Six years ago (1928) a vast quantity of ancient documents relating to the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon of Canterbury was transferred from the chamber over the great gate, leading to the precincts of the Cathedral, to the Chapter Library. An inventory of these records, compiled by the present writer, was printed in Arch. Cant., XLI, in which the statement was made that the most important section is that which comprises the Visitation-books, for the years 1499 to 1541. These books were in a very frail condition when brought into the library, having suffered much damage in former days, from damp. Indeed some of them could scarcely be handled without danger of further destruction. During the past two years, however, their leaves have been sized, the margins mended, and they have been bound in six volumes. The work, which was done in the library by a Canterbury bookbinder, requires much skill and patience, and, necessarily, is expensive, but was made possible by a liberal grant from the Council of the “Friends of the Cathedral”.

As a sample of the information to be obtained from these books, I now offer to the members of our Society a transcript, or rather, a translation, for the original is in Latin, of the Visitation-book for the year 1502. I have chosen this year because the proceedings happen to be recorded somewhat more fully than in other years, and the script is clearer. In 1502 Henry VII was King of England, Henry Dene, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Hugh Penthwyn, Archdeacon. Of Penthwyn little is known; except that he was a doctor of laws of Cambridge University, that he was collated to the Archdeaconry by Archbishop Morton in 1495, having been previously rector of Eynsford in Kent, and Barking in Essex, and that he died August 6th, 1504, and
was buried in Lambeth Church. Dr. Penthwyn did not conduct his Visitation in person but delegated the duty to his official, one Master Nicholas Willesford, whose name I have been unable to find in the Registers of the See.

The official visited the eleven rural deaneries in turn, beginning with the Deanery of Canterbury on the 9th of September, and ending at Elham on the 27th of the same month.

The total number of churches subject to the Jurisdiction of the Archdeacon was 219, and from these the clergy, beneficed and unbeneﬁced, the wardens and two or more parishioners were summoned.

In each deanery, however—with the exception of Sittingbourne—there were parishes which were exempt from the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon, and amenable only to that of the Archbishop. These exemptions probably had their origin in the fact that the churches were in the Archbishop’s collation, and in some of the parishes there was an archiepiscopal manor or residence.

In all there were no less than fifty-eight of these exempt churches in the diocese—their names will be found at the end of the proceedings in each deanery. It is worthy of notice that at this period the Rural Deans—or Deans of Christianity as they were then called—were elected at the Visitation—presumably by the beneﬁced clergy then present. A single instance only occurs in the year 1502, namely the election of the dean of Bridge; but the entry “N or M eligitur in decanum” is found frequently in the books of subsequent years.

It is also of interest to note what churches, long since derelict, were at this period in use.

Thus in the Deanery of Canterbury, St. Mary de Castro and St. Michael are represented, but no mention is made of the churches of St. Mary Queningate, St. Edmund and St. John, from which we may infer that already they had ceased to exist, or at any rate to be used.

1 Morton’s Reg., ff. 156b, 159b and Le Neve’s Fasti Eccl. Ang.
2 See Dr. Irene Churchill’s Canterbury Administration, Vol. I, p. 83.
In the Deanery of Lymne the Curates of Midley, Weston-hanger and Westhithe appear, on the other hand no one appeared for Blackmanstone, Eastbridge and Orgarswick, though the Church of Blackmanstone must have been in existence, since in 1507 the Rector was “presented” for not saying mass.

In Ospringe Deanery, Stone next Faversham is represented by Curate, Warden and one Parishioner. More than half of the churches in the Archdeacon’s jurisdiction were appropriated to religious houses, and about three-fourths of them were served by stipendiary priests; nor was this state of things confined to the appropriated churches, many of the best endowed rectories being served in the same way.

The Chaplains mentioned in the returns are perhaps less numerous than one might expect. In thirty-one churches there were either one or two, at St. Clement’s Sandwich three, at Faversham five, the total number being forty-nine.

The “Presentments” (in latin comperta et detecta) may be classified as follows:

Neglect to repair the fabric, furniture and vestments of the church, the fences of the churchyard, and the glebe house is reported from:

Bearsted
Brabourne
Burmash
Canterbury,
   St. Mary Bredman
Chillenden
Hastingleigh
Lymne
Minster in Thanet
Otham

Petham
Rodmersham
Seasalter
Sevington (many defects)
Stodmarsh
Swingfield
Tenterden (a new vestry required)
Willesborough
Wootton

Neglect to contribute to church funds, or unlawfully retaining the same:

Chart Little
Lenham
Milton (Regis)

Sandwich, St. Peter’s
Sittingbourne
Whitstable
Wrangles about pews:

Bearsted         Hawkhurst
Boughton Monchelsea

Defamation of character, and sexual immorality:

Canterbury, St. George       St. John, Margate
Fordwich                    Smarden
Hawkhurst                    Whitstable
St. Laurence, Thanet

Charges against the moral character of the clergy are very few. At Great Chart the Curate is accused of habitual intoxication, an Augustinian Friar of Canterbury is suspected of incontinency, and a Chantry Priest of Waltham is accused of defaming the parishioners and keeping a tavern in his chantry-house, but that is about all.

The words *omnia bene* often occur, but it is not easy to determine on what principle they were inserted since they are placed against the names of parishes where complaints were made of serious defects, e.g. see Sevington and Tenterden, and are omitted in others where no presentments were made.

In addition to the *Comperta et detecta* contained in the Visitation-book of 1502, others, written on loose scraps of paper, were found between its leaves; these, since they may not all belong to the above year have been placed in an Appendix.

Abbreviations used:

P.  = Appropriator (*proprietarius*).
R.  = Rector.
V.  = Vicar.
Cur. = Curate.
Cap. = Chaplain (*capellanus*).
War. = Wardens.
Par. = Parishioners.

The use of square brackets denotes that what is placed within them is from other sources than the "Visitation" of 1502.
DEANERY OF CANTERBURY.

Visitation held in the parish church of Holy Cross, Westgate, on Friday the ninth day of September, A.D. 1502, by the venerable Master Richard Willesford, LL.B., official of the lord Archdeacon of Canterbury.


   Sir Jas. Comharme, Cur.

3. All Saints. Sir Rog. Squier, R.
   War. Mr. Joh. Colman, Will. Giern.
   Par. Mr. Richardson, Tho. Waynflete, Will. Prior.

   They shall exhibit an inventory of church goods, and an account within three weeks.

5. St. Mary de Castro. Mr. Will. Mody, R.
   War. Tho. Forte.
   Par. Tho. Hardyng, Tho. Marloo.1

6. St. Mary de Bredyn. Brother John Fantaung, V.
   Par. Jas. Colman (he did not appear), Rob. Hampar.

7. St. Margaret. Mr. Tho. Water, R.

1 [Possibly an ancestor of Christopher Marlow, the poet and dramatist.]
8. St. Mary de Bredman. Sir Rob. Sampole, R.
The chancel roof is much out of repair, and the glass of the windows of the chancel are broken.

9. St. Andrew. Sir Desiderius Bargier, R.
   War. Tho. Fook, Rob. Sare.

10. St. Mary Magdalene. Sir Hen. Wright, R.
    Sir Tho. Swan, Cur.

11. St. George. Mr. Joh. Williams, R.
    Compertum est quod Agnes Uxor, Johis Burgeaunt de eadem parochia est communis pronuba tam viris ecclesiasticis quam secularibus.
    Item quod quedam Agnes Egerden, notatur super incontinentiam cum diversis personis, et presertim cum quodam fratre Augustinensi.


    Sir Will. Kempe, V.
    Par. Hamo Lamberhurst, Alan Petteley.

    War. Will. Tynney, Will. Lambe.

    They shall exhibit an account on St. Jerome’s day (Sept. 30) in the Poor Priests’ Hospital.
   Sir Rob. Cambridge, Cur.
   War. John Chese.
   The wardens exhibited an inventory last September.
   Omnia bene.

   Sir Tho. Palden, Cur.
   They exhibited an inventory last September.
   The chancel is not ceiled, and the timber of the roof is rotten
   and defective, through the negligence of the Prior of St.
   Gregory, Canterbury.
   Alice Shilling is a common defamer of her neighbours.

   Par. Will. Bownde.


20. SS. Cosmas and Damian (Blean). Mr. Rog. Downvile, R.
   They exhibit an inventory. Omnia bene.


   Hikson, V.
   Sir Thomas . . , Chap.
   May (did not appear).
23. Fordwich. [Abbot and C. of St. Austin, Cant. P.] Sir Will. Richardson, R.  
   Sir Chris. Lewyn, Cur.  
Detegunt quemdam Ricardum Roche de eadem parochia suspiciose tenet in domo sua quamdam Johannan relictam Edwardi Hogeson.  
They have exhibited an inventory.  
[Churches exempt from the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon SS. Alphege, Martin, Nicholas, Harbledown.]

DEANERY OF LYMPNE.

Visitation held in the parish church of Mersham on Monday the 12th day of September, A.D. 1502.

1. Mersham. Sir Ric. Preston, R.  
   Par. Tho. Broode, Joseph Fagge.

   Sir Nic. Relfe, Chap.  
   Par. (None).  
The lead of the roof of the Nave of the church is faulty. Omnia bene.

The wall of the chancel is out of repair; they have to repair it before Easter, under pain of a fine of ten shillings. Omnia bene.
   Sir Rob. Cornwall, Cur.
   Par. Joh. Stoone.

5. Bilsington. [Prior and Con. of the same P.]
   The Prior is rector there.
   Par. Olynder.
   Omnia bene.

   Par. Will. Barnes.
   Omnia bene.

   (No wardens or parishioners.)

   Sir Rog. Worthington, Chap.
   Omnia bene.

   Par. John Pix.

    Par. Nic. Holmes.
    Omnia bene.

11. Snavne. [Abbot and C. of St. Austin, Cant. P.]
    Sir Tho. Helpe, R.
    Par. Joh. Lossingham.
    Omnia bene.
12. Willesborough. [Abbot and Con. of St. Austin, Cant. P.]
   [The Vicar appeared but his name is not given. Ric.
   Genn was instituted to the Vicarage 1482 Bourchier's
   Reg., f. 131b, I have found no further entry in the
   registers at Lambeth between the above date and
   that of the Visitation.]

   Sir Denys, Chap.

   The case (canopeum) in which the body of Christ is placed
   is torn.

   The churchyard is not properly fenced.

   The defects to be made good before Easter, under pain of
   five shillings.

13. Snargate. Sir Ric. Wicherley, R.

    Rob. Abowre has not paid anything towards the fencing of
    the churchyard for six years.

    Omnia bene.

    Jas. Stansfield, Cur. (he did not appear).

    Omnia bene.

15. Kenarton (Kenardington).
    Sir Geo. . . . (blank), Cur.

    Omnia bene.

    R . . . (blank). [Roger Church, Dene Reg., f. 170b.]

    War. Will. Leden, Augustine Godfrey.

    They have no curate to serve the cure.

    Omnia bene!
Par. Rob. Trewman.

Omnia bene.

Par. Joseph Coppe.
Certain vestments belonging to the said church are unwearable because they are in rags.
There is a lack of surplices, the only one they have is torn.
They have no processional book.
Neither font nor chrism is kept under lock and key.
The roof of the nave is out of repair.
The wall (paries) of le rode lofte, is not joined to the roof of the chancel (cooperatorio cancelli), through which defect dust and other unbecoming things fall down into the church.
The pavement in the chancel is broken and has been for some years in that state.
The glazing of the windows of the chancel is faulty.
The churchyard is not duly fenced.
The font is cracked, so that it will not hold water.
The defects are to be made good before Easter under pain of forty shillings.
Omnia bene!

War. Rob. Fordeman.
Par. Ric. Philip.

21. Blackmanstone (blank). [In the Visitation of 1507 the R. Sir Robert, is presented for not celebrating mass.]
22. Shadoxhurst. Sir Rob. Swan, R.
   Omnia bene.

23. Hoope (Hope). [Master of Domus Dei, Dover, P.]
   Omnia bene.

24. Hinxhull.
   Sir Joh. Lancastre, Cur.
   Par. Rob. Gaseley.

25. Middeley (blank). [In the Visitation of 1507 the Rector
   was Sir William, non-resident, and the Curate, Sir
   Tho. Young.]

   Sir Will. Doble, Cur.

27. Orgarswith (blank). [In Visitation of 1507 Mr. Will.
   Warde (non-resident) was the Rector.]

28. Estbrigge (blank). [In Visitation of 1507 the Rector is
   Mr. Ric. Willesford.]

29. Westhithe. [Archdeacon of Cant. P.]
   Sir Will. Martyn, Cur.
   Omnia bene.

30. Ebbeney.
   Sir Joh. Mounson, Cur.
31. Old Romney.
   Sir John . . . (blank). [John Frankeleyn, B.A. was
   admitted to the Rectory 21 Nov., 1492. Morton's
   Reg'. 2, f. 145a.]
   Omnia bene.

   [Exempt churches, Aldington, Smeeth, Newchurch, Wood-
   church, Wittersham, Ivychurch, Romney New, Lydd,
   Fairfield.]

   DEANERY OF CHARING.

   Visitation held in the parish church of Smarden on
   tuesday, the 13th day of September in the aforesaid year.

1. Smarden.
   Sir Joh. Chamber, Cur.
   Johanna Fowle notatur quod est communis meretrix et
   super crimen provocatio . . . ? erga prox' apud Assheford.

2. Assheford. [The vicar appeared but his name is not given.
   Master Hugh Hope was admitted 28 Nov., 1501.
   Dene Reg. 169b.]
   Sir Humfrey, Sir Christopher, Cap.
   Omnia bene.

3. Chart Little. [The curate appeared, name not given.]
   They detect that the Rector is bound to find a surplice for
   himself.

4. Hothefeld.
   Sir Joh. Wright, R.
   Omnia bene.
5. Halden.
   Mr. Hugh Hoope, R.
   Sir Will. Hendy, Cur.
   Omnium bene.

6. Tenterden. [Abbot and C. of St. Austin, Cant. P.]
   Mr. (Peter) Marshall, V.
   Sir Will. Cock, cap.

The copes, vestments, books, and other goods of the church
aforesaid, are in bad condition through lack of a good place
to keep them in; wherefore the parishioners and wardens
say that a vestry should be provided for the safe custody
of the said ornaments, according to the ordinal, and that
such vestry should be built and newly erected at the eastern
end of the chancel of blessed Mary, which is annexed to the
aforesaid church.

The roof of the chancel of St. Katherine, the Virgin, is very
weak and requires to be renewed with shingles.

The doors of shops and stalls on the south side of the church-
yard in which business is carried on, open on the said church-
yard and cause inconvenience and loss to the said church
and churchyard.

The pond on the west side of the churchyard, near the path
leading from the church to Boroughstyle lies open and
unfenced, so that pigs enter the churchyard daily, and
graze there.

Omnia bene!

7. Sandeherst.
   Rector there . . (blank).
   Par. Edw. Bechyng.

Omnia bene.

8. Frytinden.
   Sir Walter Ketelisden, R.
   Sir Rob. Phipp, Cap.
   Sir Tho. Ediale, V.
   Sir Will Hunter and Sir Martin Rayner, Cap.
   Omnia bene.

10. Rolvinden. [Master of Cobham Coll., P.]
    Sir Tho. Denny, V.
    The roof of the chancel is not duly repaired with shingles, through the negligence of the rector.
    Omnia bene.

11. Hawkherst. [Abbot and C. of Battle, P.]
    Sir Rob. Sampole, Cur.
    Will. Ele . . . ? is reported (notatur) for having in an unseemly way, and contrary to good manners, dragged the wife of Rob. Tryer of Benynden, out of a seat in the church, and after doing so maliciously threw her to the ground.
    Ric. Lye of Hawkherst is accused of a similar assault on the wife of Will. Birchtett.
    Rob. Frenche is reported for ejecting at the time of vespers the wives of two honest men from the seats appropriated to them, with such violence that the said church might have suffered pollution.
    Item quod Margareta Swytefer, Margeria Barnefeld, Juliana Whateman de Haukherst notatur super communi pronubacia.
    Edmundus Staunden notatur quod est communis scandelizator vicinorum suorum.
    Alicia de eadem notatur super fornicatione.

12. Cranbroke. The Vicar did not appear (name not given).
    Sir Joh. Bold and Mr. Geo. Molesse, Caps.
    Par. Tho. Taylor.
    Omnia bene.
13. Chart Great.
   Sir Ric. Wood, Cur.
   Sir Ste. Trippe and Sir Oliver Penketh, Caps: “they
   shall exhibit their letters of orders at the next
   visitation.”
   Par. Walter Shuterden, Joh. Maytham.
   The Wardens say that Ric. Wood, curate there, is unfit to
   serve the cure, chiefly because he is habitually intoxicated.

   Omnia bene.

15. Westwell.
   Mr. Joh. Scott, Cur.

16. Bydynden.
   Mr. Clement Barowe, Doctor. R.
   Sir Will. Scamoden, Cap.
   Omnia bene.

17. Newenden.
   The Rector does not reside, so the Judge sequestrated
   the fruits of the benefice.
   (No wardens or parishioners mentioned.)

   Sir Joh. Maydewell, V.
   Sir Will. Norrington, Cap.
   Omnia bene.
AN ARCHIDIACONAL VISITATION OF 1502.

19. Hedcron. [Master of Maison Dieu, Ospringe, P.]
   Sir Tho. Hemys, V.
   Sir Phil. Walse, Cur.
   Omnia bene.

   [Exempt churches, Charing and Egerton.]

DEANERY OF SUTTON.

Visitation held in the parish church of Sutton Valence on Monday the 15th day of Sep. A.D. 1502.

   Sir Rob. Stille, Cur.

2. Lenham. [Abbot and C. of St. Austin, Cant. P.]
   The Vicar appeared [name not given. [Tho. Hilp was admitted in 1486. Morton's Reg., f. 128b.]
   Sir John, Cap.
   War. Will. Borne.
   The parishioners have borrowed from the Wardens 26s 8d, which they promised to repay, but have not done so.

   Sir Moncius Johnson, Cur.
   (No wardens or parishioners mentioned.)

   War. Jas. Chambyr.
   The pulpit is broken. The churchyard is not duly fenced. Will. Mason is responsible for the repair of the pew (stannum) in which he sits, but has not repaired it.
   One of the bells is not hung in the belfry; they have until Christmas to repair these defects under pain of 13s 4d.
6. Thorneham. [Prior and C. of Combwell, P.]
   Sir Rob. Harryson, V. (he does not reside.)
   Sir Tho. Rooson, Cur.
   Par. Edm. Sawier, Joh. Fatte.
   Omnia bene.

   Sir Joh. Spencer, R.
   War. Will. Parke.
   Par. Ric. Young.
   Omnia bene.

8. Marden. [Abbot and C. of Lesnes, P.]

   Mr. Ric. Mugge, V.
   Sir Ric. Woode, Cur.

    Omnia bene.

11. Frenstede.
    Sir Rob. Brocas, R.
    War. Hugh Croesfeld.
    Par. Ric. Hendeman.

    Sir Chris. Daniell, Cur.
   Mr. Joh. Ramsey, R.
   Sir Tho. Daniell, Cur.
   War. Will. Rayson.
   The tiling of the chancel of the church is defective, through the negligence of the rector. The Judge ordered Ric. Wodehouse the farmer of the rectory to repair the roof before Easter, under pain of 5 marks.

14. Langley.
   Mr. Rob. Cooper, R.
   War. Mr. Tho. Hunt.
   Par. Ric. Levenoth, Will. Horpe.

   Sir Will. Grave (blank).
   War. Ric. Cowmbe.
   Alex'. Meriam is presented for keeping a seat in the afore-said church for his wife alone, and preventing other parishioners from sitting therein.

   The Rector does not reside (unnamed but Joh. Goodhewe S.T.P. was coll'd to the rectory 31 Oct., 1500. S.V. Reg'. R., f. 62).
   Sir Martin Cristofer, Cur.

17. Wormsell.
   Sir Nic. Erle, R.
   War. Ric. Hacche.
   Par. Bart. Oxenwolde.

18. Lynton. [Master of Maidstone College, P.]
   Sir Rob. Colynson, Cur.
   Sir Joh. Stooks, Cur.
   War. Will. Ade.

   War. Walt. Cheseman, Phil. Edynden.
   Omnia bene.
   [Exempt churches, Maidstone, Loose, Detling, Holling-
   bourne, and Bredhurst, and Hucking, chapelries of
   Hollingbourne.]

DEANERY OF SITTINGBOURNE.

Visitation held in the parish church of Sidingbourne
on friday the 16th day of Sept., in the year of the Lord
aforesaid.

1. Sidingbourne. The Prioress of Clerkenwell, P.
   Sir Rog. Germenston, V.
   Sir Tho. Sidalere, Cap.
   Pascall.
   Joh. Nooke detains the goods of the church.
   They have holy-water carrier (aquebatiulum).

   Sir Will. Pent, V. he appeared.
   War. Rob. Debnam.
   Reynold.
   Joh, Bery detains the goods of the church and will not give
   an account of what he receives.

3. Eastchurch. [Abbot and C. of Boxley, P.]
   Sir Will. Sandwiche, V.
4. Warden.
   Sir Will. Malson, V.
   Par. Ric. Prior.

5. Upchurch. Warden of the College of All Souls, Oxford, P.
   Mr. Joh. Playford, V.
   Sir Joh. Holme, Cap.

   Sir Amphibelus (sic) Note, Cap., he exhibited his orders
   which were countersigned and handed back to him.
   *(No wardens or parishioners mentioned.)*

7. Newenton. [Abbot and C. of Lesnes, P.]
   Sir Will. Adamson, V.; he appeared by his proctor.
   The latter was suspended from celebrating divine
   service within the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon,
   until he shall have exhibited his letters of orders.
   The vicarage is out of repair through the neglect of the
   Vicar.

   The Curate (unnamed) did not appear.
   War. Tho. Derland.

   he did not appear.
   Sir Tho. Grant, V.
   The chancel roof is out of repair to such an extent that the
   rain comes in and causes much damage to the furniture
   (*utensilibus*). They have until Easter to do the repairs,
   under pain of 10s.
10. Dunstall (Tunstall).
   Sir Joh. Fowles, Chaplain; he exhibited his letters of Orders to the official, and received them back countersigned.

    Sir Will. Fordemell, V.
    Par. Walter Chamberlayn.

12. Halstow. The Prior of Christ Ch., Cant. P.
    Sir Rob. Rosemond, V.; he does not reside.
    Par. Will. Bishop, Will. Young.

    Edw. Crowmer, R.; he does not reside.
    The Vicar (unnamed) did not appear because he was sick.

    Omnia bene.

15. Wicheling . . . (blank).
    War. Will. Handvoyd (?).
    Par. Nic. Ayling.

    Mr. Nic. G. . . . ? R.; he did not appear
    No wardens or parishioners mentioned.

18. Bacchild (Bapchild). The Dean and Chapter of Chichester, P.; they did not appear.
   Sir Jas. Liel, Cur.
   Par. Alex'. Jesop, Tho. Adamson.

   Sir Rob. Upjohn, V.

   Sir Tho. Dunstall, R.
   Sir Chris. Matrasse, Cap.
   Wardens not summoned.

   The Vicar (unnamed) appeared. (Hen. Bowrege was admitted in 1499. *Mor. Reg.*., f. 162.)
   War. (blank).

22. Bobbing. [Prioress of Minster in Sheppey, P.]
   Sir Tho. Tunstall, Curate.
   Omnia bene.

23. Iwade. [Archdeacon of Cant. P.]
   Sir Joh. Calbeck, Curate.

24. Bicknor not summoned.

**Deanery of Ospringe.**

[The place and date of the Visitation are not given.]

   Mr. Tho. Hosenden, V.
   Sir Ric. Pay, Cap.
2. Faversham. Abbot and Convent of St. Augustine, Cant. P.
   Mr. Hugh Walhede, Cur.
   Mr. Tho. Convey exhibited his letters of Orders, and received them back countersigned.

3. Preston. Abbot and Con. of Faversham, P.
   Sir Joh. Clifton, V.

4. Sheldwiche. [Abbot and Con. of St. Augustine, Cant. P.]
   The Vicar (unnamed) did not appear.

5. Luddenham.
   Sir Tho. Hawkyns, R.
   War. Tho. Skynner.
   Par. Rob. Grey.

6. Oore. [Prior of St. Gregory's, Cant. P.]
   Par. Will. Gare, Tho. Watt.

7. Sheldwiche (sic). (A mistake for Selling, Sheldwich occurs later.) [Abbot and C. of St. Austin, Cant. P.]
   Mr. Tho. Sayer, V.

8. Goodwineston.
   Par. Rob. Broke.

9. Throughtly. [Abbess of Sion, P.]
   Sir Will. Fynne, V.; he did not appear.
10. Stoone. [Archdeacon of Cant., P.]
   War. Will. Asseede.
   Par. Will. Assheley.

   Sir Tho. Byrde, V.
   Par. Ric. Caslok.

12. Eseling.
   Sir Tho. Modley, R.
   Sir Tho. Kelly, Chaplain.
   War. Hamo Terry, Joh. Lulle.

   Sir Joh. Bene, R.
   Par. Tho. Wevar, Jas. Dunstone, Hugh Parkman, Tho.
       Badnott, Joh. Atlese.

   The Vicar (unnamed) appeared.
   [Joh. Bingele was admitted 1491. Mor. Reg., f. 149r].

15. Harty. [Prioress of Davyngton, P.]
   Sir Joh. Smale, Cur.
   Par. Abraham Sangar, Tho. Owen.

16. Bukland.
   Sir Tho. Trytton, R.

17. Daventone. [Prioress of Davington, P.]
   Sir Ivo Aurest, Cur.

18. Dodington. [Archdeacon of Cant., P.]
   Sir Walter Butler, Cur.

   The Vicar (unnamed) did not appear.
20. Leveland.
   Sir Joh. Lyly, R.
   Par. Rob. Smyth.

   [Will. Toft was admitted 1501. Dene Reg., f. 169a.]
   War. Geof. Ferror.
   Par. Will. Andrew, Ric. Mott.

22. Tenham.
   Sir Will. Gye, Cur.
   War. Will. Hayward.

23. Badlesmere.
   Sir Reg. Brooke, R.
   [Exempt Churches Boughton, Hernehill.]

DEANERY OF WESTBERE.

Visitation held in the parish church of Chistlett on mon-
day the 19th day of September (1502).

1. Chistlett. [Abbot and C. of St. Austin, Cant., P.]
   Mr. Joh. Kydwally, V.
   Sir Will. Mody, Cap.
   Omnia bene.

2. Westbere. [Abbot and C. of St. Austin, Cant., P.]
   Mr. Tho. Warner, R.
   Sir Jas. Lawson, Cur.
   Par. Will. Tomlyn, Joh. Indrye.
   Omnia bene.

3. Swalclyve.
   Sir. Joh. Lie, R.
4. Whitstable (Master and Fellows of Pleshey Coll., Essex, P.)
   Sir Tho. Tankerede, Cur.
Will. Roger is a common defamer of his neighbours, Joh. Pett,
Joh. Cloop, Joh. Glover, and Margery Clooke, frequent
tauens in time of divine service.
Augustine Nott does not pay his dues to the curate.

5. Mynster. [Abbot and C. of St. Austin, Cant., P.]
   Mr. Joh. Williams, V.
   Mr. Will. Mody, Cur.
   Hougham.
They lack the Legenda of the new feasts of the Transfigura-
tion of the Lord, and of the Visitation of blessed Mary.¹
The churchyard is unfenced. The font is cracked so that
the water runs out. The rain comes in through the vault
over the high altar; through the negligence of the Abbot of
St. Augustine's Canterbury.

6. St. Lawrence in Thanet. [Abbot and C. of St. Austin,
   Cant., P.]
   Sir Nic. Foose, V.
Isabel Kempe the wife of John Kempe is a common defamer
of her neighbours.
Omnia bene.

   Sir Tho. Cardife, V.
   War. Sim. Clornewaleys (sic), Will. Sayer.
John Waller does not keep the sabbath. Alice, wife of Tho.
Torney is suspected of adultery with Sir Rog. Toolis, chaplain
of a certain chantry called Dennys chantry in Berham.
[Perhaps a mistake for Denis’s chantry in Ickham church.]

¹ The feast of the Transfiguration (Aug. 6th) was instituted by
Pope Calixtus III, as of universal obligation in 1457. The feast of the
Visitation of the B.V.M. was not observed generally until 1431, when the
Council of Basel ordered that the feast should be celebrated in all churches.
8. Sesalter. [Prior and C. of Ch. Ch. Cant., P.]
   Sir Will. Stekebuk, V.
   Par. Will. Gilnett.
   They lack a missal and portifory; and they are to provide
   the same before Christmas under pain of forty shillings.

   Sir Hugh Hoogh, V.
   Omnia bene.

[Exempt churches: Herne, Reculver, Hothe, St. Nicholas
at Wade, Monkton, Birchington, Wood, Eastry, Worth,
Deal.]

DEANERY OF BRIDGE.

Visitation held in the parish church of Wye on monday
the 22nd day of September, A.D. 1502.

1. Wye. [Master and Fellows of the Coll. there, P.]
   Sir Michael Folgrene, Cur.

2. Bregge (Bridge). The Prior of Merton, P.; he did not
   appear.
   Mr. Malcolm Ramsey, V.

   Sir Rob. Pele, V.
   Par. Chris. Sharp.
   Sir Matt. Smyth and Mr. Joh. Stamford to exhibit their
   letters of Orders before the feast of the annunciation of the
   B.V.M., next following.
4. Littlebourne. The Abbot of St. Augustine’s, Canterbury, P.; he did not appear.
   Sir Will. Burton, V.

5. Stodmershe.
   Master Water, R.
   Par. Joh. Welby.
   The bell tower (*campanile*) is much out of repair through the neglect of the parishioners.

6. Waltham. The Prior of St. Gregory, Cant., P.
   Sir Will. Rede, Cur.
   Sir Rob. Pynnell, Cap.
   War. Will. Prowde.
   Sir Rob. Penell, the chantry priest, does not keep his residence, but absents himself from the celebration of divine service on solemn days, and, against good custom, he has a key of the church door, which he ought not, because owing to his having this key, the treasure of our church is liable to be stolen, since on several occasions the door of the aforesaid church has been found open through his negligence. He is noted also as a common defamer of the parishioners, calling them heretics, bastards and harlots. Also the said Sir Robert keepeth a common tavern in his chantry house, also the chantry house is much out of repair.

7. Sturmowthe.
   Mr. Will. Pieris, R.

8. Preston. The Abbot of St. Austin’s, P.
   Sir Hugh Huntloo, V.
   Par. Ric. Wells, Joh. Ovyngton.

   Sir Hen. Goolde, R.
10. Chillenden.
   Sir Rog. Darley, R.
   The rectory house is out of repair through the neglect of the rector; the Judge therefore sequestrated the fruits of the church, and gave a letter of sequestration to the churchwardens, for which they shall pay 3s 4d.

   Mr. Doctor (Roger) Churche, R.
   Sir Tho. Chaplain.
   War. Mr. Tho. Hawte, knight, Rob. Panar.
   Par. Ric. Stace.

12. Patrixbourne. The Prior of Merton, P.
   R. . . . (blank).

   Sir Thos. Porter, R.; he does not reside, Richard the curate appeared for him.

14. Bekesbourne. The Prior of St. Gregory’s, Cant., P.
    (No incumbent mentioned.)

15. Petham. The Abbot of St. Osith, P.
    Sir Edw. Wilson, V.
    They have no pulpit. The walls of the churchyard are out of repair. The repairs are to be done before Easter next, under pain of 10s, to be devoted to mending foul ways between Petham and Canterbury.

    Mr. John Shefeld, R.
17. Hards Great.
   Mr. Ric. Simon, R.; he does not reside.

18. Crundale.
   Sir Joh. Knyght, R.
   War. Ric. Bolling.

   Sir Pet. Coltehurst, R.

    Joh. Hawksworth, V.

21. Wikkham.
    Mr. Jas. Downe, R.

22. Molasshe. [Chapel of Chilham.]
    Par. Hamo Mantell.

23. Stelling. [Chapel annexed to Hardres.]
    Sir Geo. Shenton, Cur.

24. Berham. [Chapel of Bishopsbourne.]
    The Curate appeared, no name given.
    War. Will. Gare, Will Julle.
    On the same day Sir Hugh Huntloo, vicar of Preston was
    elected dean of Bregge (Bridge) in place of Rob. Sergeaunt.

   [Exempt parishes: Wingham, Goodnestone, Nonington,
   Wymingswold, Ickham, Adisham, Staple, Ash, Godmersham,
   Challock.]
Deanery of Sandwich.

Visitation held in the parish church of St. Peter of the town of Sandwich, on Monday the 26th day of September, in the year of the Lord aforesaid.

1. St. Mary, Sandwich. [Archdn. of Cant., P.]
   Sir Will. Meryman, Cur.

2. St. Peter, Sandwich. [Abbot and C. of St. Austin, Cant.]
   (No name of Rector given.)
   Robert Cobbe detains £6 13s 4d which John Graunt bequeathed for the repair of the silver cross, and 6s 8d bequeathed by Margaret his wife for the repair of the said church. Also Ric. Brooke detains 3s 4d that was left by Ric. Forner for the mending of the bell.

3. St. Clement, Sandwich. [Archdn. of Cant., P.]
   (Vicar's name not given.)

   Sir Joh. Parke, V.

5. Walmer. [Abbot of Langdon, P.]
   The Curate (unnamed) did not appear because he was sick.
   Sir Will. Wanflete (? Chaplain).
   War. Walter Brode.
   Par. Will. Gilham.
   Omnia bene.
6. Tylmanstone. [Prior of St. John of Jerusalem, P.]

7. Berghston (Barfreston).
   R . . . . (blank).
   Omnia bene.

8. Norborne. [Abbot of St. Augustine's, Cant., P.]
   Sir Tho. Samson, V.

   Sir Joh. Hartely, V.
   War. Ric. Parker.

10. Riple. [Abbot and C. of St. Austin, Cant., P.]
    Sir Joh. Denby, R.

11. Aythorn. The Abbot of Robertsbridge, Rector, there;
    he does not reside.

12. Mongeham Little.
    Nullus residet in parochia.

    Mr. Rob. Craford, R.
    Mr. Tho. Warde, Cur.
    Wollahch, parish clerk (serviens parochialis).

    The Curate (unnamed) did not appear because he was
    sick; he did not reside. No one appeared.

15. Estlangdon (blank).

16. Westlangdon (blank).
AN ARCHIDIACONAL VISITATION OF 1502.

17. Siperdiswold (Shepherdswell). [Abbot and C. of St. Radegund, P.]
   Sir Tho. Howlett, Cur.

18. Colrede.
   The Curate (unnamed) appeared.

   Par. Tho. Philpott.

20. Sholden. [Abbot and C. of St. Austin, Cant., P.]
   The Curate (unnamed) "moritur".


22. Knolton.
   Sir Will. Cartewright, R.

23. Sutton. [Master and brothers of Maidstone College.]
   Mr. Doctor Cameron, R.

[Exempt parishes: Eastry, Worth, Deal.]

DEANERY OF DOVER.

Visitation held in the parish church of Folkestone, on Tuesday the 27th day of September, in the year aforesaid.

1. Folkeston. The Prior (of Folkestone), P; he appeared.¹
   Sir Will. Claybrooke, V.

¹ The church was separated from the Priory by Bull of Pope Alex. VI in 1494. Mor. Reg., f. 220.
2. Cheryton.
   Sir Ric. Bayly, Rector (struck out) and Sir Chris. Warde substituted.

   The Curate (unnamed) appeared.
   [John Stubbes was admitted 6 Oct. 1501. Dene Reg. f. 169a.]

   Mr. Jas. Harold, V.
   Par. Tho. Curle.

5. Swynfeld. [Miles of the Hospital of St. John, Swingfield, P.]
   Sir Ric. Chesshier, V.
   The churchyard is not duly fenced, the wardens must make this good before Easter under pain of 6s 8d.

6. Ewell. [Miles of Hospital of St. John, Swingfield, P.]
   Sir Ralph Blynstone, V.
   Par. Will. Sutton.

7. Ryver. The Abbot of St. Radegund's, P.
   The Vicar (unnamed) did not appear.

8. Alkham. [Abbot of St. Radegund, P.]
   Sir Joh. Newenton, V.

9. Hougham. [Prior of St. Radegund, P.]
   Sir Alex' Leche, V.

    Mr. Joh. Long, Master of the Domus Dei of Dover, P.
AN ARCHIDIACONAL VISITATION OF 1502.

   Sir William . . . (blank), R.

12. Westclife (Westcliffe). The Prior of Christ Church, Cant., P.
    The Patron is Curate, he did not appear.
    The vicarage house is out of repair; the church is unserved.

    Sir Neomeas Couragh, V.

    Radegund, P.
    [Exempt churches: St. Margaret at Cliffe, Guston, Buckland,
    SS. Mary, Peter, James, Nicholas, John, all in Dover.]

DEANERY OF ELHAM.

Visitation held in the parish church of Elham, on tuesday the 27th day of September, A.D. 1502.

1. Elham. [Warden and fellows (socii) of Merton Coll.,
    Oxford, P.]
   The Vicar (unnamed) appeared.
   Sir Tho. Fouche, Sir Will. Dally, Chaplains.

2. Wotton.
   Sir Rob. Fisher, R.
   Par. Tho. Hambrooke.
   The walls of the church are so dingy that the parishioners
   sitting in the nave can scarcely see the sacrament of the
   altar, because the church is so dark, the wardens are to
   whitewash the walls before the feast of St. John the Baptist
   next following, under pain of 10s.
   The cross in the church requires repair, it must be put
   right before Palm Sunday, under pain of 6s Sd.
3. Denton.
   Sir Joh. Staunton, Cur.

   Sir Joh. Mason, R.

5. Postelinge. [Abbot of St. Radegund, P.]
   Sir Will. Kirkeby, Cur.
   The ceiling of the chancel requires repair, and the roof of
   the same is defective, through the fault of the Abbot of
   St. Radegund; it must be put right before the feast of
   All Saints, next following, under pain of 10s.
   Also the wardens say that they made a similar presentment
   in the year 1500, whereupon the judge decreed that the
   fruits of the church should be sequestrated.

   The Rector (unnamed) appeared.
   [Robert Forebas was admitted 1491. Dene Reg', 170b.]

   Sir Sim. Goserede, R.
   Sir Will. Coole, Cur.
   Par. Will. Moone.

8. Braborne. [Prior of Horton, P.]
   Sir Joh. Person, V.
   They lack the books of the new feasts¹ and the book of
   general sentences.² They are to provide the same before
   the feast of the Annunciation next following under pain of
   13s. 4d.

¹ See above under Minster in Thanet.
² The General sentence was a denunciation pronounced by the clergy
four times a year, especially upon those who infringed ecclesiastical privi-
leges or robbed the church of her dues. Frere's Visitation Articles, Vol. II,
p. 55 n.
9. Elmestede. The Prior of St. Gregory’s, Cant., R.
   Sir Joh. Abraham, V.

   Sir Tho. Hooke, R.
   Par. Will. Amount.

They lack the books of the new feasts; the breviary (portiforium), is illegible (obscurum) in divers parts. The defects are to be remedied before the feast of the Annunciation of the B.V.M. next following, under pain of 10s.

Also the nave of the church requires re-shingling; it must be done before the feast of the nativity of the B.V.M. (Sept. 8) next following, under pain of 20s.


[Exempt churches: Lyminge, Saltwood, Hythe, Stanford, Paddlesworth.]

APPENDIX

"Presentments" to the Archdeacon’s Court, written on loose scraps of paper. Date 1502-1507.

Acrise.

[Rector John addresses the Official in Latin and then makes his presentments in English.]

Salutacione congrua premissa presenti scripto vestre dilectioni salutem in domino sempiternam in quo est omnis salus.

Noveritis me dominum Johannem Rectorem ecclesie parochialis de Acrisy presentasse Mathemum Gybon, Jacobum Mawnger, gardianos ecclesie pro reparacione de eadem ecclesia.

In primis for we have bot one chalys to our church.

Itm, we have not one holle awter cloth $y^t$ is hallowed, and our best albe is rynt and in decay (so) $y^t$ no man can say masse yn it bot for a nede.
If, we have no holle cruet in ye church.
We have no pax y' is holle.
If, a glasse wyndow y' is broke opon (the) sowth syde of ye church,
throwgh ye which wynde doys (does) harme and spylls our
lyghts in ye rode lofte.
It', we lacken torches in our church to ye whyth liyzt (light);
we had xiijs iiiijd bequedde and yt is in ye warden's hands which
brent not this ij yerand more, wych lyzt should be kept perpetuallly.
It' Ye Rofer of ye body of our church is at reparacon (sic), it
rayns therin.
Our stepull is at reparacon & bot yt it be (not) holpe ryzt (right)
sone, it wyll fall down for it raynyt in and rots ye tymber.
It' our churchyward is hopyn (open) yt all manner of beasts may
come in.

BREDGAR.
Parochiani ibidem presentant quod Johannes Hywet soluere
comtempsi vit annua lem redditum pertinent' ad dictam ecclesiam
et a retro est per spaciun trium annorum & summa illus redditus
per annum xxijd.
It' presentant quod dictus Johannes debet dicte ecclesie iiijd.

BOXLEY.
The Parishons of Boxle present that the priour of Rochester
Kepith not the reparaoons of ye chansel of ye church of Boxle
as he shuld do, for ye glas wyndow over ye hye awter is so broken
yt (that) when ye wynd is est it dryvith yn upon ye auter reyn or
snow, & also ye sowth wyndow agayne ye hie auter ys brokyn.
Also yt ye wynd dryvith yn such wedyr as fallith, & it hath ben
oftyn spokyn to for to amend yt, & yet hit is not don.

CHAPTE.
These be the fawtys longyng to ye churche of Chart: First our
chansell is not reparyd. The steppys goyng to ye awter be broke.
The benche in the quere ys broke.
The dexte (desk) in ye quere ys broke.
Also the selyng ovyr the auter ys broke & fallys doon when ye
prest ys at masse.
Also hyt renyth on the auter.
Also the church wallys be broke.
CRANEBOKE.
In primis the Seyxsten (is) in the faute, that through his negligence the bokys of the Quere hath takyn grette hurt & dayly do yt. Also westments & coppys . . . & chaylyces the fette (feet) ben brokyn, & the penakyll of the Sencher (censer) ben gon. Also the chyrch not streyken . . . and by his negligence and rudde (rude) condicon many men wt drawyn there (their) goods devosion to the grett hurt of the chyrch. Andrew Spycer is in advotry with blake Alys.

[On another slip of paper.]
Inquirentes de parochia de Cranbrok super fide et officii virtute tanquam iurati respondent. Quod propter defectum lectrinorum in choro libri eorum paciuntur grave dispendium, & quod luminaria in choro & ecclesia consumantur per flatum fenestrarum diruptarum in fine orientali cancellarum predict’.
It’ quod cimiterium deturpatur per animalia inhonesta.

GOODHURST.
The presentacons of the Churche Wardens & parishons of Gout
erst.
Fyrst they present that the parson fyndeth not a a lampe in the hyght chancell as he shold do.
Itm. That the south dore ys faute & insufficient for the salvacon of the churche gods (goods), & also the west dore for lakkyng of a lok.
Itm. They complayne that the closure of the chyrchyarde ys insuffycient & not good, nather gats not wallys, for ther comyth in hoggs, schepe & horssys.

LANGDON WEST.
Harry West had a good mass boke in heys kepyng and makyth no deleyvere to the . . . ?
Also the same H.W. had a kowe of ye cherche of West Langdone (worth) xxiiij* ij&4, and wyl not be contabyl to the parishe.

RUCKYNGE.
[A letter from a Churchwarden of Ruckinge to the Official of the Archdeacon, complaining that certain comperta presented at the last visitation had not been attended to, and that the parishioners had not paid him for the banner he had bought, presumably for the rogation-tide processions.]
Master Official I desire you to have in remembrance that where I labored unto your mastership for reformacon of divers matters mysordered w't in the parish of Rokyng, and commandyd me to bryng it in wrytyng at the corte; pleaseth it you to understand that whereas it was presented at the last visitation before you for the amendment of the churchyard ther it is not amendment (sic), but all manner of bests come into hit dayly, so that the Curate and the parishons may no go in procession for dungying of bests & misordering of other bests to(o).
Item for paying of my baner which cost viij viijd. I desire you to have remembrance thereof, it hath been in the parishes hondes by a yere and halff.

STODEMERSHE.
Cuvratus ibidem dñs. Laurentius Nott.
Iconomi Jacobus Catbury, Ric. Wood.
Detegunt quod Joñes Knyght habet calicem pertinentem ecclesie predict' in plegio pro octo solidis neglectia parochianorum ibidem.
Itm quod cimiterium non est debite clausum.
Itm quod Ric. Wood detinet de bonis ecclesie Lij' iiiijd.
Itñ, quod not habent aquebaculum ydoneum.
Itñ, quod not habent lampadem ardentem coram summo altari ibidem per spacium iiiijd annorum elapsorum, sicut solebant in tempoe preterito neglectia parochianorum ibidem.

SUTTON VALANCE.
The Wardeyns of Sutton Valance, Will. Lambe, Roger Perrot.
They present that the chancell ys not suffyciently repayred w't coverynge of shyngeyll, nether seelyd yn defaute of the pryoure of Ledys.

TENTERDEN.
The Wardeyns and ye parishons there present that the Fontte (is) unlockyd.
Also the crysemetory stonds unlockyd.
Also the chyrchyerde lyth opyn in divers places for defaute of closyng perteynyng to the Vicar.
THORNHAM.

Nycolas Culter of Thornham wth holds a cow wth ye hyre of ye same, bequethed to ye parish chyrche be one Tho. Blackbourne, for vj yeres paste, & he was sworne this tyme twell moneth to delyver hym thereof, & it is not fullylyt yet.

Henry Chr. Cristion of ye same paroch in lykewyse wth-holdes from ye chyrche behofe ij seems of malt, wth a cowe & ye ferme—Edmund Sauer of the same paroch, late warden, is in dett be (by) hys acownt made afore the paroshenes xx. lx^d.

THONGE.

The reparacon of ye chauncell and ye quer & ye deskys in ye chercche we have compleyned over thys ij yer.