham and a Canonry at Windsor.

FRANCIS WALWYN, S.T.P., 1756-7. He was educated at Maidstone, and from the grammar school there he obtained in March 1716-7 a Scholarship on Mr. Gunsley's Foundation at University College, Oxford. He became Rector of Great Mongeham, and was from 1745-57, Rector of St. Mary Bredman, Canterbury, with which he held (1752-6) the

Vicarage of East Peckham. Upon his institution to Adisham he resigned East Peckham. He held the Seventh Prebend in Canterbury Cathedral from 1744 until his death on the 19th of May 1770. To Maidstone Church his body was carried for interment, and there his remains lie.

THE HON. JAMES CORNWALLIS held this benefice for five months, from May to October 1770, when he resigned it, and became a Prebendary of Westminster Abbey and Rector of Wrotham. He had held the benefices of Ickham (1769-78), and Boughton Malherb. He was appointed Dean of Canterbury in 1775; Bishop of Lichfield 1781; Dean of Windsor 1791-4: and he succeeded to the Earldom of Cornwallis in 1828.

JOHN LYNCH, LL.D., second and youngest son of the Dean of Canterbury, held this benefice for ten years 1771-81. When Dr. Richard Palmer resigned the Fifth Prebendal Stall at Canterbury in 1781, it was arranged that Dr. Lynch should have that stall, and that Dr. Palmer's son should have this benefice. Dr. Lynch, after he was a Canon, became likewise Archdeacon of Canterbury (1788-1803), and Rector of St. Dionis Backchurch, London. His elder brother, Sir William Lynch, K.B., was M.P. for Canterbury 1768, but died in 1785. Their mother was a daughter of Archbishop Wake.

JOHN PALMER, B.A. (who thus obtained the Rectory of Adisham through his father's resignation of a Canonry at Canterbury), was inducted on the 29th of April 1781, and held the benefice during many years.

W. W. DICKINS was Rector from 1818 to 1862.

HENRY MONTAGU VILLIERS, M.A. of Christ Church, Oxford, son of a late Bishop of Durham, was collated to this benefice in 1862, and held it until the end of 1881, when he was appointed Vicar of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge.

JAMES HASLEWOOD CARR, M.A., and formerly a Fellow, of the University of Durham, was collated to this rectory in December 1881. He had held the benefice of Broadstairs, in Thanet, from 1866 to 1881.