

ST. MARY'S, WESTENHANGER.

(CHURCH DESTROYED.)

RECTORS AND PATRONS.

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THE Parish Church of Westenhanger is said to have stood at a little distance westward of the House, and of the drawbridge at the entrance to it, between the latter and the great barn, which, report says, was partly built out of the ruins of it.

In the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* of P. Nicholas IV., c. 1291, the Church of "Ostringhangre" is valued at £4 13s. 4d. In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of K. Henry VIII., 1535-6, the net value is given at £7 12s. 6d.

The old Church was from early times the recipient of numerous offerings from dutiful sons and daughters, foremost among them being, naturally, members of the family which owned Westenhanger House. Thus Sir John Kiriell, 1376, left 100 marks and 100s. for memorial services, besides 40s. to "the work" of the Church. Lady Lettice Keryel, 1408, left to the High Altar, 6s. 8d. To "the work and fabric" of the church three cows; white linen cloth of sufficient quantity, marked with a red cross; and four torches of the value of 5s. each. Lady Elizabeth Keryall, 1419, left a missal and a vestment. And Lady Cicely Kyriell, 1472, bequeathed 40s. for "forgotten tithes." Other parishioners left various money bequests for "tithes forgotten" and for the "fabric" of the church. Towards the latter object an outsider, Richard Keteham, of Monks Horton, 1480, left 6s. 8d., and towards the reparation of the chancel Thomas Marche of Saltwood, 1506, bequeathed the sum of 13s. 4d. The following lights are specified as receiving bequests: St. Mary's, St. Christopher's, St. Anthony's, Holy Cross,

and those of St. George and St. John. Andrew Hawarden, 1511, left for a taper to burn before Our Lady there, 20s. yearly; also for stayning of cloths for our Lady's altar in the church 16s. 8d.; also for the foundation of a lamp perpetual to burn before the Sacrament there, 20s., and his round chippechest to be occupied by the goods of the church so long as it would last.\*

Dr. Harris speaks of a chapel 33 feet long and 17 feet wide, with curious carved stonework and richly decorated, which was erected by Sir Edward Poynings, K.G., and Controller of the King's Household, in the 12th year of the reign of King Henry VIII.† This was evidently identical with the *church* said by Mr. Rickman to have been built in 1520,‡ as recorded by an inscription, formerly at Westenhanger, preserved in Stukeley's *Itinerarium Curiosum*.

The introduction of this domestic chapel must have largely contributed, with other circumstances, to bring about the gradual disuse of the original Parish Church, and to lead to the fusion of the parish with that of Stanford, which appears to have taken place shortly before the middle of the sixteenth century.

The Church of Stanford once contained what seems to have been the sole remaining relic of Westenhanger Church—the ancient font, which was rescued and conveyed thither for further use and preservation. For some generations these purposes were fulfilled; but no trace of this interesting memorial can now be discovered, notwithstanding diligent inquiries have been made by the present Rector, the Rev. Herbert F. Smith, M.A. The nave of Stanford Church was entirely rebuilt about the year 1846, and it is thought that the old font was then removed and its place taken by the one now in use, which is of modern workmanship.

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\* See *Arch. Cant.*, Extra Vol., p. 354.

† *History of Kent*, 1719, p. 295.

‡ *Gothic Architecture*, 7th edit., p. 317.

## RECTORS AND PATRONS.

RALPH DE ALEGATE, presented 7 March 1274-5. Patron: King Edward I. (Pat. 3 Edw. I., m. 29.)

He was presented to the Church of "Ostringhangere" by the Crown owing to the custody of the lands and heirs of Nicholas de Crioll, deceased, who held of the Sovereign *in capite*, being in the King's hands.

In 1279 Peter de Trye also had letters of presentation to this benefice from the Crown, but the anticipated voidance did not occur, and they were not acted on.

WALTER DE TRAYLY, adm. 12 May 1282, on resig. of the last. Patron: Sir Nicholas de Criell. (Reg. Peckham, f. 52b.)

This Rector may have been connected with the family of the same name living at St. Paul's Cray, and owning property there, in the last quarter of the thirteenth century, two of whom were called "Walter."\*

THOMAS TREWEMAN, adm. 27 April 1312. Patron: Sir Ralph le Savage, Kt. (Reg. Winchelsey, f. 57.)

MILO de CHICHESTER, inst. 18 May 1327. Patron: Sir Ralph le Savage, Kt. (Reg. Reynolds, f. 265b.)

HUGH DE STANFORD, inst. 4 March 1327-8. Patron: Sir Ralph Savage, Kt. (Ch. Ch. Cant., Reg. Q., f. 137, and Scrap Book, II., p. 121.)

He was the son of Robert Aleyn of Stanford, and was an Acolyte when instituted to the benefice. He was ordained Sub-deacon, on the title of his Church of "Ostringhangre," on Saturday, 19 March 1327-8, by Peter, Bishop of Corbavia, acting for the Prior and Chapter of Christ Church, Canterbury, the See being then vacant. Two months later he obtained licence to be non-resident until the following Michaelmas for the purpose of pursuing his studies.

\* Thorpe, *Registrum Rossense*, p. 269.

During his term of office the chantry in the chapel of St. Thomas, on the north side of the Church of "Ostryng-hangre," was endowed by John Cryel with a messuage, forty-five acres of arable land, and six acres of pasture, with appurtenances, for the support of a Chaplain to celebrate daily for the good estate of the King and his progenitors, and of the said John and his ancestors. The licence for this purpose was granted 23 June 1345.\*

After an incumbency of more than twenty years Hugh de Stanford resigned for the chaplaincy of Craythorne, or Crauthorne, in the parish of Hope All Saints, to which he was admitted 13 September 1349. On the following day he was instituted Rector of "Demechirch" (Dymchurch), which he held for several years.

HENRY DE CUMPTONE, *or* COMPTON, "provided" 12 March 1348-9, on resig. of the last. (Papal Letters, vol. iii., p. 273.)

He was previously Chantry Priest of St. Thomas's Chapel in Westenhanger Church, and is perhaps referred to under the entry "de Henrico persona de Westingangre" in the assessment to knight the Black Prince, in the year 1346.† He was present, as Rector, at an inquisition held 24 May 1349 respecting a vacancy which had occurred in the Church of Midley. On 6 July following he had the King's letters of presentation to the vicarage of Aldington, to which he was instituted ten days later. His tenure of that vicarage could not have been a very long one, as Symon Balynden is mentioned as *resigning* it in 1356-7, and as Compton returned to Westenhanger, it looks as if they effected an exchange of benefices.

SYMON BALYNDENN, *or* BALEDOUN, mentioned in September 1349. (Ch. Ch. Cant., Scrap Books, I., 27; II., 151.)

He is mentioned on three occasions as attending inquisitions held respecting benefices which had become vacant by

\* Pat. 19 Edw. III., p. 1, m. 4.

† Arch. Cant., X., 127.

the death of their incumbents during the continuance of the grievous plague commonly known as the "Black Death." The date of his leaving Westenhanger for Aldington has not been discovered, but he resigned the latter early in 1357.\*

HENRY DE COMPTON, ? exch. with the last, 1349—1357.

It has not been ascertained how long he held the vicarage of Aldington, but that he came back to Westenhanger is placed beyond a doubt by the fact that he subsequently exchanged the latter for the vicarage of East Farleigh.

WILLIAM BONSERGEANT, exch. with the last, 21 July 1371. Patron: Sir John Kryel, sen., Kt., for this turn. (Reg. Whittlesey, f. 86.)

He held East Farleigh for six years and a half before exchanging for Westenhanger. After retaining the latter rather more than a year he again effected an exchange for the perpetual chantry of "Crowethorn," where he died in 1375.

JOHN MEISY, exch. with the last, 27 September 1372. Patron: John de Kyriel, son of Sir Nicholas Kyriel, Kt., for this turn. (Reg. Whittlesey, f. 91*b*.)

He was of "Willeamesthorp," and was admitted Rector of Monks Horton in September 1349. After eight years he exchanged for Blackmanstone. In 1366 he exchanged again for "Crowethorne," and six years later a third exchange brought him to Westenhanger, which he held for about a twelvemonth.

THOMAS DE MORTON, adm. 22 September 1373. Patron: Sir John de Kyryel, Kt., for this turn. (Reg. Whittlesey, f. 95.)

Archbishop Whittlesey died a few months after Morton's appointment, and the latter, with the rest of the clergy of

\* Reg. Islip, f. 275.

the deanery of "Lymene," received a citation to appear in person at Canterbury on Saturday next after the festival of the Apostles Peter and Paul, 1374, to pay canonical obedience to the Prior and Chapter, the guardians of the spiritualities of the See, when vacant.

This Rector's patron, Sir John Kiriel, by his will dated 1 December 1376, and proved 16 February following, left 40s. to "the work of the Church of Ostringhangre," in addition to 100 marks, and 100s. for religious services in the same church and that of Walmer. He also left 40s. for distribution to the poor of "Ostringhangre" on the festival of the Assumption of the B.V.M. within a year of his burial, and a similar amount for the same purpose on the Nativity of St. John Baptist. He likewise left money bequests to twelve other churches, including 10s. to that of Stanford.\* Sir Nicholas Cryel, Kt., by his will dated 25 September 1379, left among other charitable bequests the sum of 40s. for distribution among the poor of "Ostrynghangre," and made this further provision: *Item lego ad celebrandum pro anima unius hominis occisi apud Swynesfeldeshothe, x marcas.*†

JOHN SARE, or SARRE, adm. 12 January 1383-4. Patron: Leticia, widow of Sir John Kyriell, Kt. (Reg. Courtenay, f. 253.)

In March 1397 an indult was obtained by him that his confessor might grant him plenary remission as often as he pleased.‡

STEPHEN MONYNDEN, adm. 10 July 1404, on resig. of the last. Patron: Leticia, widow of Sir John Cryel, sen., Kt. (Reg. Arundel, I., f. 297.)

His patroness died early in 1409 during his term of office, having among other bequests left to "the work and fabric of the church of Ostynghangre" three cows, and directed that ten "Torchys," value 5s. apiece, should, after being

\* Reg. Sudbury, f. 96.

† *Ibid.*, f. 102.

‡ Papal Letters, vol. v., p. 40.

used at a specified service, be thus distributed: four to the parish church of Ostynghanger, three to Langdon Abbey, and three to the parish church of Walmer.

After holding the benefice nearly nine years Monynden effected an exchange with his successor for St. Andrew's, Huntingdon. He was legatee under the will, dated 1420, of John Brikliworth, of Sandwich, to the amount of 20s., for tithes forgotten to be paid him when he was Rector of "Westynghanger."\*

EDMUND WODEHOUS, exch. with the last, 21 March 1412-13. Patrons: The feoffees of William Keryell, for this turn. (Reg. Arundel, II., f. 66b.)

On 8 June 1419 he served on a Commission consisting of five rectors, two vicars and two laymen, who were appointed to inquire respecting a vacancy in the Hospital of SS. Stephen and Thomas, Martyrs, at Romney. They found that the presentee, Thomas Morton, was of good life and honest conversation, had first tonsure, was twenty-two years of age, and was beneficed elsewhere. He was duly admitted the following day. Edmund Wodehous exchanged for Ham, which he held until 1423, when he again made an exchange for Walcomstowe (Walthamstow) in the London diocese, where he died three years later.

JOHN ALEYN, exch. with the last, 5 May 1421. Patrons: William Chayne, and others, for this turn. (Reg. Chichele, f. 125b.)

While Rector of Ham a licence was granted to him *ad celebrandum unum annuale*. After leaving Westenhanger he became Vicar of Sybertyswelde, which he held until his death in 1426.

RICHARD BRYAN, inst. 1 February 1424-5. Patron: Sir Thomas Keryel, Kt. (Reg. Chichele, f. 154b.)

\* Reg. Chichele, I., f. 338.

RICHARD WOLVEY, adm. 9 March 1444-5. Patron: Sir Thomas Kyryell, Kt. (Reg. Stafford, f. 82.)

It seems doubtful if he ever discharged the duties of rector, as Thomas Laurence is said to have been admitted on the death of Richard Bryame.

THOMAS LAURENCE, adm. 9 May 1447, on d. of Richard Bryame. Patron: Sir Thomas Kyryell, Kt. (Reg. Stafford, f. 93.)

He is mentioned in the will of Dame Cicely Kyriell, 1472, who among many other bequests left 40s. apiece to the rectors of "Westinganger" and Spaxton, for tithes forgotten on her own part and that of her husbands. She also left her tenement "called Brokehust in Westingangre," which she purchased of John Harryes, to Agnes Lukyn on certain conditions, failing which, her executors were instructed to sell the property and distribute the proceeds *super emendacione turpium et debilitum viarum in Westingangre*.\*

LEONARD BLIKNYNG, or BLICLYNGE, adm. 25 September 1476, on d. of the last. Patron: John Keryell, Esq. (Reg. Bouchier, f. 114.)

He retained the benefice rather less than two years. Subsequently he moved into the Chichester diocese, where he held for a short time the rectory of Elsted.

THOMAS TOULLARGE, adm. 28 July 1478, on resig. of the last. Patron: John Kyriell, sen., Esq. (Reg. Bouchier, f. 119.)

During the early part of this Rector's incumbency a memorial service was annually held for William Smith, a parishioner, who directed that his interment should take place in the churchyard of St. Mary of Ostynghanger, and made provision for an obit to be kept for him in the said church for fourteen years.

\* P.C.C., 9, Wattys.



JOHN WHYTE, mentioned in 1496-7. (Reg. Morton, II., f. 162.)

The date and circumstances of his appointment have not been discovered, but he resigned the benefice for the chantry of St. Stephen, in the Church of Selling, near Faversham, to which he was admitted 19 January 1496-7, on the presentation of John Langley, gent.

DAVID FLEMING, adm. 26 January 1496-7, on resig. of the last. Patron: Sir Edw. Porynges, Kt. (Reg. Morton, II., f. 162.)

After holding Westenhanger about twelve years he was presented to the vicarage of the adjoining parish of Lympne, apparently on the death of Nicholas Farneley, in 1509, and he retained both benefices until his decease in 1512.

WILLIAM WYGHMAN, adm. 1 December 1512, on d. of the last. Patron: Sir Edward Porynges, Kt. (Reg. Warham, f. 347b.)

He was Rector of St. Giles, Winchelsea, before being beneficed in the Canterbury diocese. Five years after obtaining Westenhanger he was presented by the Master and Brethren of the Maison Dieu, Dover, to their vicarage of Sellinge, which had fallen vacant by the death of Thomas Peniston.

WILLIAM GRENE, mentioned only in connection with his successor's appointment. (Reg. Warham, f. 379b.)

He also seems to have resigned for Sellinge, where he died about the beginning of the year 1526.

WILLIAM LAMBERT, *or* LAMBARDE, adm. 21 December 1523, on resig. of the last. Patron: Edward Thwates, executor of Sir Edw. Porynges, Kt., deceased. (Reg. Warham, f. 379b.)

The mandate for his induction was directed to Masters John Webbe, Vicar of Elham, and Robert Sympton, Rector of Monks Horton.

An entry in one of the Archdeacon's Visitation Books states that "William Lambarte, Rector of Oystenhanger," appeared at the General Chapter held on Tuesday, 26 April 1541, in the Parish Church of Bylsyngton, and refused to pay the procurations due, whereupon he was pronounced contumacious. He was a witness to the will, proved 26 April 1542, of Thomas Smythe of "Ostringhanger." Very shortly after this, being no longer required to conduct the services in the Parish Church, which was now suffered to fall into decay, he was pensioned off with a life annuity of £6, in lieu of the tithes which he had received hitherto.

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THOMAS EATON, M.A., inst. 29 June 1636, on d. of the last incumbent. Patron: King Charles I. (Reg. Laud, f. 317b.)

He seems to be identical with one of the same names who matriculated from Christ Church, Oxford, in July 1624, at the age of nineteen. He graduated B.A. in 1627, and M.A. in 1630. Two years later he was incorporated at Cambridge.

For some four years after his appointment to Westenhanger he was cited, as usual, to appear at the Archidiaconal Visitations, although his Church for twenty years before—and as many after—is described as "ecclesia desolata" and "dilapidata."

One of the manuscripts in the British Museum contains an Order to stay proceedings for tithes from Westenhanger Park, claimed by Mr. Eaton, in 1637.\*

Either he or a namesake held the vicarage of Maxey, Northants, from 1645 to 1649, or later.

This last-mentioned Rector of Westenhanger comes into view on the eve of a troubled period, and the references to him are few and uncertain.

\* Harl. Ch. 75, F. 14.