

The Clergy of Buriton

The first written mention of a place of worship in the Petersfield area occurs with the completion of the Domesday Book. A commissioner recorded "Meadow 7 acres. Woodland 30 swine render. 3 mills, value 1.0. 1 church" within the Manor of Mapledurham. In 1991 Mary Ray, one of the founder members of the Petersfield Area Historical Society, placed the epicentre of Mapledurham to the north-west of modern day Buriton somewhere between the A3 and the railway line.

These settlements like Mapledurham, at the foot of the South Downs on rich farmland, were wealthy in Saxon times. They could support a "Persona Ecclesiæ" or "Parson", a curer of souls or 'Curate'. He lived amongst his parishioners and was careful to juggle his loyalties between the bishop of the diocese and the lord of the manor.

The Normans inherited this parochial system but added a new layer, what came to be called a "living". Essentially, they had lots of men to reward, and very often that led to the same person being the incumbent at many different parishes, often hundreds of miles apart. It was a system that was to endure in one form or another until 1850.

As the Welsh historian Gwyn Thomas points out "Most incumbents recorded before the Reformation were really officials of the mediaeval 'Civil Service' or servings important dignitaries, and would rarely, if ever, have been in their benefice, let alone taking a service"

Just such a man was **Simon Passelewe** the first name on the board at Buriton. He was appointed by Henry III in 1260. The present church can be dated back to this time and Passelewe may have celebrated mass there. The emphasis has to be on the may. What is more likely is that an assistant curate lived in the parish and carried out the offices.

Passelewe himself was a Baron of the Exchequer. One of his roles was as a Justice of the Jews. In 1254 he is recorded bringing gold bars to Gascony. From 1258 he was tasked with raising money for the crown and seems to have been rather good at this. Certainly, Matthew Paris, a contemporary historian, described him as 'false and crafty'.

Buriton at this time consisted of several small settlements: Ditcham and Suneworde to the south, Weston to the north-west; Nursted to the north-east; a small settlement to the north at Bolinge Hill; and beyond that the dwellings surrounding St Peter's in the Field to the north.

The second name on the board **Walter de Lichlad** (Lechlade) brought even greater notoriety to our area- he was murdered in 1283.

Lechlade was a friend of John Quinil, the Bishop of Exeter. Quinil also had a "turbulent priest", one John Pycot who had appointed himself Dean. When the bishop refused to acknowledge this self-promotion, Pycot set off for Rome to appeal directly to Pope Martin IV. Lechlade, as well as holding several benefices, was also Vicar-Choral at Wells Cathedral. His friend the bishop asked him to become Precentor at Exeter Cathedral and carry out the role of dean in Pycroft's absence.

When Pycroft returned from Rome in November 1283 he rounded up a "posse" and murdered the unfortunate Lechlade. Pycroft was the obvious suspect but it took until Christmas 1285 for the trial to take place. Pycroft was banished to a monastery and two others hanged. The whole unchristian episode has been turned into a play and a novel.

By 1291, during the time of a chaplain named **Hugh**, the church and its Chapel of Ease at Petersfield was generating £46 13s. 4d.

In 1294 **Thomas de Scarning** (de Skerning) appears. He was Archdeacon of Norwich from 1273 to 1289 which may have been a family appointment by Roger de Skerning, Bishop of Norwich from 1266 to 1278. He went on to be Archdeacon of Suffolk from 1289 to 1296; and Archdeacon of Surrey from 1296 to 1301.

He also held livings at Settrington and Waxham. The Venn Database, an analysis of Cambridge University personnel, records him as Chancellor from 1286 to 1287. It was not then the prestigious appointment for life it is now, but an administrative post decided by the other dons via an annual election. For most scholars in that period one year seems to have been enough.

It is reasonable to assume that the **Roger de Scarning** (de Skerning) who follows was a relative of Thomas, perhaps named after that eponymous Bishop of Norwich- who died in 1278.

The next Rector, **Gilbert de la Bruere**, is recorded making a land transaction in West Sussex during 1314, two years before his appointment at Buriton. He also held the living at Sibthorpe, Nottinghamshire and St Benet, Paul's Wharf in the City of London. In 1323 he is recorded as a Canon of York.

Isambard de Longavilla, who was Rector from 1318 also held the living of Hablesthorpe in Nottinghamshire. He too was a Canon of York. It seems unlikely such men ministered weekly at Buriton. The day to day running of the parish would have been devolved to an assistant priest, usually a local man of limited education.

The church is mentioned in the records of St Swithin's Monastery in Winchester in 1325. Four years later **Ralph de Hatton de Stratford** is listed as Rector. Hatton had graduated from Oxford University that year and was licensed to Mapledurham by his uncle John Stratford, Bishop of Winchester from 1323 to 1333, and Archbishop of Canterbury from then until his death in 1348.

In 1337 the Patent Roll of Edward III states the Bishop of Winchester still had the presentation of the living. **Ralph Hatton** cannot have officiated regularly at Buriton as he went to Bologna to continue his studies, graduating DCL in 1340. That year he was enthroned Bishop of London. He seems to have been his uncles right hand man, and the two of them were prepared to dispute matters of ecclesiastical liberties with Edward III. He died at Stepney in April 1354.

Spelling is of course a problem the further one delves back in time. Buriton's Rector from 1335 to 1345 was one **John Leeche** (also recorded as de Leeche and Le Leche) He then appears as Vicar of Binham Priory in 1349. At that time the Vicar would have ministered to the local parishioners while the 8 monks kept the other offices.

John de Camera is recorded in 1345. He went on to be Precentor at Salisbury Cathedral.

Some scholars have confused Mapledurham, Hampshire, with Mapledurham, Oxfordshire. Some sources list *Thomas Packinton de Brailes*, *Peter de Dene* and *John Petyt* as incumbents at Buriton. My research showed that all three were at the Oxfordshire church, St Margaret of Antioch and never at Buriton.

When **William Sandford** (de Sandford) became Rector in 1361 he was already Keeper of Writs in the King's Bench. Sandford was descended from a prominent Westmoreland family, indeed they were "Knights of the County". Sandford also held the living at Escrick, was a Canon of Lanchester, a Prebendary of Greencroft and a Canon of St Mary and the Holy Angels, York. Sandford also found time to make sure his rights to collect rents from St Michael, Cornhill and St Peter, Cornhill, both in the City of London, were upheld.

In 1373 **Thomas Butiller** appears. He is recorded in the Poll Tax Roll of 1379. He went onto many preferments. In 1383 he became Archdeacon of Salisbury, but exchanged the next year with William Potyn for the parish of Lyminge.

He was Archdeacon of Northampton from 1386 to 1402. He was a Canon (12th Stall) at Windsor from 1387 to 1389 and Dean from 1389 to 1402. One of his duties at Windsor was to supervise the swan-upping. He was Prebendary of Leighton Buzzard at Lincoln Cathedral from 1389 to 1391 and of Colworth at Chichester Cathedral from 1389 to 1402. He was put forward for a Canonry at Canterbury, but was not admitted. His last appointment seems to have been at Brightling.

Robert Whitecherche's preferment is dated 3 October 1382.

Baldwin de Shillingford was the incumbent at Waddesdon, Buckingham from 1369; Shillingford, Devon (of which he was Lord of the Manor) from 1372; "and on his appointment at Mapledurham he resigned his living". This was in 1384.

He was followed in 1390 by John **Elmer**; and in 1397 by **John Wykeham**. He was a kinsman of William Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester from 1366 until his death in 1404.

Bishop Wykeham founded Winchester College and New College, Oxford. As was customary at that time he appointed several members of his family to remunerative posts: his nephew Nicholas Wykeham was Archdeacon of Winchester; Richard Wykeham, Warden of St Nicolas's Hospital Portsmouth; and three of his great nephews, Fellows of New College, Oxford which was very much a family business in these early years.

Buriton's beneficiary, John Wykeham was remembered in Bishop William's will.

Richard Crowner (Crownenor) had been the "Rector of Bradewater" (Broadwater) in Sussex since 28 July 1442. He is recorded as an executor to the will of Ralph Rademyld of Albourne. In 1450, as "Rector of Buryton" he is recorded as owing a debt to one William Fagger.

John Lamport (Langport) is shown on the Venn Database as the Rector of Mapledurham in the late 15th Century. He too was a Rector of Broadwater. There do seem to be these connections between parishes, I found the same thing when I researched Chiddingfold in Surrey. Lamport was born in Twyford and educated at Winchester College and King's College, Cambridge. He was Dean from 1447 to 1448; and Vice Provost (second in charge) from 1455 to 1459. He was at Broadwater to 1481 and Buriton until 1494.

The same Cambridge source gives us **Edmund Blenkinsopp**. He was a nephew of Thomas Langton, the Bishop of Winchester from 1493 until his death from the plague in 1501, at which time he was

the Archbishop-Elect of Canterbury. Blenkinsopp came to Buriton in 1499. In that year, he graduated Bachelor of Canon Law in 1501. There is a book that belonged to him at the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

William Holgyll came to Buriton in 1520. During this time the income of the parish is recorded at £336 8s. Holgyll had been ordained at York in 1492. His first post was at Shap in Cumberland. In 1516 he is the trustee of Richard Fox, Bishop of Winchester, in a legal action to purchase the Manor of Marwell Woodlock. His son, also William, entered King's College Cambridge in 1527; and was Rector of Dengie in Essex from 1533.

Henry VIII, of course, is always referred to as the founder of the Church of England, but what is less often noted is that he envisaged a *Catholic* Church with the monarch as its supreme representative on earth. Nevertheless, his decision was to bring turmoil to England for over a century- even in Buriton.

That monumental collection of known Anglican priests, the Clergy of the Church of England Database, lists Buriton's first incumbent after the break with Rome as **Henry Leader** who served from 2 February 1549 to 18 September 1551. A curate is also recorded during that period, one **Thomas Croke**. Their inductions occurred during the reign of Edward VI who of course was a Protestant Extraordinaire. If indeed one, or both, of these gentlemen was able to survive the short but tumultuous rule of "Bloody Mary" then they are to be commended, for many perished. The period 1547 to 1558 was indeed a time to be circumspect as the pendulum swung from one religious extreme to the other.

As history records Elizabeth attempted to steer a path between these two doctrinal positions. **Laurence Hall** is recorded as the first beneficiary of this return to stability, serving from 1559 to 1562. He was ordained by John Scory, the Bishop of Hereford, on 22 December 1559. He was Rector of Warblington from 1560 to 1562 and then of Buriton.

William Overton, D.D. arrived in 1569. By that time, the DNB states, he had "earned himself an unsavoury reputation in some quarters, partly thanks to his ambitions for himself and his family". Born in London in 1525, Overton was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford where he was a Fellow from 1550 to 1554.

He had already held incumbencies at Balcombe then Swinnerton and was a Prebendary of Chichester and Winchester Cathedrals. After this he also acquired livings at Rotherfield, Upham, Exton, Nursling and Coton; another prebendal stall at Salisbury; and was Treasurer of Chichester Cathedral. He was Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield from 1580 to 1609. One is tempted to ask if his spiritual zeal was as fervent as his temporal, but from this distance perhaps we must give him the benefit of the doubt. He died in 1609 and is buried at Eccleshall in Staffordshire. There he had established a glassworks that continued after his death.

The parish work was done, I am sure, by curate **Nicholas Mason** who had served at Crondall and Upham before coming to Buriton.

Walter Chadfield was the incumbent from 1580 to 1597. After a curacy at Havant he held incumbencies at Pagham and Carisbrooke before his time at Buriton. One curate is recorded, William Whiteley in 1587.

Philip Walker, MA was Rector from 1597 to 1631. He came to Buriton after a curacy at Fladbury. Curiously, a school master William Mooring is also recorded in 1630!

We go from a clergyman about whom little is known to one about whom we can say a great deal, **Benjamin Laney**. He was born in Ipswich in 1591, educated at Christ's College, Cambridge and ordained in February 1619. He was then a Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge and became Curate at Harston.

After that he was Vicar of Madingley. He became Rector of Hambledon (the Hampshire one), in 1628; then Bishops Waltham; and Buriton in 1631. He was also from 1629 Chaplain to the Bishop of Winchester Richard Neile; and, from 1631, a Prebendary of Winchester Cathedral. Laney became Master of Pembroke in 1630. Research suggests he was not a good administrator.

He was appointed Vice-Chancellor in 1632- in those days it was not the prestigious position it is now, rather an administrative office given to the newest college head, and relinquished after one academic year. Laney became a Royal Chaplain in 1634; and in 1639 a Prebendary of Westminster Abbey. Unsurprisingly he took the Royalist position when Civil War came and was ejected from all his offices in 1644.

Laney then became Chaplain to King Charles I. The King immediately made him Dean of Rochester, although he was not instituted until the restoration in 1660. Laney had to flee to France and in 1646 became Chaplain to the Prince of Wales.

Meanwhile Buriton had a new incumbent **Robert Harris**. Harris was born at Broad Campden in 1581 and was educated at Magdalen Hall, Oxford. There he came under the influence of his puritan tutor. He became Rector of Hanwell, which had a strong low church tradition.

Also a theology tutor at Oxford, he lived at Banbury where the author Samuel Clarke described him as "grave without affectation, pleasant without levity." In 1630 he wrote a treatise on drunkenness that did not shirk from condemning all alcohol abuse, whether by the poorest or richest in society. In 1642 cavalier troops expelled him from his Hanwell residence. In 1644 he became Rector of St Botolph, Bishopgate and in 1645, Buriton. In 1648 Harris was also appointed President of Trinity College, Oxford.

One can speculate whether what the incumbency board at Buriton calls a "Commonwealth Intruder" thought he would be the first of many republican appointments; but by 1658 he was gone, and a few months later Laney, the man he deposed, was on the way to a bishopric.

Having deemed to have served 15 years at the deanery in Rochester Laney was promoted to the Bishop's Bench in December 1660. He was Bishop of Peterborough from 1660 to 1663; Bishop of Lincoln from 1663 to 1667; and Bishop of Ely from 1667 until his death on 24 January 1675.

'Alumni Cantabrigienses' has **Peter Wentworth**, Archdeacon of Carlisle, as "Minister at Buriton" from 1658 to 1660. Wentworth's time at Buriton is not recorded on either the CCed or "Alumni

Oxonienses". Students often migrated between the two universities in the early modern period which can make referencing easier when it corroborates what you find but sows doubt when it does not.

So, in 1660 Buriton had **Edmund Barker** come to take over the rectorial duties. Barker was born at Aylsham, Norfolk in 1621. He graduated BA from Gonville and Caius in 1637; and MA from Magdalen Hall, Oxford in 1649. Barker had two curates during his tenure: **Henry Berrow** and **George Browning**.

After Barker's death in 1688 the baton passed to Charles **Layfield**. Layfield was born in Tewin, Hertfordshire in 1659. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' School and St John's College, Oxford, graduating BA in 1670, MA in 1674, BD in 1679 and DD in 1692. He was Rector of Wrotham from 1677; and Croston from 1683. In 1699 he became Rector of Chilbolton, a post he held until his death in 1715.

This long distant priest came to the public's attention in 2016. Intriguingly a chance find by Charles Walker near Bolinge Hill Farm proved to be a 17th century silver seal used for imprinting a crest on wax-sealed correspondence. The crest was found to have belonged to Reverend Layfield. Local paper the Petersfield Post did some research and found that both his predecessor Barker and Layfield were involved with a long running feud with the Lord of Ditcham Park Manor, Richard Cowper. Indeed, it was mooted that Cowper "lampooned, and made scandalous verses which did very much disquiet and discompose the reverend gentlemen".

There is a memorial to Layfield in Winchester Cathedral. The CCEd records one curate during Layfield's incumbency, **William Pilkington**. Pilkington was born in Croston and educated at St John's College, Oxford. He went on to be Rector of Greatham and died in 1755.

In 1699 **William Lowth** arrived at St Mary's. Lowth was born in the parish of St Martin Ludgate on 3 September 1660. He could recall the Great Fire of London! Lowth was educated at Merchant Taylor's School and St John's College, Oxford. He became a Fellow at St John's in 1683. His first book was 'A Vindication of the Divine Authority of the Old and New Testaments', published in 1692. This inspired Peter Mew, the Bishop of Winchester, to appoint him to a prebendal stall at its cathedral and the benefice of Buriton with Petersfield. Over the next forty years was to cement his reputation as an eminent Anglican Biblical commentator. His later books ('Directions for the profitable Study of Holy Scripture,' 1708: 'Commentary on the Prophets,' published in installments between 1714 and 1725), while now superseded, provided excellent springboards for future scholars.

One suspects that much of the actual parish work fell to Lowth's curate, John Wild. Wild went on to be Rector of East Meon with Steep.

Lowth's second son, Robert, would go on to be Bishop of, successively, St David's; Oxford and London. Lowth junior was educated at Winchester College and New College, Oxford. Robert was a talented poet and rose to be Professor of the subject at Oxford from 1841 to 1851. In 1741 he was ordained deacon, priest the following year. He was Rector of Ovington then Archdeacon of Winchester.

After this come two Bartons, indeed two Philip Bartons. Both Barton's are recorded underneath each other in Alumni Oxonienses.

Philip Barton senior (5 August 1695 – 13 July 1765) was born in Worcestershire and admitted to Winchester College in 1708 and New College, Oxford in 1812. He was ordained deacon on 30 March 1718 and priest on 12 June 1720. In that year, he graduated BCL. In 1724 he was elected Fellow at New College. He was Rector of Hannington from 1728 to 1731 and of Houghton, Sussex from 1729 to 1732 when he became Rector of Buriton. He stayed for 19 years, leaving for St Thomas, Portsmouth in 1751, a post he held until his death. One curate is recorded for this Philip Barton, a **John Taylor**.

Philip Barton junior (25 May 1717 – 16 December 1796) was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford graduating BA in 1735 and MA in 1739. He was ordained deacon on 5 September 1743 and priest on 23 September 1744. He was Vicar of Eynsham from 1748 to 1751 when he replaced Barton senior at Buriton. From 1758 he was a Canon Residentiary at Exeter Cathedral. Undoubtedly the actual work of the parish would have fallen to his curate, **William Ralfe**. A graduate of Brasenose College Oxford he went on to be Vicar of Dawlish from 1789 to 1806; and then Rector of Maulden until 1825.

In 1796 **Edmund Poulter** (26 December 1756 – 9 January 1832) came to Buriton. He had been born Edmund Sayer. At that time, it was common for wealthy people with no heir to bequeath their assets to a distant relative, providing he changed his name. So as Edmund Sayer he entered Trinity College, Cambridge.

Originally from Suffolk, and an Old Harrovian, Sayer won several prizes at Cambridge. He changed his name to Poulter the year after his graduation in 1777. As Edmund Poulter he studied at Lincoln's Inn and was called to the bar in 1780. He then took Holy Orders and served at Crawley, Hampshire and Meonstoke before serving as Rector of Buriton from 1796 until 1813. He was then at St Lawrence, Alton until his death. He was a frequent correspondent to papers and magazines of the day.

Next, we come to his son **Brownlow Poulter** (10 October 1788 – 31 March 1829). He was educated at Winchester College and Trinity College, Cambridge. Poulter was 8th Wrangler in 1811, that is 8th best mathematician that year. There is a wall monument to Brownlow at Winchester Cathedral. Confusingly his son was also Brownlow Poulter.

His curate was **Martin Boswell** (11 March 1791 Died 25 March 1871), a distant relative of James, amanuensis to Dr Johnson.

Boswell was 9th Wrangler in 1813 so perhaps Poulter selected his curate for mathematical compatibility rather than ecclesiastical! The son of Captain Bruce Boswell, RN he had a twin brother John. He too was a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge and became a Fellow at Clare later that year. He was ordained deacon in 1818 and priest the following year. After his years at Buriton he was Perpetual Curate at St George, Waterlooville from 1831 to 1852.

Following Poulter's death **Charles Gower Boyles** became the incumbent. Boyles was educated at Exeter College, Oxford and ordained in 1818. He came to Buriton after curacies at Blendworth and Chalton. Boyles created the first school in the village in 1833.

Boyles had the support of **John Bryant Clifford** (18 May 1804 – 16 May 1886) as curate during the middle years of his incumbency

Clifford was born in Fulneck, Yorkshire and educated at Catherine Hall, Cambridge. He was ordained deacon in 1831 and priest in 1832, both at Winchester Cathedral. He came to Buriton after a curacy at St Mary, Southampton. He was Perpetual Curate at St Matthew, Kingsdown from 1837 to 1879. Bryant wrote the curiously titled “Modern witchcraft, assign of the times”, published in 1873. He died on 15 May 1886.

Buriton yielded rich tithes and plenty of glebe rent in the mid-19th century thus generating an exceptionally remunerative stipend- somewhere around £70, 000 if converted into 2019 values. Only certain men, however, would do. Winchester was one of the three dioceses which refused to admit an incumbent without a degree from Oxford, Cambridge or Trinity College, Dublin. These men, the Ecclesiastical Commission summarised, “come from the homes of the upper middle class”. The Victorian Age were, as a Church of England historian has commented, “the golden summer of the parson’s progress.

So, it is only fitting that the last Rector of Buriton to be in charge at Petersfield (and, since 1868, Sheet) was one of the Golden Sumners!

John Maunoir Sumner (1816-1886) was the eldest son of Charles Richard Sumner, Bishop of Winchester from 1827 to 1873. What is more his uncle, John Bird Sumner, was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1848 to 1862; and his brother George, the Suffragan Bishop of Guildford. Two of his nephews Edgar and Alan also became Bishops- of Gloucester and Cape Town respectively. And, as if that was not enough, another nephew Arthur played in the very first Rugby Union international in 1871.

John Maunoir Sumner was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford; and ordained deacon in 1839 and priest in 1841. After a curacy in Crawley, Hampshire he was Rector of North Waltham before coming to Buriton in 1845.

Sumner’s son, **Henry John Le Couteur Summer** (24 December 1845-5 May 1885), was himself a curate at Buriton. Educated at Eton and Trinity Hall Cambridge he was ordained at Winchester the year after his uncle Charles stepped down after 42 years as bishop. He spent two years as Curate of Godstone before re-joining his father. He was then Vicar of Yateley from 1874 until his death. There is a memorial window to him on the west wall of the tower at St Peter, Yateley.

Four other curates are recorded for Sumner during his long incumbency. **Thomas Henry Field** was admitted to Emmanuel Cambridge in 1850. He graduated BA in 1854 and MA in 1857. He came to Buriton after a curacy at St Giles, Reading in 1857 and left for another curacy at Petworth in 1861. He then emigrated to Adelaide, Australia where he ministered to the Anglican Community until his death in 1899.

Henry Haigh (13 May 1837 – 7 September 1906) was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, graduating BA in 1860. He was ordained deacon in 1861, priest in 1862; and was awarded his MA in 1863. He was Sumner’s curate for nine years before departing in 1870 to be Rector of St Maurice, Winchester. He then moved to the Isle of Wight where he was to spend the

rest of his career. He was successively Vicar of Newport, Rural Dean of Medina and Archdeacon of the island.

Then we come to the flamboyant cricketing baronet, **Sir Frederick Larkins Currie** (1823-1900). In 1845, while at Cambridge, Larkins played six first class matches and was awarded his 'Blue'. The son of Frederick Larkins, sometime Foreign Secretary of the Government of India, he was born in Goruckpore and educated at Rugby School. He went up to Christ's College, Cambridge in 1842 and graduated BA in 1846 and MA in 1849. He was ordained deacon in 1848 and priest in 1849, both at Norwich Cathedral. After a curacy in Clenchwarton he came to Petersfield in 1872 and stayed 13 years. He succeeded his father in 1875.

Finally, the last curate in charge before secession was **John Henry Bidlake Wollocombe**. As the curate in charge at St Peter's might he have stepped up to be the first incumbent? Although very different from the centuries old stereotype of an "under qualified, ill-educated and overworked curate, paid a pittance by an absentee parson oblivious to the poverty of his charge's ever-growing family" he would have to serve many more years before finding a parish like Petersfield. Wollocombe had graduated from Brasenose College, Oxford in 1877, the year he was ordained deacon. He was priested the following year and served his title at Canon Frome in Herefordshire. He was then at Uffculme in Devon before spending 1885 and 1886 in Petersfield. He then served further curacies in Hornchurch and Portsea before finally becoming his own man at Lamerton in 1889. He was then Rector of Stowford until his death in 1931.

The first rector of the reduced Buriton parish inevitably received a much smaller stipend, £578pa. **John Wycliffe Gedge** (24 February 1836 – 13 May 1918) had had a very varied career before arriving in the village. Born in Birmingham, Gedge was educated at King Edward's Grammar School there. He was a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge and had been ordained in 1859. In 1860 he married Sophie Anne Burt, daughter of the Rev John Thomas Burt, Chaplain of Birmingham Gaol. After a curacy in Cheltenham he had been Principal of the Otaki Training School in New Zealand.

Returning to London he had been Chaplain at the Refuge for the Destitute in Dalston then of the Home and Colonial Training College in Gray's Inn Road. He then served further curacies at St Lawrence Jewry in the City of London and Shalford. He only stayed at Buriton four years, 1886 to 1890 but left behind a comprehensive set of notes for his successor which have proved an academic treasure house to this day.

He then went to St Anthony in Stepney, East London to be Rector, a post he held until 1901. He was Chaplain of St Michael's School Bognor from 1905 to 1910.

The recipient of those useful notes was **Alfred Whiston Frost Martell** (13 December 1852 – 11 October 1928). Martell was the son of another clergyman, the Rev Alfred Martell, sometime incumbent at Minehead. He was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge and ordained in 1873. He served curacies at Eling and Leatherhead and was Rector of St Anthony Stepney until 1890 when he swapped benefices with Gedge. In 1906 he became Rector of Long Ditton. He retired in 1920 to Stoke Gabriel in Devon and is buried in the churchyard there.

Charles Royden Worsley Hughes (22 January 1851 - 24 December 1938) arrived in 1906. Hughes was educated at Trinity College, Oxford. He served curacies at Wokingham and Torbay. He was

Rector of Long Ditton from 1889 to 1906. Hughes stayed at Buriton until 1927 when he retired to Eastbourne.

Thomas Harold Senior, FRGS (1871-1930) arrived in 1927. Educated at the University of London, he was ordained in 1899 and began his ecclesiastical career with a curacy at Gypsy Hill. He was there from 1889 to 1908 and then at Fazackerley until 1912. He was Vicar at Holy Trinity Aldershot from 1912 to 1927. He died after only three years in the job.

He was replaced by **Bernard Williams**. The son of the Rev Henry Williams, he was born in Croxton, Norfolk and educated at Christ's College, Cambridge. Williams was ordained deacon in 1899 and priest in 1899, both at Exeter Cathedral. He served curacies at Chittlehampton (1899-1902) and at Indwe, South Africa (1902-6). He was successively Priest-Vicar of Grahamstown, Rector of East London, then Archdeacon and Dean of Grahamstown. He was Vicar of St Thomas, Portsmouth (the future Portsmouth Cathedral) from 1927 and 1930. He was at Buriton from 1930 to 1935. He died in Pietermaritzburg in 1943.

George Stanley Morley (1895-1961) was incumbent from 1936 to 1955. He was born in Epsom and educated at Keble College, Oxford and Magdalene College, Cambridge. He was ordained deacon in 1898 and priest in 1894. After curacies in Southgate and Huntingdon he was an Assistant Master at Seafeld Park School in Fareham. He then served two more curacies: Andover then Hersham. During World War One he interrupted his curacy at St Matthew Southsea to serve as a private in the RAMC. He was Vicar of Titchfield before coming to Buriton.

Wilfred James Crewe (1890-1966) was Rector from 1955 to 1961. He graduated from the University of Manchester in 1913. After a period of study at Sarum Theological College he became Curate at Fishponds, Dorset. He was Vicar of Cobble Hill, British Columbia from 1921 to 1925; Curate in charge at St Chad, Moorfield from 1925 to 1927; Rector of Compton Greenfield from 1927 to 1931; and Vicar of St Mary, Cowes from 1931 to 1955.

Now we come to the first incumbent my family remember, **Peter Whitfield Gallup**. He was born in 1906 and ordained deacon in 1953 and priest in 1954. After his ordination training he was at St Mary, Portsea until 1961; and at Buriton from 1961 to 1974. He died in 1998.

I joined the church choir at Petersfield in 1970. I don't recall Rev Gallup but can recall Rev Norman coming to do services at St Peters' when Ron Granger was on holiday. That would have been after 1974 when Rev Norman came to Buriton and before 1977 when my voice broke.

Norman was born in 1914 and trained for the priesthood at St Andrew's, Whittleford. His first curacy was at Stoke-next-Guildford. He held incumbencies at Ruan Lanihorne and Gateshead before twenty years as an administrator with the CMS. When he retired in 1979 the living was suspended. Norman died in 1992 and is buried in Buriton Cemetery.

Ronald Harry Granger (1922-2005) had already been Vicar of Petersfield for nine years when he became the interim Rector of Buriton in 1979. Granger was born on 14 July 1922 and educated at Selwyn College, Cambridge. He started his ecclesiastical career as so many others have done at St Mary's, Portsea. After that he spent thirteen years in the Isle of Wight.

He was Vicar of St John the Evangelist, Sandown from 1957 to 1963; of All Saints Ryde from 1963 to 1970; and Rural Dean of East Wight from 1965 to 1970. In 1984 he was formally confirmed as the Rector of Buriton.

Juliet Christine Grace (1938-2005) was educated at the Cambridge Institute of Education. She prepared for ordination through the Southern Dioceses' Ministerial Training scheme; and was ordained deacon in 1987, and priest in 1994. She served twice in the parish of Petersfield: firstly from 1987 to 1993; and then again from 1998 to 2005. In between times she was at Steep with Froxfield and Privett. She was also the Community Mental Health Chaplain for Petersfield from 1993 until her death; a hospital chaplain from 1998; and Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers from 2003.

Additionally, ministering to all three parishes as a Non Stipendary Minister was retired priest **Douglas Banyard**. (b 1922) who came to Petersfield in 1977 after six years at St John, Selsdon. I saw Rev Doug outside Waitrose in October 2019.

Granger's replacement was **Christopher Lawson** (b 1953). In his youth, he worked cleaning the coke ovens at British Steel, Consett. His ecclesiastical career has taken in Richmond (Surrey) and Eltham before his 8 years as Vicar of Petersfield. In 1995 he became Rural Dean of Petersfield. He was Archdeacon of Portsdown from 1999 to 2006; Priest Vicar of Westminster Abbey from 2006 to 2011; and Bishop of Lincoln from 2011 entering the House of Lords in 2017. In 2019 he was suspended from his role by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Olaf Emanuel Anderson (b 1964) was a curate at St Peter's from 1991 to 1993. Anderson was educated at the University of Queensland and St Francis College, Queensland. He was ordained deacon in 1987 and priest in 1988; and served in Australia before coming to Petersfield. He is now at St Michael, Brisbane.

David Grant Bartholomew (b 1950) was educated at the University of Lampeter and Chichester Theological College. He was ordained deacon in 1993, and priest in 1994. He served his title in Petersfield before leaving to be Rector of Etton in the Diocese of Peterborough. He has been the Rector of Burghclere since 1998.

In 1996 Petersfield with Buriton welcomed **Susan Emma Roberts** (b 1960). She was educated at La Sainte Union College and St Stephen's House Oxford. She was ordained deacon in 1996 and priest in 1997. Since leaving Petersfield she has worked in Devon. She has been in charge at Ashprington, Totnes and Honiton. She was appointed a prebendary in Exeter Cathedral in 2006. Roberts was the Rural Dean of Totnes from 2003 to 2006; and then of Honiton from 2007 to 2013.

Richard Crispin Harrison (b 1957) was a parish curate from 1996 to 1999. He was born in 195 and studied for ordination at Trinity College, Bristol. He was ordained deacon in 1985 and priest in 1986. Harrison was educated at Portsmouth Polytechnic. He was Curate of Southway in Plymouth from 1985 to 1989 and Vicar of St Andrew, Kinson (left) in Bournemouth from 1989 until coming to Petersfield. After leaving he worked as an administrator for the Mission to Seafarers. Harrison disappears from Crockford's after the 2004/5 edition. He resigned from the Emsworth Baptist Church Trust in March 2019.

Giles Harris Evans (b 1946) was Vicar from 1999 to 2010. Harris-Evans was born in Ashby de la Zouch. He was educated at King's College London and Bangalore Theological College. He served two curacies, one at Holy Trinity, Clapham and one in Sri Lanka. He was Vicar of Benhilton from 1978 to 1976. Harris Evans was Team Rector of Coventry East from 1986 to 1993 and then of Brighouse before coming to Petersfield. In retirement, he lives in Southsea. He returned to St Peter's in 2014 to talk about his three-month role as a human rights adviser in Palestine.

Diane Rosalind Townsend was born in 1945. She was educated at Stockwell College of Education and King Alfred College, Winchester. She was ordained deacon after a period of study at Sarum Theological College in 1996; and priest in 1997. She was a non-stipendiary minister at Botley from 1996 to 2000; and at Buriton from then until 2005. After that she served at St Mark, North End, Portsmouth from 2005 to 2010.

The united benefice's first millennial appointments were **David Clifford Stickland** (b 1944) and **Toby Christopher Wright** (b 1975).

Stickland was educated at the University of Surrey. He was also on the Southern Theological Education and Training Scheme. He was a Non-Stipendiary Minister at Greatham from 2001 to 2005; and at Buriton from 2005 to 2010 when he was granted permission to officiate within the Diocese of Portsmouth.

Also arriving in 2001, Wright was a graduate of New College, Oxford and the University of Leeds. His vocation took him to the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield. He was ordained deacon in 2001, and priest in 2002. His second curacy, at St John with St Andrew in Peckham, clearly went well because in 2006 he became its Vicar. In 2009 he moved to Witney, being appointed Vicar that year and Rural Dean in 2013. Wright is also a Director of the Diocese of Oxford Board of Finance. His wife Sally is also a priest.

Dominic James Clarke (b 1971) arrived in 2007. Clarke was educated at the University of Surrey. He began the Southern Theological Education and Training Scheme in 2004; and was ordained deacon in 2007, and priest in 2008. He left in 2011, effectively to replace Will Hughes at Blackmoor with Whitehill. In 2016 he took on the additional responsibility of St John the Baptist, Greatham.

Judith Mary Bee (b 1952) is also a non-stipendiary minister. She trained via the Southern Theological Education and Training Scheme, qualifying in 2003. She was a non-stipendiary minister at Hambledon from 2006 to 2010 and has been at Buriton since then.

The current incumbent at St Peter's is **William Piers Maxamillian Hughes** (b 1976) has been Vicar of Petersfield with Buriton since 2011. Hughes came to the town from St Matthew, Blackmoor.

Will Hughes was educated at the University of Exeter and Ripon College, Cuddesdon. He served his title within the Warminster Team Ministry. He was appointed an honorary canon of Portsmouth cathedral in 2015.

Thomas Martin St John James (Tom) was born in 1985) and came to the area to begin his service to the church in 2012. A graduate of St John's College, Cambridge he studied for ordination at Westcott House. He was priested in 2013. In 2015 he became a chaplain in the Royal Navy.

Samantha Anne Cullen is from County Wicklow in the Republic of Ireland. She has a BA from the National University of Ireland (1993); an MSc from Keele (1996); and a PhD from Northumbria. She has worked for the NHS, and the Universities of Liverpool and Southampton. She studied for ordination at Ripon College Cuddesdon. She has been at Peter's since 2017 and was priested in 2018.

Helen Miranda Mitchell is a graduate of Girton College, Cambridge and a solicitor. She was ordained deacon in 2010 and priest in 2011, serving at Sudbury in Suffolk until 2017. She moved to Petersfield in 2017 and is a trained spiritual director.

Main Sources

Crockford's Clerical Directory

The Clergy List

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Matthew Eyre
Hon Sec, PAHS
Autumn 2019