

VICARS OF ST. MARY, WESTHYTHE.

BY REV. T. SHIPDEM FRAMPTON, M.A., F.S.A.

ROBERT DEN, *or* DEAN, presented to the vicarage of "Westhethē," and ordained Deacon, 14 March 1298-9. (Reg. Winchelsey, f. 104*a*.)

He was of Canterbury. He held this vicarage as a Deacon for only a short time, being ordained Priest the following Whitsuntide, at Oxford.

RICHARD DE BARTHONE, adm. 22 February 1310-11. Patron: Peter de Talere, for the Archdeacon of Canterbury. (*Ibid.*, f. 52*b*.)

JOHN DE HORTON, inst. 8 October 1320, on d. of the last. Patron: The Proctor of the Archdeacon. (Reg. Reynolds, f. 26*a*.)

He is mentioned as being instituted to the perpetual vicarage of the "Capella" of "Westhethē." He resigned 21 November 1322, on becoming Rector of Orlestone. In the following February he obtained a licence to be non-resident for three years, for the purpose of studying. In October 1348 he was Rector of Bilsington.

LAURENCE DE WELLE, inst. 15 January 1322-3. Patron: The Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, f. 32*a*.)

GEOFFREY PALSTRE, of "Icham," inst. 10 September 1327. Patron: The Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, f. 265*b*.)

ROBERT DE ESTON, inst. 28 November 1327. Patron: Hugh de Engolisma, Archdeacon. (Ch. Ch. Cant., Reg. Q, f. 132*b*.)

LAPINUS GARBAGE, mentioned 13 October 1348. (Ch. Ch. Cant., Scrap Book, vol. ii, p. 125.)

He attended five Inquisitions held in the deanery of Lympne, respecting vacancies which had occurred at Brenset, Burmarsh, Craythorn, Orlestone, and Sellinge, between October 1348 and September 1349, when it was found that all the vacancies had been caused by death. The grievous plague, known as the Black Death, was raging at the time.

JOHN WEYTE, of "Swynesfeld," adm. 8 April 1362, on d. of the last. Patron: The Archdeacon. (Reg. Islip, f. 297a.)

He was still Vicar in 1374, when, by the death of Archbishop Whittlesey, he was cited with the rest of the clergy in the deanery of Lympne to appear in person at Canterbury, on Saturday next after the Festival of the Apostles Peter and Paul, to pay canonical obedience to the Prior and Chapter, the guardians of the spiritualities of the See during a vacancy. In his vicariate an atrocious murder was committed at Westhythe, the victim being the parochial chaplain. The event is thus recorded: "Certain sons of perdition, intoxicated with wickedness and the spirit of rage, craftily contriving the death of Sir Robert Valent, priest at Westheth, in our diocese, who celebrated Divine Service while he was alive, ensnaring the said priest, who was wholly unaware of their malice, on the King's highway between the villes of Lymene and Westheth the aforesaid, with bows and arrows and divers other kinds of weapons, suddenly and hostilely rushed upon him, and at first wounded him again and again with arrows, mortally, and afterwards when on bended knees he tearfully besought their mercy, they with the abovesaid other deadly weapons, with malice aforethought, as it is said, inhumanly killed him; thereby culpably incurring the sentence of the Greater Excommunication, directed in that case by the canon against such sacrilegious men and malefactors." Archbishop Langham, on hearing of the deed, issued a

mandate to his Commissary General, and to the Official of the Archdeacon of Canterbury, enjoining them to denounce the murderers as excommunicated, and to publish the sentence in his Cathedral Church, in the Church of Saltwode and the respective Chapels annexed to the same,* in all the Churches of the diocese, and especially in every Church in the deaneries of Elham and Lymene, and elsewhere should they deem it expedient, on Sundays and Festivals, at the time of Divine Service, when the greater number of people would be present, with bells ringing, candles lighted, and then extinguished and thrown to the ground, and with Cross erect. The officials were to signify to the Archbishop what they had done, before the Feast of the Annunciation next ensuing. Dated at Otteford, 29 December 1367. (Reg. Langham, f. 60a.)

JOHN ROUNDELL, adm. 16 November 1391. Patron: Adam Mottrum, Archdeacon. (Reg. Courtenay, II., f. 200b.)

HENRY SCHIPDENE, resigned in 1396. (Ch. Ch. Cant., Reg. G., f. 275b.)

RICHARD TYCKIL, adm. 17 September 1396, on resig. of the last. Patron: Adam de Mottrum, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*)
After a brief tenure of office here he exchanged for St. Clement's Rectory, Rochester, where he remained only a few months, and then went to Tudely.

WILLIAM WELLYS, exch. with the last, c. 1 May 1397. (Reg. W. Botlesham, Bp. of Rochester, f. 103a.)

JOHN CLIFFORTH, inst. 24 October 1397, on d. of the last. Patron: Richard Clifford, Archdeacon. (Reg. Arundel, I., f. 260a.)

JOHN PURVEY, adm. 11 August 1401, on d. of the last Vicar. Patron: Richard Clifford, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, f. 278a.)

* *Singulisque Capellis eidem annexis*—i.e., the Churches in Hythe.

JOHN BOTELEB, adm. 8 October 1403, on resig. of the last. Patron: Robert Hallum, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, f. 290*b.*)

He was collated as a Deacon to the vicarage of St. Nicholas, Thanet, by Archbishop Courtenay, on 19 February 1390-1. He vacated Westhythe by exchange for Stalisfield, and two years later again effected an exchange for Rygge, or Rydge, in Hertfordshire, in the patronage of St. Alban's Abbey.

THOMAS HORTON, exch. with the last, 3 January 1410-11. Patron: John Wakering, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, II., f. 61*a.*)

WILLIAM BRET, adm. 24 May 1424. Patron: The Archdeacon. (Reg. Chichele, f. 150*a.*)

RICHARD BARKER, adm. 31 March 1430, on resig. of the last. Patron: Prosper de Columna, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, f. 182*a.*)

JOHN POWLE, adm. 2 January 1431-2. Patron: Prosper de Columna, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, f. 193*a.*)

JOHN ASHTON, adm. 19 February 1432-3. Patron: Prosper de Columna, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, f. 197*b.*)

THOMAS BENET, adm. 25 April 1435. Patron: Thomas Chichele, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, f. 206*a.*)

JOHN BOYDE, resigned in 1449. (Reg. Stafford, f. 100*b.*)

The date of his appointment to Westhythe has not been ascertained. He resigned the benefice for the vicarage of Lymne [*sic*], which he seems to have held until his death, ten years later.

RICHARD YNS, adm. 21 September 1449, on resig. of the last. Patron: Thomas Chichele, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*)

THOMAS WOTTON, resigned in 1461. (Reg. Bouchier, f. 82*a.*)

One of this name was presented by the Prioress and

Convent of St. Sepulchre's, Canterbury, to St. Mary Breden's Church, and held it nearly twenty years, till his death in 1480.

HENRY SAYS, *or* SEES, "Bacc. in Decretis," adm. 22 October 1461, on resig. of the last. Patron: Thomas Chichele, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*)

He subsequently held the vicarage of Cheshunt, from 1471 to 1480.

WILLIAM SUMPTER, adm. 13 November 1465, on resig. of the last. Patron: Thomas Chichele, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, f. 91b.)

He was previously Rector of Bircholt.

JOHN JAY, adm. 22 October 1479, on d. of the last Vicar. Patron: John Bouchier, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, f. 122b.)

HENRY DYE, resigned in 1484. (Pat. 2 Richard III., pt. I., m. 4.)

He exchanged with his successor for Okeford in the diocese of Exeter.

THOMAS GEORGE, *exch.* with the last, 6 November 1484. (*Ibid.*)

Before moving into the Exeter diocese he had held two benefices in this immediate neighbourhood, Dymchurch from 1466 to 1473, and then Warehorne.

ROBERT BEVERLEY, adm. 30 July 1488, on resig. of the last. Patron: John Bouchier, Archdeacon. (Reg. Morton, II., f. 135a.)

He left directions in his will, dated 5 February 1500-1, and proved 26 May following, for his body to be buried in the choir of the Church of the Blessed Mary of Westhythe. He bequeathed to the [principal] Light there, 12*d.*; to the Light of the Holy Cross, 6*d.*; and to the Torch Light, 12*d.* Also towards the purchase of a Processional, 5*s.* Also for amending a foul way between the Church of Westhythe and

“Westhythis went,” 2s. Other bequests were left for charitable and religious purposes, including 6s. 8*d.* to the Chantry of Latton near Harlow, in Essex, and 3s. 4*d.* to the Domus Dei at Ospringe.

WILLIAM MARTYN, inst. in 1501. Patron: Hugh Peyntwyn, LL.D., Archdeacon. (Ch. Ch. Cant., Reg. R., f. 63*b.*)

In selecting the place for his burial this Vicar differed from his predecessor, and bequeathed his “body to be bureyd wythin the Churche of Saltwod before Saint Nicholas.” He left to the “iij principall lyghtes there iijs., and to the reparacion of the same Churche xs.” Also “to euery housold in Westhythe xij*d.*” His will is dated 4 September 1506, and was proved 4 February 1506-7, which fixes approximately the time of his decease.

CLEMENT HARDYNG, LL.B., adm. 6 April 1507, on d. of the last Vicar. Patron: The Archdeacon. (Reg. Warham, f. 330*a.*)

He was also Vicar of Holy Cross, Westgate, Canterbury, in which church, according to Battely’s edition of *Somner*, was a memorial of him with the following lines:—

Multorum causas defendere quique solebat
Hanc mortis causam evadere non potuit
Doctus et indoctus moritur, sic respice finem
Ut bene discedas quisquis es ista legens.

JOHN HEEDE, or HEDDE, adm. 17 February 1507-8, on d. of the last. Patron: The Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, f. 332*a.*)

He resigned this benefice for Dymchurch, which he held until his death in 1518.

JOHN DOVE, adm. 31 March 1511, on resig. of the last. Patron: William Warham, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, f. 342*a.*)

Within a few months of this Vicar’s institution Archbishop Warham held his Visitation of the deanery of Lympne in Aldington Church, when it was found “That

the Chancel [of Westhith] is not sufficiently repaired." At a subsequent date the Vicar appeared, and stated that the chancel was sufficiently repaired. His twenty years' incumbency seems to have left with him the impression that the existence of his church, as the centre of religious life in the parish, might not be of much longer continuance. By his will, dated 12 April 1531, and proved 22 May following, he directs that his burial should take place "in the Church of Westhith, in the presbytery of the aforesaid Church, before the High Altar." With regard to bequests he expresses his wishes thus: "Item I bequeithe xs. to bye paynted clothes for the high aulter *if ther be a vycar Indewed*, iff not the said xs. shall helpe to the high waye next to howcars [? Hooker's] barne." Again he says: "Also I bequeithe to the Rep'ations of the bodye of the Churche ther xs. *if ther be a vicar Indued*." Among many other bequests were the following: "to euery one of my Godchildren yn the Countie of Kent, xij*d*. To euery householdre yn Westhithe, ijs. Item to our Lady light, iijs. iiiij*d*." He left directions for the sale of his two houses, that the purposes of his will might be fulfilled.

JAMES TURYN, M.A., adm. 12 June 1531, on d. of the last. Patron: William Warham, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, f. 405*a*.)

THOMAS CARDON, M.A., adm. 4 August 1534, on resig. of the last. Patron: Edmund Cranmer, Archdeacon. (Reg. Cranmer, f. 350*b*.)

Shortly after the institution of this Vicar the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, or *Liber Regis*, was compiled, in which, under "Westheth," it is stated that "Thomas Carden, vycar there, hath the one mesuage and di' acr' of lande to the yerely value of xxx*d*. In tythes predyall, personall obla'cons, and other spirituall profetts yerely ix*li*. iiiij*d*." Three years after accepting this benefice his patron, Archdeacon Edm. Cranmer, presented him to the vicarage of Lympne, which he held with Westhythe until 1553. For the next ten years

Westhythe had; probably, to look to Lympne for Church Services, there being no mention made of a separate incumbent.

HENRY WESTPHALINGE, adm. 3 September 1563, on d. of the last Vicar. Patron: Edm. Gheast, Bishop of Rochester and Archdeacon. (Reg. Parker, I., f. 362*a*.)

He succeeded Richard Keete, on the death of the latter, as Vicar of Lympne in June 1563, and in the following September was presented by the same patron to Westhythe. He held both benefices for more than twenty years. Soon after his institution here returns were required of all parishioners who were communicants, and of the number of those who were not. The result shews what a very small population the parish possessed at the time—1564:—

The parryshe of Westheithe :

Edwarde Webbe and his wife, one manseruante, and one Ladde Communicants, and ij vnable.

Rycharde Jhonson and his wyfe, one mayed seruante, Communicants, and one vnable.

Edwarde Rolfe and his wyfe, ij Ladds, one mayde seruant Communicants, and one vnable.

Jhon Ovell and his wyfe Communicants, and ij vnable.

Sum of all there is in this parryshe, iiij householdes, xiiij Communicants, and vj vnable.

Mr. Westphalinge resigned Lympne about a year before his death, but retained Westhythe to the last. He continued to reside at Lympne, and gave directions for his burial there. The new Vicar, Mr. Merick, was a witness to his will, dated 1 May 1585, as was also William Hawkins, Vicar of Postling, evidently an old and valued friend, to whom it was left to "pryce" all the testator's books and hand over the proceeds of the sale to John Knatchbull, "and I will that he shall bestowe the same vpon raiment for my sonne Henry Westphalinge, as he hath neede thereof." Testator appointed as the "Overseer" of his will James Stone, and bequeathed to him "for his paines, Sleaden's *Commentary*."

WILLIAM STACEY, M.A., inst. 23 March 1585-6, on d. of the last Incumbent. Patron: William Redman, Archdeacon. (Reg. Whitgift, I., f. 466a.)

In the autumn of 1586 he was instituted to the church of Upper Hardres, with the chapel of Stelling annexed, on the presentation of Richard Hardres, Esq., and retained the preferment till his death, in 1632. He also seems to have held Bonnington, 1611—1615; and Sevington, 1623-1624. Mr. Stacey was twice married—first, in 1587, to Mary Munday, of Barfreston, who was, perhaps, a daughter of the Rev. Nicholas Munday, Rector of that parish, and Vicar of Tilmanstone; and secondly, to Frances Johnson, of Smeeth. It is uncertain when he vacated Westhythe, but it must have been some little time before his successor's appointment, as the latter was presented by the Crown, *owing to lapse*.

WILLIAM MERICKE, or MERRICK, B.A., inst. 23 July 1595. Patron: Queen Elizabeth, by lapse. (*Ibid.*, II., f. 330a.)

In the summer of 1572 Mr. Merick was instituted to Thurnham with Aldington, on the presentation of Tho. Wotton, Esq., and was still Vicar there in 1583. Early in 1585 the vicarage of Lympne became vacant by the resignation of Mr. Westphalinge, and the patron, Archdeacon Redman, offered it to Mr. Merick, who was instituted therein 3 February 1584-5, and retained it till his death. Among the Harleian MSS. is a letter, dated at Lambeth, 10 July 1595, from Archbishop Whitgift to the Lord Keeper, recommending Mr. Merick for the vicarage of Westhythe, to which, within a fortnight, he was duly instituted, and which he held with Lympne for more than fourteen years. The parochial registers bear eloquent testimony to the heavy bereavements which befell this Vicar's household:—

Buried one Trinyty Sundaye [1603], Margaret Merick, wife of Willyam Merick.

Buried y^e 23 of March [1609-10], Elisabeth Merrick, daughter of William Merick.

Buryed y^e 30th of March [1610], Elener Merrick, daughter of William Merrick.

Buryed y^e 3^d of April [1610], Anne Merrick, wife of William Merrick of Lympne.

Buryed y^e first of May [1610], William Merrick, Vicare of Lympne.

His second wife was a Lympne lady, Anne Marten, whom he married in 1604.

JAMES HYRST, M.A., inst. 22 May 1610, on d. of the last. Patron: Charles Fotherby, Archdeacon. (Reg. Bancroft, f. 300*b*.)

After Mr. Merick's death Lympne and Westhythe were again held separately, and so continued until within the memory of persons still living. In November 1615 Hackington, or St. Stephen's, near Canterbury, fell vacant by the death of its Incumbent, when the patron, Archdeacon Fotherby, presented Mr. Hyrst to that vicarage, and he remained there until his death, in 1642.

BARNABAS POWNOLL, inst. 15 December 1615, on resig. of the last. Patron: Charles Fotherby, Archdeacon. (Reg. Abbot, I., f. 414*b*.)

Early in the year 1609 Mr. Pownoll had been instituted to the church of Charlton by Dover, on the presentation of Stephen Moyns, Esq., and he held that benefice until his death, in 1638. Within five years of his institution to Westhythe the church there suffered severely by fire, which is thus referred to in the Parish Register Transcripts for the year ending at Michaelmas 1620: "The Church is burnt downe, therefore noe Minister to subscribe." The fire, no doubt, destroyed the roof, and whatever other woodwork there was, leaving the bare walls, which are referred to in another note under the same year, 1620: "In the parrishe of Westbith there is noe Church, onely the walles of the Church remayne, therefore noe Minister to certefye this bill."

WILLIAM KENNETT, M.A., inst. 23 July 1629, on resig. of

the last. Patron: William Kingsley, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, III., f. 184*b*.)

Mr. Kennett, after holding this benefice four years, died about the time of the translation of Dr. Laud, Bishop of London, to the Metropolitan See of Canterbury. During the time he was Vicar the transcripts of the Westhythe register were signed by Thomas Kingsmill (until his resignation), and then by Richard Jaggard, Vicars of Lympne, the following note being appended: "Extracted out of the Register booke of Westhith kept by appoint^t at Lymmne. Richard Jaggard."

STEPHEN SACKETT, M.A., inst. 2 November 1633, on d. of the last. Patron: William Kingsley, Archdeacon. (Reg. Laud, f. 308*a*.)

Early in June 1632 Mr. Sackett was instituted to the vicarage of SS. Cosmus and Damianus, Blean, on the presentation of John Boys, Esq., and the Rev. John Sackett, S.T.B., Master of Eastbridge Hospital, Canterbury. Early in November of the following year, Archdeacon Kingsley presented him to Westhythe. This seems to have necessitated his resignation of Blean, to which, however, he was instituted a second time, in March 1634, on the presentation of the Rev. John Sackett, S.T.B., Master of Eastbridge Hospital. He held both benefices till his death, in 1679. He paid occasional visits to Westhythe, and in October 1663 performed three Christenings there, a fourth being taken by Mr. Hart, of Burmarsh. A little later a memorandum by Mr. Sackett occurs on one of the Transcripts, which presents a melancholy view of Church life in the district at that time:—

Burials in the parish we haue none, nor noe place of burying, or Marrying: our church defaced: Lymph, the parish to which we should resort for religious exercises, hauing noe Minister is seldome supplied by any, and our Register should be kept at Limbe Church.

Steph: Sackett.

Abraham Quilter, Churchwarden.

Ex^t 22^o Julij 1664.

WILLIAM COLEMAN, inst. 31 March 1679, on d. of the last. Patron: Samuel Parker, Archdeacon. (Reg. Sancerfoot, f. 377b.)

For the long term of half a century Mr. Coleman had for his patron an Archdeacon of Canterbury. In 1666 he was instituted to St. Clement's Vicarage, Sandwich, on the presentation of Dr. George Hall, Bishop of Chester, and Archdeacon of Canterbury. He held that benefice until 1677, and was presented, two years later, by Archdeacon Samuel Parker, to Westhythe, which he held for rather more than forty years, until the time of his death.

WILLIAM NEWTON, inst. 14 March 1719-20, on d. of the last. Patron: Thomas Green, Archdeacon. (Reg. Wake, I., f. 311a.)

He was born at Maidstone, where his ancestors had been settled for some generations. When more than thirty years of age he entered Holy Orders, partly on the advice of friends, among whom was Dr. White Kennett, afterwards Bishop of Peterborough. He soon obtained preferment, being presented to Wingham and Stodmarsh, in addition to Westhythe, in the diocese of Canterbury, and to the vicarage of Gillingham, in the county of Dorset. He is said to have obtained the last-named benefice on resigning Westhythe. His literary attainments were varied. Among his works were: *A Companion for the Lord's Day*, published in 1716; *The Life of Bishop Kennet*, 1730; *The History and Antiquities of Maidstone*, 1741; and several Sermons. He also assisted Mr. Hutchins, the Historian of Dorset, in his *History of Gillingham*. He died in the year 1744, at the age of about sixty, and was buried in his church of Wingham. His name appears on the eighth bell of that church, under the year 1720, when the entire peal was re-cast.

JOHN SACKETTE, M.A., inst. 14 June 1732, on cess. of the last. Patron: Samuel Lisle, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, II., f. 266b.)

Of Corpus Christi Coll., Cambridge; B.A. 1690; M.A.

1694. He was appointed to the cure of Folkestone in 1699. Three years later he married Mrs. Margaret Tempest, a lady of Patricksbourne, whose goodness of heart was so gratefully appreciated by the Rev. Henry Bilton, Rector of Cheriton, that at his decease, in 1743, he bequeathed to her the sum of £300, desiring her "to accept of the same as a Gratuity for the trouble and Care she has had of me." In November 1713 the Rev. Robert Daniel, the Rector of Hawkinge, died, and Archbishop Tenison conferred the vacant benefice on Mr. Sackette, who was instituted in the following January. In 1732 Archdeacon Lisle presented him to Westhythe; and in March 1746-7 Archbishop Potter conferred on him the Mastership of Eastbridge Hospital, Canterbury. All these preferments were held by him at the time of his death.

WILLIAM HOWDELL, B.A., inst. 13 April 1753, on d. of the last. Patron: John Head, Archdeacon. (Reg. Herring, f. 297a.)

Of St. John's Coll., Cambridge; B.A. 1748. He was ordained Deacon in December 1750, by the Hon. and Right Rev. Frederick Cornwallis, then Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, and subsequently Archbishop of Canterbury. He was ordained Priest in February 1752, by the Bishop of Peterborough. Westhythe appears to have been the only benefice which he held in the diocese of Canterbury, and his tenure of that is the longest on record—more than half a century. He died on the 1st December 1804, in his seventy-seventh year, at Canterbury. He was a special benefactor to that city, having left, among numerous other legacies, £500 to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, £100 to the Widows and Orphans of the Clergy in the diocese of Canterbury, and £100 to another local Charity which had been recently founded.

JAMES FOLDS, inst. 12 April 1805, on d. of the last. Patron: Houstonne Radcliffe, Archdeacon. (Reg. Sutton, f. 2.)

Mr. Folds was considerably advanced in years when he was instituted to Westhythe, having been ordained Deacon in September 1754, by Edmund Keene, Bishop of Chester; and Priest in July 1756, by Bishop Newcome of Llandaff. His early clerical life would thus seem to have been passed in the north-west of England, or Wales. In the year 1817 he is mentioned as holding the cure of Walmisley, an outlying district of Bolton, in the Chester diocese. His induction to Westhythe was performed by the patron himself, Dr. Houstonne Radcliffe, Archdeacon of Canterbury. Mr. Folds died in August 1820.

DANIEL PALMER, M.A., inst. 28 September 1820, on d. of the last. Patron: Houstonne Radcliffe, Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*, II., f. 54.)

The early part of Mr. Palmer's clerical life seems to have been passed in Ireland, where he was ordained Deacon in September 1791 by the Bishop of Ossory; and Priest in the following year, by the Bishop of Cork and Ross. In 1814 Mr. Palmer was licensed by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the curacy of Gillingham in Kent, the vicarage of which was one of his Grace's 'peculiar,' and was held by Dr. Houstonne Radcliffe, Archdeacon of Canterbury. Mr. Palmer's stipend was fixed at £90 per annum. Six years later his Vicar presented him to Westhythe. From time to time Mr. Palmer obtained licence to be non-resident, the latest occasion being on the 10th January 1833, when a licence was granted to him which was valid till the 31st December 1834. He is mentioned as still holding the benefice in the *Clerical Guide* for 1836. He was the last Vicar instituted to Westhythe as a separate benefice.

EDWIN BIRON, M.A., inst. 24 June 1840, to Lympne with Westhythe, on d. of James Bell, Vicar of Lympne. Patron: James Croft, Archdeacon. (Reg. Howley, f. 762.)

Shortly after the death of the Rev. James Bell, who had held the vicarage of Lympne for thirty-eight years, that benefice and Westhythe were united by an Order in Council,

dated the 22nd May 1840. To these united vicarages the Rev. Edwin Biron was now presented by the Venerable James Croft, Archdeacon of Canterbury. Mr. Biron graduated from Trinity Coll., Dublin; B.A. 1826; M.A. 1830. He was ordained both Deacon and Priest by the Hon. and Rt. Rev. Charles Lindsay, D.D., Bishop of Kildare, in the year 1827. In 1838 he was nominated by the Archdeacon of Canterbury to the Perpetual Curacy of Stodmarsh, which he held for nearly two years, when the same patron presented him to Lympe with Westhythe, which he retained till his death, in 1877. In the year 1854 the small rectory of Eastbridge, in Romney Marsh, fell vacant by the cession of the Rev. Frederick Thomas Scott, who had held it, by dispensation, with Hythe for about ten years. When Mr. Scott was presented to it the parish contained a population of sixteen persons, and the benefice was certified as worth £65 Os. 10½*d.* This rectory was now united to Lympe and Westhythe,* and Mr. Biron was presented and instituted therein by Archbishop Sumner, 1st June 1854. Mr. Biron's long tenure of office was marked by the building of a vicarage-house at Lympe, and by the restoration of the chancel of the church there.

GEORGE BOHUN COULCHER, M.A., inst. 20 March 1877, on d. of the last. Patron: Rt. Rev. Edw. Parry, as Archdeacon. (Inst. Book.)

Of Corpus Christi Coll., Cambridge; B.A. 1865; M.A. 1869. Deacon 1868; Priest 1869, by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Before becoming beneficed he held clerical appointments at St. John's, Tunbridge Wells; at Acton, Middlesex; and at St. Mary's, Dover. On the decease of Mr. Biron he was presented to the united vicarages of Lympe and Westhythe by his former Rector at Acton, who was now Archdeacon of Canterbury and Bishop Suffragan of Dover. After a vicariate of nearly five and a half years he was promoted by Archbishop Tate to the new

* Eastbridge was severed from Lympe and Westhythe by an Order in Council, dated 18 November 1867.

vicarage of St. Michael and All Angels, Maidstone, which he held until 1902, when he resigned. He subsequently went to reside at Ipswich, where he regularly assisted in the services at the church of St. Mary-le-Tower until within a few weeks of his decease, which occurred on the 23rd December 1912. While at Lympne Mr. Coulcher effected a thorough restoration of its early Norman church, especially of the tower, nave, north aisle, and porch, under the professional guidance of Mr. J. P. St. Aubyn, in 1878—80. He also enlarged and improved the vicarage-house.

HENRY BRYDGES BIRON, B.A., inst. 13 September 1882, on cess. of the last. Patron: Rt. Rev. Edw. Parry, as Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*)

After leaving the King's School, Canterbury, Mr. Biron entered at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, from which he graduated B.A. in 1858. He was ordained in the following year, and licensed to the curacy of Mersham, where he remained nine years. His other clerical appointments, previous to becoming beneficed, were at Biddenden, 1868—78, and at Harbledown, 1878—82. In the last-mentioned year, on the promotion of Mr. Coulcher to St. Michael's, Maidstone, he was presented by Dr. Parry to the united vicarages of Lympne and Westhythe, which had been held by his father, the Rev. Edwin Biron, from 1840 to 1877. Although Mr. Biron succeeded to a newly-restored church at Lympne, he found many opportunities of supplying what was needed in the ornaments and furniture of the fabric, in all which he was cordially supported by his appreciative parishioners. Among many such details may be mentioned the fixing of a reredos of Caen stone, with dark marble shafts, and panels filled with mosaic work. Also the erection of new altar-rails, and the introduction of standard lamps for the better lighting of the chancel. An organ was subsequently set up, which greatly contributed to the more efficient rendering of the musical portions of the services. Still later the area of the churchyard was extended by the addition of a piece of ground, which was consecrated on the 15th October 1908

by Dr. Walsh, Bishop of Dover, who at the same time dedicated a lych gate, erected at the entrance to the churchyard, the gift of Mrs. Tennant of Lympne Castle. After about thirty years of conscientious work as Vicar, Mr. Biron resigned his parochial charges, very much to the regret of his parishioners, among whom his memory will long be cherished with feelings of affection. On leaving the vicarage he went to reside near Canterbury, the scene of his school life and cricket achievements, for it may be mentioned that, having devoted much of his leisure time in early years to that pursuit, he so greatly excelled as to merit the coveted distinction of being selected to play for Kent in County matches during the Canterbury cricket week.

GILBERT MAXWELL SCOTT, M.A., inst. 7 October 1912, on resig. of the last. Patron: Rt. Rev. Will. Walsh, as Archdeacon. (*Ibid.*)

Of Jesus Coll., Oxford; B.A. 1885; M.A. 1889. Also of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, 1885. Deacon 1886, and Priest 1887, by the Bishop of Oxford. He served the curacy of St. John the Evangelist at Reading, 1886-92, and in the latter year was instituted to the vicarage of Nailsworth, in the diocese of Gloucester, which he held until 1904. After being on the staff at the College of St. Saviour, Southwark, from 1905 to 1908, he was appointed Organizing Secretary of the C. E. T. S. for the Dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester. In February 1913 a Grant of £50 was made towards the improvement of Lympne Vicarage by the Diocesan Church Building Society.