

VISITATION ARTICLES.

BY THE REV. FRANCIS HASLEWOOD, F.S.A.

THE Documents known as "*Comperta and Detecta*" in the Cathedral Library at Canterbury have been carefully searched for entries relating to Pluckley.

ARCHDEACON'S VISITATIONS, CANTERBURY.

COMPERTA ET DETECTA.

1561-62. Pluckley. It ys p'nted that o' p'son (John Pickard) hath besyde Pluckley the Vycaredge of Charyng, and he ys also Chapleine to the Archdeacon of Canterbury (*Comperta et Detecta*, lib. iv., f. 66, A.D. 1561-62).

1551. Will'mus quidder de Pluckley detectus q^d duas het uxores viventes (*Archdeacon's Visitations*, 1550-55, Cant.).

1576. Pluckley. Detectu est that the church yarde lacketh repayringe xxix Novembris 1576 (*Comperta*, Canterbury).

1569. Detectu est that the mi'ster dothe mi'ster the *holye communion in fyne comon breade*.

Detectu est that the p'sonage house is in greate Decaye.

” ” ” Willim hethe aparte from his wyfe.

1576. xiiij Decembris 1576, compt Robtus Hudson, xvj April 1577, pronounced contumacious.

xxj May 1577, M^r Pycker, Rector of Pluckly, reported the chereh yard is repayred et tunc dns. absolvit dom' Hudson a Snia. excoia- cois, et restituit, etc., unde d'n's e'u dimisit.

1563-4. Rector dns. Will'mus Lancaster, *Comperta*, f. 2.

It is presented all things is well saving onelie bet the sepacon betwene the church and the Chauncell.

D'n's Will'mus Lancaster clicus. Presentments made in ecclia parochiali Tenterden 3 Oct. 1564.

1577—1582. Or book of com'on prayer is not as it ought to be, our churche is not suffycentlye repayred.

We p'sent Josua Benett and Agnes Gylles for lyvyng unlawfully in adulterye (Contumacious, excommunicated, f. 70).

Thomas Syxeweeks of o^r paryshe hath not come unto the church this xij monethes and more, and what the lett is you have to demaunde, he being at home and havynge his healthe, we thinck not well of it (Contumacious, f. 86).

1582-90. Our churchyarde is not well fenced bycause the walles be some what be gonne to reparacons. Nov. 18, 1585 (f. 3).

1590. O^r churche is at reparatyons by reason of the winde. 2 July 1590 (f. 17).

1591. Our olde surples is almoste done, wherefore wee request to have a tyme to make a lardger one. 20 Jan. (f. 97).

We p'sente unto you that the church is very much decayed and g'v'n to reparatyons and the lyke dayly more to doe yf it be not loked unto in tyme, But we do mynde and intende to make a Sesse to amende it (f. 87).

1600-3. We p'nte unto you George Barton for a com'on Dronkard (f. 16).

1608—1610. It'm we p'nte further that one Daniell of Pluckley using land in our p'ishe refuseth to pay his cesse to our poore for the yeare past (*Comperta*, f. 51).

1609. We p'nte Thomas Moater refuseth to pay ij viij (f. 58).

1603—1606. To the R^t Worshipful M^r doctor Newman, Commissary of Canterbury.

May it please you to understand that the borer hereof John Mersface being often moving by us to reconcile himself (as christian duty binding him) to the church is now thereof most willing, and hartily sorry for the delaing of time so longe, we therfore whose names be here subscribing do intreat you to restore him again from his excom'nication: he is in truth a very poor man greatly chargng with a lame, impotent, and sensles child and in part releiving by our contributing. Thus we leve you to the lordes good keping.

Pluckly the xxiiij of January 1607.

Yo^r loving frenes,

R. DERINGE,

JOHN PICARD.

(Pinned on to folio 77.)

We doe also present John Merffas of our sayde p'rishe for yt he had his mayd servant wth childe before he married with her as the forme & speech in owre p'rishe. 13 Decembris 1604.

1608. 7^{mo} Aprilis 1608 comput d'nus Mofras a s'nia excois pred absolvit.

P'nted frome Smarden. We p'nte Thomas Wills of Pluckley for not paying his cesse or church scott made for the repaireing of the p'rish Church of Smarden, his cesse being ij^s vj^d. This cesse is p^d to ye church (same vol., f. 90).

1607. There was controversie as it is knowen by M^{rs} Anne Betenham, wife of John Betenham, gent., by pulling or shoving out a mayden sitting in one of the seates w^{ch} have benn and yett are in controversye betweene the sayd John Bettenham, gent., and Sir Anthony Deering, knight, the 26 of July last past, and therefore not yt due reverence in time of divine service as ought to have benn. 3 Dec. 1607 (*Comperta*, 1606—1608, f. 189).

VISITATION ARTICLES.

COMPERTA ET DETECTA.

1610—1615. Plucklie. Item wee present John Tayler and Thomas Hugget for a crime for playeing at cailes upon Whitsonday in the eveninge prayer time. 5 July 1610 (f. 20).

Wee heare that there was a quarrelling in our churchyard Dec. 6, 1611, by one Mark Davye of our P'ishe & one Thomas Pell of Smarden w^{ch} is dead, but the saide Mark hath had the lawe for yt att the last Assises houlden att Maidstone, but here of noe blowes strucke in the churchyarde (f. 66).

Comperta et detecta exta in Visitacōe & te'nt apud Ashforde. 24 Aprilis 1612 (f. 125).

Pluckley. All is sufficientlie maynteyned except in S^r Anthonye Deering's Chauncell where some hath byne buried, it ys not paved as yett.

ARCHDEACON'S VISITATIONS.

COMPERTA.

1615—1620. 10. Wee knowe none of that age w^{ch} are fitteing, but have receaved this laste Easter: except S^r Anthonye Deering and his Ladye, and M^{rs} Harnden w^{ch} doe purpose to receave shortlye: Thomas Motter y^e yownger was wth ye minister for a token to receave but hath not receaved yett, neither hath M^{rs} Marye Bell rec^d the Co'ion yett, & George Gadbies wyffe, w^{ch} hath not rec^d yett. 4 Junij 1618 (f. 155).

S^r Anthonye Deering and his Ladye p'nted. 4 Junij 1618 (f. 156).

Sentenced to communicate by Michaelmas 1618. 3 Dec. 1618 he produced evidence he had communicated. Dismissed.

The next day after our faire beinge Sondag we found some disordered in the ale house, w^{ch} we carried before a Justice of the Peace, w^{ch} took a fyne of x^s of the Alewife for suffering such disorders in her house, and the other which we brought before him paid fynes. The name of her w^{ch} doth kepe victuallinge is Joane Nepeckar, widowe. 1 July 1618 (f. 164).

1615—1620. Samuel Greenstreete et Johannes Wolton, Ch'wardens.

Informations concerning Plucklye.

1. The Steeple of Plucklye Churche is much ruinated and decayed, and hath bene thease many years.

2. One of the bells allsoe is broken, and ye mending thereof hath bene this twelve monthe neglected.

3. There is noe silver plate to minister y^e breade upone yt, at the Comunion.

4. There hath bene a greate neglecte of moste of my p'ishioneres in receaving thrice a yeare, according to the Cannons in that beehalffe.

5. Manye of my p'ishioners have often gone to other p'ishes when I have p'ched and reade service: and some receaved allsoe at other p'ishes, neglecting thereowne.

6. Manye of my p'ishioners never or very seldome come to service in the afternonnes one the Sabothe dayes, of w^{ch} omissions I desire the Churchwardens may bee admonished to observe and examine the reasons of them, and to note whoe they are.

By mee, JOHN COPLEY.

15 June 1620 (f. 267).

1626-7. M^r Copley. Our Chauncell doth want paveinge where some hath been buried, and the windowes do want glaseinge, but our minister doth promise to have it repaired in shorte tyme. 9 June 1624 (f. 150).

Wee p'nt James Maylam, for he hath not received the Comunion this last Easter. 26 May 1624 (f. 145).

9 June 1624. Allegavit that indeed he did not receive the holy communion at Easter last by reason he was so much indebted that he

durst not come to Church for feare of arrest unde d'nus monuit ip'm ad p'ticipand citra px post mich. 6 Oct. 1624 (f. 145).

Our churchyard walls are lately fallen downe, and shal be repaired with as much speed as wee can. 26 May 1624 (f. 140).

Wee pn't Thomas Moter for not payeing of his Church Cesse, being iij^s. 21 June 1624 (f. 151).

1627—1637. Agreed unto by most of the p'ishioners of better rancke for the totall demolishing of the said vestry upon good grownds and reasons as they hope will be deemed, w^{ch} they intend p'ntly to p'sent to his Grace with hope of obtayning, and therefore humbly desire further time for the urging thereof in case they shall not be freed from the same. 26 June 1635 (f. 171).

Wee present James Maylam and also wee present Ellin the wife of Stephen Rayner for that they doe not diligently resort to our Church to heare divine service on y^e Sundayes, and the said Ellin did not receive the Communion at Easter last past (f. 203).

20 Nov. 1633. Fatetur et allegavit tamen that he is in debt and feareth to be arrested, w^{ch} is the only cause of his absence. x^d paid.

Wee p'sent Samuell Greenstreet for that hee cometh not duely to church on the Sabboath dayes, but wee think it is not for any contempt against the orders of the church, but onely that hee is in danger to come hither by reason of suite in law w^{ch} hee is in. 15 June 1636 (f. 283).

1758.

PLUCKLEY.

ARCHBISHOP'S ENQUIRIES.

The extent of the parish from east to west is three miles and a half, its width from north to south is three miles, its circumference is ten miles and a half.

It consists of one village, three hamlets, twenty-two farm-houses, and fifty cottages, containing in all ninety-three families, and 411 inhabitants.

Sir Edward Dering, Bart., is the only gentleman who lives in the parish.

There is only one Papist in the parish, a labouring man and very old. No one has lately been perverted to Popery, neither is there is any place in ys parish in which Papists assemble for worship, nor doth any Popish Priest reside in it. There is no Popish schole kept in it, neither hath any Confirmation or Visitation by any Popish Bishop been held in it.

There are four Dissenters in the parish, all Anabaptists. Two of them are married men, whose families go to Church. The third is a farmer's servant, the fourth a very old woman. There are no Meeting Houses, nor any Dissenting Teacher in it.

The number of Dissenters has lessened of late years.

There are no Quakers in y^s parish, nor any Meeting House.

The people in general come regularly to Church, nor do any of them according to the best of my knowledge profess a disregard for religion.

I reside every year in the Parsonage House about four months, am four months resident in my Parsonage House at Canterbury, and the remaining four months I am in town in attendance upon the King in his closet. I have a Resident Curate, his name John Howdell, A.M. He is in Priest's Orders. He serves no other Cure, and I allow him £40 a year, Easter Offerings and Surplice Fees to the amount, I suppose, of seven or eight pounds more.

Public Service is duly performed twice every Lord's Day, and one sermon preached. Prayers are read all Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent, every day in Passion Week, and on all Holidays.

There is no Chapel in the parish. The children are catechized every Wednesday and Friday in Lent, and Lewis's exposition chiefly made use of.

The children in the schole are frequently catechized, at other times also by the Curate and constantly by the Master. No persons frequent Publick worship who have not been baptized. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administered eight times a year. About fifty comm^{ts}. There is no Free Schole, Hospital, or Alms House in the parish.

There is a voluntary Charity Schole in the parish for twelve boys and eight girls. It is supported by Sir Edward and Lady Dering and the Rector. They are taught reading, writing, and arithmetick. The girls are also taught to sow and knit, the boys work at proper times, always in harvest and hopping time, and whenever their parents particularly want them. They are lodged, fed, and clothed by y^r parents, and disposed of by them when they leave schole.

About seven acres of land of the clear yearly rent of five p'ds have been left to the parish, and the money given to such poor as receive no other allowance from it. There is likewise one acre of land, value £1 p^r an., given for the repairs of the Church. And it appears by the parish books that y^s money, for fifty years last past, has been faithfully applied to the uses for which it was given.

The money given at the Offertory is disposed of by the Minister alone to such persons of the parish as he judges to be the most proper objects of charity.

There is no other matter relating to the parish that I know of, of which it is proper to give his Grace the Archbishop information.

J. HEAD, Rect^r of Pluckley.

(Diocese of Canterbury, MS. 1134, vol. iii., f. 187; *Lamb Lib.* Enquiries are dated, Deanery of St. Paul's, May 1, 1758.)