

## THE VICARS OF THORNHAM-CUM-ALDINGTON.

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THE parish of Thornham, called in Domesday Book Turnham, and in the Lambeth Registers uniformly Thorneham, appears to have originally comprised two principal manors—that of Thornham proper and that of Aldington—each having its own church; both manor houses and churches lying within half a mile of each other. Aldington was subsequently divided into two parts, which were distinguished by the names of Aldington Septvans and Aldington Cobham; these were eventually reunited in the person of Henry Brokehill, in the time of Queen Elizabeth. The history of the two neighbour churches, with which we are specially concerned, for many years ran side by side, though not quite in parallel lines, until after frequent convergence and collision the one was merged into the other, and that of Aldington eventually disappeared in the united parish of Thornham.

In the days of the Confessor the manor and advowson of the church of Thornham were held by Sybern Biga, but at the time of the Domesday Survey they were held under Odo, Bishop of Baieux, by Radulphus de Curvaspina (Ralph de Crookthorne or Crowthorn), from whom they passed into the hands of Gilbert Magminot; and from his descendants they were held by a family which took its name from the place, of whom Robert de Thorneham was the representative in the reign of Henry II. This Robert de Thorneham by charter conveyed the church, with its advowson and certain lands in the parish, for the endowment of an abbey of the Augustinian Order at Combewell, better known in after years as Cumbwell, near Goudhurst, in this county.

Stephen de Thurneham, the survivor of his two sons, confirmed this grant, which was ratified in a charter of "Inspecimus" by Henry III. From the smallness of the endowment the character of the house was a few years after changed from an Abbey into a Priory.\* Thus the Vicarage of Thorneham became from that

\* The income being small and inadequate to support the dignity of an abbot, Archbishop Stephen Langton, about the year 1215, on the representation of the Convent, consented to reduce the Abbey to a Priory. The original Charter for this reduction is preserved among the "Cumbwell Priory Deeds," in the College of Arms; and also the Charter of *Inspecimus* and Confirmation by the Prior and Convent in the year 1254. They are printed *in extenso* in *Archaeologia Cantiana*, the former in Vol. V., p. 214 (Charter XVIII.); the latter in Vol. VI., p. 211 (Charter XLIV.).

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time an appanage of Combewell Priory. Philipott is clearly incorrect in stating (*Villare Cantianum*, p. 341) that it was to the college at Lingfield that Robert de Thorneham granted this church; with which, he goes on to say, "it remained cloistered up till the general suppression"; for as will appear, every presentation to the Vicarage from 1300 to 1582 is expressly recorded in the Lambeth Registers. Moreover it would seem to have been one of the best and most important pieces of Church preferment in the gift of the Priory; for, with two exceptions, each of the successive Vicars is styled "Capellanus," as having belonged to the Priory body. Unfortunately from the loss of all the earlier registers, through Abp. Kilwardby's carrying them off to Rome, it is impossible to trace the series back beyond the time of Abp. Peckham or rather his successor Abp. Reynolds, in whose Primacy occurs the first name we can place on the list of VICARS OF THORNHAM.

GULIELMUS DE MOLESSCHE, on whose resignation was appointed JOSEPHUS DE GODWYNSTONE, Capellanus, 1316. (*Reynold's Reg.*, f. 16<sup>b</sup>.) After whom came

HUGO DE HILTON, Presbiter, 1322, on resignation. (*Ibid.*, f. 31<sup>b</sup>.)

RICARDUS DE FRESTON, 1323, on resignation. (*Ibid.*, f. 250<sup>b</sup>.)

JOHANNES DE LEDES, Capellanus, 1326, on resignation. (*Ibid.*, f. 256<sup>a</sup>.)

HENRICUS DE THYNDENNE, 1326, on death. (*Ibid.*, f. 264<sup>b</sup>.)

GULIELMUS DE STALEWORTH. No date given.

GALFRIDUS SMYTH, 1364, on death. (*Islep's Reg.*, f. 306<sup>b</sup>.)

GULIELMUS PYGHESLE, 1368. (*Wittlesey's Reg.*, f. 69<sup>b</sup>.)

JOHANNES DE MALLYNG, 1385. (*Courtenay's Reg.*, f. 257<sup>b</sup>.)

ROGERUS HORON. No date given.

JOHANNES PRESTON, 1425, on death. (*Chichele's Reg.*, f. 158<sup>b</sup>.)

THOMAS BETLE, 1427, on resignation. (*Ibid.*, f. 171<sup>b</sup>.)

JOHANNES MASHAM,\* 1433. (*Ibid.*, f. 199<sup>b</sup>.)

But before following on the list of its subsequent Vicars, some account must be given of the sister church belonging to the adjacent manor of Aldington. This manor had according to Domesday Book been held by one Ansgotus de Roucestre, but within the next century it had passed into the hands of Willelmus filius Heltonis (William Fitz-Helto), who appears to have also granted the advowson of the Church of St. Peter attached to it to Combewell Priory. The following is the list, as far as the Lambeth Registers help us, of the VICARS OF ALDINGTON:

NAME.	DATE.	PATRON.	AUTHORITY.
WILLELMUS MARSICAL, Diaconus.	1279	Prior and Convent.	<i>Peckham's Reg.</i> , f. 40 <sup>a</sup> .
ROBERTUS KYLESBY, Presb.	1352	Abp. by lapse.	<i>Islep's Reg.</i> , f. 261 <sup>a</sup> .

\* The two vicarages seem to have been united in the person of John Masham, who had been appointed to Aldington in 1431, and the record of his appointment to Thornham two years after is expressly to the joint cure of "Thorneham cum Aldington."

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NAME.	DATE.	PATRON.	AUTHORITY.
ROBERTUS DE DERBY, Presb.	1353	Abp. by lapse.	<i>Islep's Reg.</i> , f. 266 <sup>b</sup> .
JOHANNES WYNTEGH, Presb.	1354	Prior and Convent.	<i>Ibid.</i> , f. 267 <sup>a</sup> .
HENRICUS FORDYNGTON, Presb.	1370	Ditto.	<i>Sudbury's Reg.</i> , f. 127 <sup>b</sup> .
WILLELMUS TAILLOUR, Presb.	1372	Abp. by lapse.	<i>Wittlesey's Reg.</i> , f. 93 <sup>b</sup> .
JOHANNES TAILLOR, Presb.	1382	Prior and Convent.	<i>Courtenay's Reg.</i> , f. 248 <sup>a</sup> .
WILLELMUS WYLLYM, Capell.	1418	Ditto.	<i>Chichele's Reg.</i> , f. 96 <sup>b</sup> .
JOHANNES MASSAM, Capell.	1431	Ditto.	<i>Ibid.</i> , f. 191 <sup>a</sup> .

From this it will be seen that the church at Aldington fared far worse in the appointment of its Vicars than its neighbour of Thornham had done, for no less than three times within twenty years (1352—1372) did the nomination lapse to the Archbishop through the neglect or indifference of the Prior and Convent. Moreover, on several occasions the Archbishop felt called upon to interfere, as it lay in his diocese, for the better regulation of ecclesiastical affairs in the parish.

For instance, in 1369, within a few weeks of his coming to the Primacy, Archbishop Wittlesey found the church of Aldington in so neglected a condition, "without Vicar or even Curate," that he called on William Pyghtesle, then Vicar of Thornham, to undertake all the necessary spiritual duties there.\* The following year the Combewell Priory exercised their right of nomination, and appointed Henry Fordyngton, and two years after William Tailleur was instituted by the Archbishop by lapse. Between him, however, and the Prior and Convent, a very serious dispute arose as to the Vicarial income, which was settled by the Archbishop assigning the

\* Willelmus, etc., etc., dilecto filio domino Willelmo de Pyghtesle, Vicario Ecclesie Parochialis de Thorneham nostre Diocesis, salutem in Christo. Cum nos Vicariam Ecclesie Parochialis de Aldyngton juxta Thorneham Decanatus de Sutton nostre Diocesis Vicario et alio Curato quocunque penitus destitutam et carentem propter illius exilitatem et alias causas veras (per?) literas in hac parte moventes, Vicarie Ecclesie de Thorneham predicte eidem unione conjungere intendimus et unire ad gerendum igitur interim Curam Vicarie dicte Ecclesie de Aldyngton et animarum Parochianorum ejusdem et administrandum eisdem sua sacramenta et sacramentalia Ecclesiastica in Ecclesia de Thorneham predicte seu in ipsa Ecclesia de Aldyngton quotiens opus fuerit prout melius videris expedire necnon ad percipiendum recipiendum et habendum omnes et omnimodas oblationes decimas et obventiones ad Vicariam dicte Ecclesie de Aldyngton et ejus Vicarium pertinentes et consuetudine ordinatione, ut de jure tibi nostra auctoritate ordinaria plena concedimus potestate. Curamque omnem supradictam Vicario ejusdem qui pro tempore fuerit incumbens non obstante quod dicte Ecclesie de Thorneham Vicarius perpetuus existens per te vel alium interim exercendam admittimus et committimus per presentes quendam nobis placuerit duratorem. Datum Londini sub sigillo nostro quo utimur in presenti Vto Id. Feb. Anno Domini MCCCLXVIII. (*Wittlesey's Register*, fol. 2<sup>b</sup>.)

entire income to the Vicar, subject to the payment of ten shillings twice a year to the Priory. To the letter which conveyed this decision of the Archbishop a special interest attaches. It was dated 4 June 1374, and a note is appended to the entry in the Lambeth Register that on the following day Archbishop Wittlesey died.\* So it would seem that one of Archbishop Wittlesey's last official acts was to endeavour to promote order and peace at Aldington, as one of his first had been.

The Prior and Convent continued to exercise the right of appointing to Aldington as distinct from Thornham, and for two turns Archbishops Courtenay and Chichele accepted and instituted their nominees; only the latter Archbishop, in the case of William Wylym in 1418, imposed a condition of regular residence (*continue et personaliter residendum*). However, in 1433 Archbishop Chichele† again endeavoured to bring about the union, but apparently with little success, for in 1453 Archbishop Kempe‡ found it necessary to make another attempt to enforce it. But it was left to Archbishop Warham to carry out the final annexation of Aldington to Thornham.‡

\* *Compositio inter Priorem et Conventum de Combewell et Vicarium de Aldington. (Wittlesey's Register, f. 68\*.)*

Omnibus in Christo fidelibus qui presentes literas inspectitis Willelmus Dei providentia Cantuariensis Archiepiscopus, etc., etc., salutem in Domino sempiternam. Cum nuper inter Religiosos viros Priorem et Conventum de Combewell ordinis S. Augustini nostre Diocesis Ecclesiam Parochialem de Aldynton juxta Berghstede dicte nostre Diocesis in proprios usus obtinentes ex parte una, et dominum Willelmum Tailleur ejusdem Ecclesie Parochialis nunc Vicarium ex altera, occasione exilitatis Vicarie predictae orta coram nobis fuisset materia questionis sive litis, nos tandem pro bono pacis et utilitate dicte Ecclesie et animarum Parochianorum ejusdem, de consensu dicti Prioris et Conventus ac domini Willelmi Vicarii superdicti expresso, etiam auctoritate nostra ordinaria, ordinavimus et statuimus quod dictus dominus Willelmus Vicarius pro toto tempore suo, et sui successores qui pro tempore fuerint, pro suis temporibus successivis percipient et habebunt nomine Vicarie sue predictae et porcionis ejusdem omnes et omnimodas oblationes ac decimas tam majores quam minores et obventiones alias quascunque ad dictam Ecclesiam pertinentes et missa Parochiani provenientes qualiacunque, et dictus dominus Willelmus Vicarius et successores sui predicti solvent annuatim dictis Priori et Conventui in Prioratu eorumdem de Combewell decem solidos sterlingos ad duos anni terminos viz. ad Festam Omnium Sanctorum et Pascham per equales porciones ferie obventionum et decimarum quas dicti Religiosi viri nomine dicte Ecclesie percipere consueverant et habere; dictus insuper dominus Willelmus Vicarius et successores sui qui pro tempore fuerint omnia onera eidem Ecclesie incumbentia qualitercunque tam ordinaria quam extraordinaria, etiam que dictus Prior et Conventus ibidem subire solebant subeant et agnoscant. Que omnia et singula per presentes nostras literas ratificamus approbamus et etiam confirmamus. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum fecimus hiis apponi. Datum apud Lambeth iij non. Junii MCCCCLXXXIIIJ (1374).

Memo. written by contemporary hand at foot of this entry:

"Die lune viz. quinto die mensis Junii Anno Domini MCCCCLXXXIIIJ bone memorie dominus Willelmus de Wittlesey Cantuariensis Archiepiscopus in Manerio suo de Lamheth obiit."

† *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. II., p. 29.

‡ So deplorable did he find the state of things, "disputes, complaints, contentions, controversies" being the order of the day between the two parishes, or

JOHANNES MANNING, 1455. (*Bourchier's Reg.*, f. 62<sup>b</sup>.)

JACOBUS CHIRCHE. No date given. (See *Newton's Maidstone*, p. 39, among the Wardens of Corpus Christi Fraternity.)

JOHANNES PRATT. No date given.

ROBERTUS HARRYS, 1487, on resignation. (*Morton's Reg.*, f. 132<sup>a</sup>.)

rather between Edward Brokehill, the then Lord of the Manor, with the inhabitants of Aldington on the one hand, and the Prior of Combewell with the Vicar of Thornham on the other, that with the concurrence of the Prior and Convent, who were the patrons of both churches, Archbishop Warham, as apparently the only means of restoring peace and harmony, adopted the strong measure of enforcing union between the two parishes by ordering that all services, except on special days, should be discontinued at Aldington, which should henceforth cease to be a parish; that if Mr. Brokehill desired to have any masses performed there, all must be at his own expense; there being only reserved for him and his wife the right of burial in the Aldington burial-ground; that the celebration of the Sacrament should be utterly discontinued there, and all Sacramental vessels removed; that the font should be utterly demolished; that in future all tithes, oblations, etc., belonging to Aldington should be paid to the Vicar of Thornham, and that the Church of Thornham should henceforth be for all uses and purposes the Parish Church for both manors.

The original letter runs thus (*Abp. Parker's Register*, vol. ii., f. 91<sup>b</sup>):

Universis, etc., etc. Willelmus (Warham), etc., etc. Cum nuper coram nobis certe lites querele discordie et controversie occasione celebrationis Divinorum et administrationis Sacramentorum et Sacramentalium in Ecclesia sive Capella de Aldington Ecclesie Parochiali de Thorneham nostre Diocesis Cantuariensis unita et annexa ac super unione hujusmodi inter Edwardum Brokehill et alios inhabitantes Ville sive Hamelette de Aldington predicte ex una, ac Priorem et Conventum Monasterii sive Prioratus de Combewell Rectores sive Proprietarios Ecclesie sive Capelle de Aldington predicte, necnon Magistrum Ricardum Hewes (Hughes?) Vicarium perpetuum prefate Ecclesie Parochialis de Thorneham una cum dicta Capella de Aldington eidem Ecclesie, ut prefertur, unita et annexa ex altera parte fuerint et pendebant. Tandem partes predictae pro bono pacis in futuro inter eos habende super litibus quereelis discordiis et controversiis hujusmodi inierunt inter se concordia in hunc (qui sequitur) modum.

Imprimis conventum concordatum et conclusum est inter partes predictas quod indie S. Petri ad vincula dictus Vicarius de Thorneham pro tempore existens celebrabit seu celebrari faciet per Capellanum Secularem Missam utrasque Vesperas et Matutinas congruo et debito tempore juxta modum consuetum aliarum Ecclesiarum in hujusmodi festo usitatum in dicta Ecclesia sive Capella de Aldington ab antiquo diote Ecclesie de Thorneham unita et annexa eo quod suprascripta Capella unita ut prefertur fuit in honore ejusdem S. Petri erecta, necnon in die . . . (on four appointed festivals).

Item conventum concordatum et conclusum est inter partes memoratas quod confirmatur unio sive annexio alias facta de Ecclesia de Thorneham et Aldington predictis per bone memorie Johannem (Kempes, 1453) quondam Cantuariensem Archiepiscopum predecessorem meum. Item conventum concordatum et conclusum est inter partes predictas quod prefatus Edwardus Brockehill ac ejus heredes et successores necnon inhabitantes quicumque in manerio vocato Aldington Manerio invenient et preparabunt omnia ornamenta et alia necessaria ad cultum Divinum ipidem celebrandum et ministrandum dictis festo et diebus juxta formam superius recitatam. Item, etc., etc. (ut supra) quod licebit eidem Edwardo Brockehill habere unum Capellanum Secularem ad celebrandum ibidem (Missas?) pro animabus amicorum suorum diebus non feriatis suis propriis sumptibus et expensis absque prejudicio Ecclesie Parochialis et Vicarie de Thorneham predictis. Item (ut supra) quod predictus Edwardus de Brokehill et ejus uxor eligent sibi sepulturam in dicta Capella sive Cimiterio de Aldington

NICHOLAUS HARRYSON, 1504, on resignation. (*Warham's Reg.*, f. 321<sup>a</sup>.)

GULIELMUS MASSE, 1506, on resignation. (*Ibid.*, f., 328<sup>b</sup>.)

RICARDUS HEWES (HUGHES?). In 1526-7 he was Vicar.

predicto et quod Vicarius de Thorneham pro tempore existens vel ejus deputatus seneli et eosdem et non plures salvo jure semper dicte Ecclesie et Vicarie de Thorneham. Item, etc., etc. (ut supra) quod Capellanus ibidem sic celebrans presabit juramentum a presbiteriis stipendariis juxta constitutum pro unione in ea parte edita proinde late ac debite publicata prestari solitur prefato Vicario de Thorneham cuiouque pro tempore existenti. Item, etc., etc. (ut supra) quod in posterum dicta Capella de Aldington non vocetur Ecclesia Parochialis, sed penitus extingatur, neque licebit in futuro alicui ministrare ibidem aliqua Sacramenta vel Sacramentaria exceptis diebus antedictis et quod inhabitantes ibidem in posterum vocentur Parochiani de Thorneham. Item, etc., etc. (ut supra) quod Sacramentum Eucharisticum non remaneat in dicta Capella in pixide et si ibidem remaneat tunc licebit Vicario de Thorneham pro tempore existenti hujusmodi Sacramentum una cum pixide ad dictam Ecclesiam de Thorneham sua propria auctoritate deferre. Item, etc., etc. (ut supra) quod non licebit alicui Presbitero Seculari vel Regulari baptizare aliquem in fonte Baptizimali ibidem nunc erecto vel in futuro erigendo et quod hujusmodi fons nunc erectus vel erigendus demoliatur extingatur et penitus tollatur per dictum Vicarium et ejus successores suis propriis auctoritatibus. Item, etc., etc. (ut supra) inter Priorem et Conventum de Combewell, dicte Ecclesie de Thorneham et Capelle de Aldington eidem Ecclesie unite et annexe proprietarios, et prefatum Magistrum Ricardum Hewes (*sic*) Vicarium antedictum quod ipse Magister Ricardus Hewes toto et omni tempore suo et sui successores omnes et singuli ibidem Vicarii perpetuis futuris temporibus habebunt et eorum quilibet habebit omnia et singula decimas majores et minores nuptas et minutas ac alia emolumenta quecunque provenientia et existentia infra fines et limites Capelle et Hamelette de Aldington etiam glebam eidem Capelle ab antiquo spectantem et pertinentem in redemptionem et commutationem cujusdam annue pensionis quam Vicarius de Thorneham pro tempore existens habere recipere et vendicare solebat ab eadem Ecclesia et Rectoria de Thorneham predicta.

Unde nos Willelmus Archiepiscopus Cantuariensis Primas et Legatus antedictus cupiens et volens summopere ut hujusmodi lites discordie querele controversie pretextu premissorum exorte et aliquando contumate omnino pacificentur extinguantur et in perpetuum tollantur ac ut pax firma unitas concordia tranquillitas et amicitia uti inter bonos Christianos fieri decet inter partes superius nominatas eorum successores pro perpetuis futuris temporibus habeantur et foveantur. Instantiam petitionem et supplicationes partium predictarum et de earum expresso consensu et assensu dicta concordia et cetera promissa quatenus ad nos atinet et de jure possumus auctoritate nostra ordinaria approbamus acceptamus pariter et ratificamus eaque omnia et singula superius recitata rate et grata habemus pariter et accepta eis que assensum et consensum nostros prebemus expressos necnon unionem annexionem et incorporationem alias de Ecclesia sive Capella de Aldington predicta prefate Ecclesie Parochiali de Thorneham per bone memorie Johannem quondam Cantuariensem predecessorem nostrum factam confirmamus et roboramus et ad majorem cautelam nostram Ecclesiam sive Capellam de Aldington dictam Ecclesie Parochiali de Thorneham ad instantiam petitionem et supplicationem partium predictarum et de earum expresso consensu de novo unionem anneximus et incorporamus auctoritate nostra ordinaria per presentes.

Datum in Manerio de Otteford secundo die mensis Januarii Anno Domini Millesimo Quinquagesimo viginti-sexto, et nostre translationis viginti-tertio.

Et nos Prior et Conventus antedicti omnia et singula premissa superius specificata approbamus acceptamus et ratificamus. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum apposuimus datum in domo nostra Capitulari xxx die mensis predictae anno supradicto.

THOMAS HUGHES, 1531, on resignation. (*Warham's Reg.*, f. 405<sup>b</sup>.)  
 RICARDUS HUGHES, 1532, on resignation. (*Ibid.*, f. 416<sup>a</sup>.) This

Richard Hughes, in whose incumbency the union was determined, was the last nominee of Combewell Priory to the Thornham Vicarage. Within five years of his appointment it had shared the fate of all the smaller Priories, and the advowson had been granted to Sir John Gage, Comptroller of the Royal Household. From him it soon passed to Sir Edward Wotton, who already owned Thornham manor, which he inherited through a daughter and heiress of the Corbies, a family whose name still lingers in the parish, attached to some fields lying near the church farm. From the Wottons it passed to the Derings, then by sale to a succession of lay patrons. Richard Hughes died in the year 1550, and Sir Edward Wotton then exercised the right of presentation in favour of

RALPH PARSHALL (*Cranmer's Register*, f. 411<sup>b</sup>), in whose case and that of each successor the appointment is expressly made to the Vicarage of Thornham cum Aldington. After him came

ROBERT GRENEHODE, 1553. (*Cranmer's Reg.*, f. 423<sup>a</sup>.)

WILLIAM MERICK, 1572, on death. (*Parker's Reg.*, f. 91<sup>b</sup>.)

ANTHONY BROWNSTONE, 1587. (*Whitgift's Reg.*, f. 476<sup>a</sup>.)

THOMAS REINOLD, 1597. (*Hasted's History*.)

BENJAMIN CHARRIER, S.T.P., 1599.\* (*Whitgift's Reg.*, f. 256<sup>b</sup>.)

JOHN CROMPE, M.A., on deposition, 1614. (*Abbot's Reg.*, f. 408.)

This John Crompe is the only one of the Vicars of Thornham of whom any history has been traced out. He belonged to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and was the author of a volume of sermons entitled "Collections out of St. Augustine and some other Latine writers, upon the first part of the Apostles' Creed, etc., first preached in his parish church of Thornham and now enlarged for more public use," dated 1638. He dedicates his little volume to "Katherine Lady Stanhope, Dowager," whom he styles "the present patroness of my Living," and goes on to say "from your family I received not only the first but all the points of my present maintenance," an allusion which is explained by her having been the eldest daughter of Thomas, Lord Wotton, and having married Henry, Lord Stanhope. Each of the five preceding vicars had also been appointed on the presentation of members of the Wotton family. Then followed the period of the Commonwealth, during which John Crompe seems to have been left in undisturbed performance of his duties, and the little parish to have been spared the excitement of some Puritan intruder. On his death, the year after the Restoration, and after a peaceful incumbency of nearly half a century, one John Godden, belonging apparently to a Thornham family, and of the City of London, who had purchased the advowson, presented William Sutton.

\* Benjamin Charrier tendered his resignation in 1613, but it was refused, and he was formally deprived in the following year, when John Crompe was appointed.

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WILLIAM SUTTON, 1661. (*Juxon's Reg.*, f. 129<sup>a</sup>.) From Mr. Godden the advowson seems to have passed to James Herbert, Esq., and Judith his wife, who presented, on the death of William Sutton,

HENRY DERING in 1673. (*Sheldon's Reg.*, f. 359<sup>a</sup>.)

JONATHAN SOAN, 1720. (*Wake's Reg.*, f. 314<sup>b</sup>.) Jonathan Soan was presented to the benefice by Colonel William Cage, whose son John (Hasted says) sold the manor and advowson to Sir Edward Dering. Hasted also states that Sir Edward, in 1740, sold the advowson of the vicarage to Joseph Smallwell, who again sold it, in 1753, to Mr. Henry Hodson. This gentleman presented his son and heir to the benefice in 1768. From the Hodsons it passed to the Phillips, the Wilder, and the Burney families. Mr. Soan was of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and was elected Fellow of Pembroke College in 1712. Thornham Parish Church retains substantial evidence of his liberality and piety in the silver paten which bears the following touching inscription:—"Tua ex Tuis, Deus Jesu, | in usumque Tui, apud Thornhamenses, | in Agro Cantiano, Altaris, | Emanibus J. Soan, Vicarii, indigni, | recipere digneris. Amen. | A.D. 1747."

HENRY HODSON, 1768, on death. (*Acts and Institutions.*) Henry Hodson was also Rector of Sandhurst, and Chaplain to the last Duke of Bolton.

JOHN HODSON, 1782, on death. (*Ibid.*)

WILLIAM SAMUEL PARR WILDER, 1829, on death. (*Ibid.*)

ELLIS BURROUGHS, 1833, on resignation. (*Ibid.*)

JOHN MACMAHON WILDER, 1838, on resignation. (*Ibid.*)

EDWARD KAYE BURNBY, 1849, on resignation. (*Ibid.*)

EDWARD GEORGE JAMES, 1880, on death. (*Ibid.*)

GILBERT COVENTRY MASTER, 1880, on resignation. (*Ibid.*)

JOHN DURST, 1883, on resignation. (*Ibid.*) Present Vicar.