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RECTOR OF WISTOW HUNTS.

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Members' attention is called to the fact that the Revd. J. Griffin, Wood Walton Rectory, Peterborough, has been elected Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, and all communications (except those intended for the Editor) should be sent to him.

## GREAT CATWORTH, HUNTS.

The Church of St. Leonard, Great Catworth, dates from the 13th century, its list of Rectors beginning in 1239. All that I am able to say on the architecture of the church I owe to the learning and kindness of Mr. Inskip Ladds and with this I will begin, venturing to add something on other matters from my own examination of the registers, and other records.

The form of the church in the 13th century was apparently a chancel and a nave of the same length as it is now, with side aisles, and of this church the walls of the side aisles and part of the west wall of the nave remain. The first alteration that was made to it appears to have been the addition of the tower in the early Perpendicular period. A little later when the Perpendicular style had become well established a chapel was added to the east end of the south aisle; doubtless the eastern end of the aisle was pulled down, certainly the walls of the chapel were rebuilt from the foundations, for they have a plinth whereas those of the aisle have none. There appears also to be reason to think that they rose to a greater height than those of the aisle and were surmounted by a parapet.

Later still the nave arcade was rebuilt with a clerestory above it, the aisle walls were raised, and new windows of Perpendicular design inserted and new roofs and parapets erected. The raising of the aisle walls can be seen on the inside, and at the west end of the south aisle the raising and the insertion of the window can be clearly recognised.

That the tower was built before the rebuilding of the nave is shown by the fact that the old west wall, with the water-table of the 13th century roof was retained, and may still be seen, but cut into, of course, for the tower arch. The change of masonry above it is very apparent. The western parapet of the south aisle blocks up a window of the tower stairs.

The north aisle appears to be later than the south, although the difference in date is probably not very great, the change of style being more probably due to other causes. The tracery however of the windows is of a later type, and while the carved bosses of the roof of the south aisle are carved on the solid timbers, those of the north aisle were carved on separate pieces of wood and pegged up, all of them having now disappeared. The north aisle, moreover, has a plinth; and the doorway is of Perpendicular design, rather coarse and late. The doorway of the south aisle is a fine specimen of the Early English style with three jamb shafts on each side having carved caps. The porch is Perpendicular of about the same date as the nave. The door has no lock and key and is still fastened on the inside by the old oak beam.

When the aisle walls were raised and the parapets added it apparently became necessary to increase the height of the parapets of the chapel by inserting a narrow course of stone.

The gargoyles of the nave are rather fine, especially one on the south side, and another good gargoyle is at the north-east corner of the north aisle. In the angle between the north aisle and the tower is part of an early buttress, evidently that at the north-west corner of the 13th century nave.

With regard to the chancel we have to remember that the two side walls were taken down and rebuilt about forty years ago, and a pitch pine tiled roof took the place of the original oak and leaded roof. A fragment of a fine double Early English piscina in the south wall remains and there are three Perpendicular two-light windows. In this wall there was a small priest's doorway

a few fragments of which are to be seen in the doorway of the modern vestry on the north side. The south wall therefore is probably the original 13th century wall with Perpendicular windows inserted. Probably the same might be said of the north wall which obviously had three Perpendicular windows, one remains, and two have been shortened and inserted in the north wall of the vestry, the place of one of them in the north wall of the chancel being occupied by a modern arch under which stands the organ. Some fragments of old stained glass are to be seen in a window in the south wall of the chancel and in the east window of the north aisle. The east wall may also be of 13th century date but with a poor and late Perpendicular five-light window inserted. There are signs of the gable wall having been raised.

Another fragment of the Early English church is the little bracket built into the north wall of the north aisle. In the east wall of the same aisle is a large stone corbel of an uncertain date probably intended to carry a figure. On this corbel there now lies a piece of a tombstone of early date. In the churchyard on the north side of the chancel is an ancient tombstone with what is perhaps local ornamentation, and another ancient tombstone was at the restoration of the church taken up and built into the vestry wall on the inside. Those who are skilled in reading history in stone can thus follow the changes in the structure of our parish church from the time when the early founders and builders brought their material from the famous quarries of Weldon and Corby to build a House for God's worship on the hill or rising ground, as the second syllable of its name implies, of Catworth.

Within the church the font is very plain possibly of 14th century date, but its plainness makes it difficult to say anything definite. It had at one time a flat cover the hinges of which can be traced. In 1912 the drain was found and cleared so that the font can be used in accordance with the rubric.

The tracery, panels, and part of the framing of the pulpit are ancient, and so is the carving on the lower panels of the screen, where eagles are carved on the centre panel on each side. There are traces of a chancel gate but none of a rood loft or of stairs. A former rector, the Rev. E. L. Puxley, who restored the church and gave munificently to the expense of the work was an amateur carpenter and himself repaired the pulpit and screen and carved a lectern (not quite finished in its ornamentation) with the assistance of the skilled village carpenter of his time.

The altar is a beautiful Jacobean table and in the fine lettering of the time has the inscription "The gift of Thomas Ekins in the yeare 1634," on the side against the wall are initials evidently of members of the family. There is something more to be said about him presently but with regard to the gift of this altar to the church it may be noticed that the year in which it was given was that in which Bishop Williams of Lincoln visited Little Gidding to see for himself what really was being done in his church by Nicholas Ferrar of which some Puritan agitators were complaining. The Bishop came and inspected, and at a service preached to a great congregation gathered from the country side expressing approval of all that he had seen. May not Thomas Ekins have been in the congregation, was he impressed by the appointments of the church of Little Gidding and by his Bishop's approval of them, and did he not on his return to his village determine that Great Catworth church should have a fair and stately holy table?

The holy vessels are of silver, somewhat thin and bent, with no inscription, the hallmarks give the date as 1568-9. The plain silver of the chalice and paten, the plain dark oak of the Altar, recall a noble passage in an article by G. W. E. Russell in which he insists on the identity and continuity in our part of the Catholic Church of her Eucharist whether attended with brilliant or severely simple ornaments of Church and Minister.

Over the piscina is a small memorial tablet with a beautifully distinct inscription.

IN NOMINE IESV  
 PÆNITENS AC FIDELIS  
 RESVRRECTIONEM EXPECTANS  
 BEATIFICAM  
 ELIZABETHA VXOR THOMÆ BRVDENELL  
 FILII NATV MAXIMI THOMÆ BRVDENELL  
 DE STONTON BRVDENELL IN COMIT LEI-  
 CEST ARMIGERI : FILIA ITEM ET SOLA  
 RELECTA NATHANIELIS HVMFREY NVPER  
 DE BARTON SEGRAVE IN COM : NORTHA  
 ARMIGERI SVB HOC TERRÆ GREMIO  
 IACET SEPVLTA  
 OBIIT VLTIMO MENSIS AVGVSTI  
 DIE ITIDEM SABBATIS IN AN :  
 ÆTAT : SVÆ 36 ANNOQ.  
 CHRISTI.  
 1656.

No entry of the burial is to be found in the registers which at the time were not well kept.

Another memorial tablet very different in every way is to be found near the south door.

Near this Place  
 Was Interred DR. JOHN LAWTON and  
 MRS. ROSE DRIDEN his second Wife.  
 He was a Pious Man and learned both in Divinity and  
 In Physick ; and diligently improved Both Studies  
 to ye Glory of God  
 And to the good of his Neighbour.  
 She was Daughter of Erasmus Driden son of Sr ERASMUS  
 DRIDEN of Canons Ashby in Northamptonshir and  
 Mrs. Mary Pickering  
 His Wife by whom He had 14 children, the Eldest was  
 JOHN DRYDEN, Esqr. the LAUREAT of his time who  
 Married the Lady Elizabeth Howard, Daughter, to  
 Henry Earl of Berkshire  
 By whom She had 3 Sons, Charles, John and Erasmus,  
 who all died fine yong Gentlemen.

The 2nd Brother to Mrs. Lawton is the present  
 Sr Erasmus Dryden of Canons Ashby  
 By lineal descent an ancient Baronet.  
 She was very Beautiful and Pleasant in Her youth, always  
 Good, and  
 Charitable allmost beyond her power, in which she  
 followed the rare Example  
 of her Exelent Mother. Mrs. Lawton lived in this Town  
 neer 40 years  
 And died Lamented Decem 26 1710 in the 77 yeare  
 of her age.  
 Having first buried her only Child ERASMUS LAWTON  
 On whom her Brother Wrote these lines.  
 Stay Stranger stay and drop one Tear  
 She always weeps that layd him Here  
 And will do, till her Race is Run  
 His Fathers fifth, her only Son.  
 This was placed here by A Relation of Hers  
 Whos frindship reaches beyond the Grave.

These two inscriptions have been given *Verbatim et  
 literatim* as nearly as it is possible to print them.

On the north wall are three memorial tablets one in  
 memory of William Croxton, a member of a family  
 prominent in the village in its day, who became a Major  
 General in the Honorable East India Company's Service.  
 He died at Great Catworth and his body was buried in  
 the church. The stained glass of the east window is  
 in memory of a daughter born at Delhi. The other two  
 tablets are in memory of Sir Felix Booth and his sister.  
 Sir Felix Booth was a well known distiller and Alderman  
 of London. He was a patron of scientific research and  
 polar exploration and for his services received his  
 baronetcy. He bought and enlarged the interesting  
 house at Brook End in the parish. The "Pieta" which  
 after occupying various positions in the church now  
 hangs on the south wall was his gift.

The Royal Arms over the north door were put up  
 according to parish tradition at the Coronation of  
 Queen Victoria.

In the chancel are tablets to the memory of William Bunbury, Rector 1704-1748, his wife Anne and their son Charles who was Rector of Hargrave; Matthew Maddock, Rector 1755-1788 and his wife Penelope; Thomas Evanson, Rector 1788-1835; Richard Latham, Rector 1835-1873, and his wife Arabella.

William Bunbury's tablet marks the first exercise by Brasenose College of the right to appoint. The history of the patronage is fairly clear. From 1239 when the list of Rectors begins until 1422 it was in the hands of the Beking family owners of property in Great Catworth and Kimbolton. The family ended in the female line and Alice the heiress married Sir Thomas Rempston of Bingham, the soldier son of a soldier father, both of them Knights of the Garter. The elder was a supporter of Henry of Lancaster afterwards Henry IV and in Shakespeare's list of those who landed with him (King Richard II. Act II. Sc. I.) he appears as Sir John Ramston. Sir Thomas the younger who married our heiress fought at Agincourt. He was in France from 1415 to 1442, and for seven years of that time was a prisoner of war. His three daughters exercised the patronage through their husbands, his grandson Sir Thomas Cheyne exercised it, and then Elizabeth Cheyne, great granddaughter, married Thomas Vaux second Baron Vaux of Harrowden and took it into that family. The third baron, William, was often in prison for recusancy, and various people exercised the right of appointment. Thomas Ekins appointed in 1635 and King Charles in 1637 or 1638. Then in 1675 Brasenose College purchased the advowson with a bequest left to the College by Daniel Greenwood, scholar of Christ's College, Cambridge, appointed fellow of Brasenose by the Visitors in 1648.

William Bunbury the first Rector appointed by Brasenose was a fellow of the College. Soon after he came he petitioned the Bishop of Lincoln (William Wake) for leave to pull down the "old ruinous parsonage" and to build a better house. A commission was issued consisting of the Incumbents of Offord Cluny, Great Paxton, Buckden,

Kimbolton, and Molesworth and leave was duly given. The house thus built by William Bunbury was subsequently enlarged by the Revs. H. L. and E. L. Puxley. The tablet to the memory of Anne Bunbury records the name of the family, Chernocke, to which she belonged.

The war will not only bring about the erection of many memorials in the churches of our towns and villages, it touches the memorials of those gone long since to their rest, two brothers, descendants of this family (Chernocke) gave up their lives within a short time of one another in the early days of the war; and now a young officer, grandson of my venerable predecessor, who was baptized in our font is a prisoner of war in Germany.<sup>1</sup>

William Bunbury's son Charles was Rector of Hargrave. He died aged 30 in 1749 and his wish was to be buried "In the churchyard of Catworth in a coarse shroud and plain coffin and in such humble manner as becomes a miserable offender." He left to his brother such books as were his share of their father's library and to his sister Mary books purchased at the University which she thinks will be of service or entertainment to her, and also the advowson of Hargrave on condition that she should present their brother in law to it within six months of the testator's death. The registers show Mr. Claudius Fonnereau, Rector of Clapham, who married Miss Anne Bunbury of this parish, on April 24th 1726, to be the brother in law in question.<sup>2</sup>

William Bunbury was succeeded by James Crowther, Fellow of the College. During his incumbency a meeting was held of which the following is the record:

"Oct. 9th 1749.

"The following agreement was made and signed by  
 "the minister and parishioners of Great Catworth att a  
 "Publick Vestry regularly call'd upon the day of the  
 "date hereof.

"Whereas there have been great encroachment made  
 "of late years upon the Common Lands belonging to the

1. 2nd Lieutenant Frederick Charles Berrill, son of the late Charles Gate Berrill and Clara Helen, his wife, elder daughter of the late Revd. William Woodward.

2. The Rev. F. C. Boulbee, Rector of Hargrave, informs me that Thomas Strong, succeeded Charles Bunbury as Rector there in 1749, on the presentation of Mary Bunbury, Spinster. Charles William Fonnereau became Rector in 1797.

“said Parish by plowing into the said Common Lands we  
 “the Ministers and Parishoners above mentioned in  
 “order to regain what has been unjustly taken away from  
 “the said Common Lands have unanimously agreed to  
 “fix and ascertain the bounds of the said Common Lands  
 “and upon a strict Survey made by us the Minister and  
 “Parishoners directed by the judgement of the most  
 “Antient and Principal Inhabitants of the said Parish  
 “have fixed and ascertained the bounds of the said  
 “Common Lands being unanimously resolved to main-  
 “tain and preserve, as far as in us lies, the bounds of the  
 “said Common Lands as they are now fixed and ascer-  
 “tained by us and jointly att our common expence to  
 “Prosecute any person who shall Plow behond or trans-  
 “gress the said bounds fix’d and ascertained by us, each  
 “of us bearing his part of the charge of such Prosecution  
 “in Proportion to the number of Commons he shall then  
 “have in the said Parish. In witness thereof we the  
 “Minister and Parishoners of Great Catworth have each  
 “of us set our hands this ninth day of October in the  
 “year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and  
 “fortynine.”

James Crowther, Rectr	John Salmons
John Pashler	James Quick
Thomas Pashler	Matthew X Glover
Charles Barley	his mark
Richard X King	John Smith
his mark	John King the older
Wm. Croxton	John King
Will Cooper	John Summerby
William Waterfield	Edward Shadbolt
John X Pain	John Shadbolt
his mark	Thomas Croxton
John Quick	Henry King

James Crowther's successor was Matthew Maddock, Fellow, Junior, and Senior Bursar of the College, who served a term as Proctor. He was Rector for thirty years, for part of the time being also Rector of Holywell.

He interested himself in the parochial charities, and built the Clerk's house which is held by a special trust. A handsome silver flagon was a gift of his to the Church.

A Tablet in the Sanctuary records the long ministry of Thomas Evanson, Fellow and Vice Principal of the College, whom a parishioner now in her 94th year remembers as a "dapper little man in knee breeches and "gaiters and buckled shoes taking his walks in the "Village." In his time the Parish Award was made, the Commissioners, of whom he was one, meeting at the Wheatsheaf Inn, Alconbury. The document is a specially fine one. In 1793 by a majority vote of the vestry a west gallery was erected for the singers.

Richard Latham, bearing a name well known at Brasenose, was the last Fellow appointed to the Parish, the College after his time having to look to members of its Society of less academic distinction. Mr. Latham built the School by subscription, and the schoolmaster's house at his own expense.

Henry Lavallin Puxley and Edward Lavallin Puxley, (again a well known Brasenose name) were successively Rectors from 1873—1891. The former commenced the enlargement of the Rectory House before he left for the Vicarage of Kimbolton, the latter finished his brother's work and undertook and completed the restoration of the church as I have before mentioned. Before taking Holy Orders and serving as a missionary in India, he was in the army, fought in the Crimea, and but for some accident would have been in the famous Balaclava charge. The restored church is his memorial.

The north and south windows in the sanctuary were filled with stained glass in memory of the Revd. William Woodward and his wife, by their children in 1913. Mr. Woodward was Rector, by exchange with Mr. E. L. Puxley, from 1891 until his death at an advanced age in 1912. Eight names in 200 years, marking lives and periods uneventful and undistinguished as we reckon

distinction, but marking duty done as it was recognised, and giving its date to this or that parochial or home event of profound importance to those concerned. "Consule Planco" becomes in village church life, "When Mr. So and So was the Reverend."

Among the figures on the Woodward memorial windows, (the others being the blessed Virgin with the Holy Child, Elizabeth with the boy St. John, and St. George, Patron Saint of England) is St. Leonard the Saint in whose honour the church was dedicated to God's Worship. This dedication in the name of the friend and patron of prisoners became a not uncommon one in the period of the Crusades when men's attention and compassion was drawn to the evil case of Christian prisoners in the hands of Saracen enemies. A Rector of old time, William Barber alias Smyth, left a bequest of £3 for the carving of a picture in wood of Saint Leonard which has long since disappeared. The parish feast is celebrated not on or around St. Leonard's Day, November 6th, but in the octave of St. Peter. It was not unusual when a parish feast came at an awkward time for the parishioners to petition the Bishop to alter the date, and no doubt this was done in bygone years by the people of Great Catworth.

From the roof in the nave hangs a handsome brass chandelier with the Brasenose College arms and the inscription: "Lux luceat—ex donis Joannis Morris London, Generosi, 1666." On one side of the ball from which go out twelve branches, six above and six beneath, are what are probably the donor's arms and on the other the arms of the College. It is surmounted by a double headed crowned Eagle; Hawker of Morwenstow, that lover of Symbolism, held that in this way was represented the two-fold work of the Holy Spirit in the old and new Testaments. I imagine the chandelier must have been given to the church in the time of a former Rector by the College authorities, for the parish did not come under their patronage until 1676.

Three framed photographs at the west end of the nave recall an ancient possession of the church; five cushions in a chest in the rectory attracted the attention of visitors with knowledge of church needlework, and the authorities of South Kensington Museum, after they had been shown at some exhibitions, desired to purchase them for the rooms set apart for ecclesiastical embroidery. In 1902, under a faculty, the cushions were sold for a sum of money expended in improvements to the church clock and are now in a good position at South Kensington. The needlework of early 14th century date, looks as though it had been the embroidery on the orphreys of a handsome cope; Saint Philip, Saint James the Less, St. Thomas, with a Pope and a King probably St. Edward the Confessor are the subjects; and underneath are the arms of the Clinton and Leybourne families. William Clinton Earl of Huntingdon married Juliana, heiress of the Leybourne family in 1329. Had they any knowledge of or interest in Great Catworth and was the vestment their gift to the church? <sup>1</sup> The making up of the cushions is 16th century work and we may suppose that when through Puritanism or covetousness (the latter adopted the former not seldom as a cloke) the churches were deprived of their rich vestments some one made at least a partial restoration and the needlework which once was an ornament of the minister at the Procession before the Eucharist became cushions on which recipients of the Holy Sacrament should kneel. I will not enter upon the vexed question of the rightness or wrongness of parting with ancient furniture or ornaments of the church, but as they are no longer with us and no longer our care in this church I could wish no better place for them than that in which they now repose.

There are a few particulars of the sale of ornaments at Great Catworth in the Edwardian inventories:

“Solde by John Musgrave and Edmond King Church-wardens ther, with th’ assente of all the parochineres,

<sup>1</sup>. It is much more likely to have been purchased at the sale of Monastic property at the Dissolution, and given to the church then. (Ed.)

“iii crosses, iiij candellstickes with ther broken mettall  
 “of latton for xxvjs. iijd., a cope of blewe vellvett, a  
 “cope of redd satten, ij tunacles of red silke and ij  
 “clothes of silke for xijs. xxxviijs. iijd. All which  
 “money they with other declare upon their othes was  
 “bestowed in mending of highe wayes and on the poore.  
 “xxxviiijs. iijd. Allso ther was sold by Robert Gosslyn  
 “of Layton without th’ assent of the parochineres a vest-  
 “ment of whitt damaske for xs. and the churchwardens  
 “saith upon their othes the same vestment to be well  
 “worthe xxxs.” What say had the Rector in the matter  
 and how did he look upon the transaction?

If we climbed the narrow belfry we should find four bells, the fourth was given in 1863 and bears with the Rector’s name (Richard Latham), a name which appears through many generations in the Registers of Great Catworth and is still honourably borne in the parish, that of Pashler, John Pashler being then churchwarden. Unfortunately by some error its note is the same as that of one of the other three. One of these has the unique inscription “Vox mea plene dulces laudes det Magdalene” Another is inscribed “Vox dni Ihu Xpi vox exultacionis” Another has the inscription “Robarte Newcombe made me, 1585.”

The spire was struck by lightning on July 1st, 1913 but fortunately not much damage was done. The two top sections were taken down and with necessary repairs set up again.

Hitherto we have gained knowledge of the history of the church from what we see within and without its walls, what may we learn from the registers of Holy Baptism, Holy Matrimony and Christian Burial? They commence in 1561 and from that date until 1603 the pages are signed by John Alwood, Rector, and the successive churchwardens with, at intervals, the record of their having been shown to the Archdeacon of Huntingdon at his visitation.

John Alwood became Rector in 1575 and we may suppose that he provided a new register book into which he copied all entries made elsewhere from 1561. In the list of Rectors published by our Society he is described as Bachelor of Arts,<sup>1</sup> and I find in a volume of Oxford University Registers that "John Alwood, priest, supplicated for B.A. Nov. 1558." He was Rector for thirty years and more, the entry of his burial reading "John Alwood, clarke, Rector of this church was buried this [?] day of May 1603." His wife had died in the preceding year: "Jane Alwood the wife of Jno Alwood, parson of Magna Catworth was buried this [?] day of March 1602." In his days tidings of the threatened Spanish Invasion reached the village and an Ekins, a yeoman of the better sort, must find men and horses for the army of defence. The generations go by and again Catworth men must go forth to the army to fight battles of defence not on English but on foreign soil.

After the entry of John Alwood's burial or rather next but one the words are written across "Hic incipit Wybarne Rector" This was John Wybarne who at the time was Vicar of Godmanchester where he resided until his death in 1635. During his time the parish was served by curates, or ministers as they describe themselves when signing the pages of the registers. One of them George Latimer is remarkable for his beautiful writing and also it may be said for the ink which he used, so clear are his entries. Another of the curates, Berridge, came from Shelton and married Catherine the daughter of Thomas Ekins.

On John Wybarne's death William Berridge became Rector on the presentation of his father-in-law. He was not long Rector for he died in 1638. The entries of burial read thus: "1638 August 14th Thomas Ekins Senex Ecclesiæ de Catworth Patronus. August 30th Willelmus Berridge Ecclesiæ de Catworth Rector qui duxit filiam ejusdem patroni."

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1. Transactions, Vol. II. page 190.

The name Ekins is found for some time longer in the register. It is thought that Thomas Ekins may have lived in a great house near the church. A field shows signs of the foundations of a house of considerable size. An Ekins married with the family of Sanderson from which came Robert Sanderson Bishop of Lincoln.

The entry of William Berridge's burial is in the handwriting of his successor, Antony Akerod, who came from the Vicarage of Keysoe on the presentation of King Charles I. He makes his entries with great precision and is evidently proud of having been presented by the King. His page for 1643 is made ready with its bold heading but in that year he was dispossessed and one Ferdinando Poole was intruded. Apparently he lived in the parish or neighbourhood; his wife "Mrs. Elizabeth Aykrodd" was buried May 18, 1647, and in 1653 comes the entry: "Sibill the daughter of Anthony "Akroyd, minster, born the 19th of December." The registers at this period were very untidily kept and very often, though not always, the register of children is not of their baptism but of their birth. The signing of the pages of the register by the Minister or Rector ceases. The writing is formless and the ink faded, but from 1660 to 1702 the churchwardens accounts are signed with clearness and regularity by Stephen Anderson. It is considered, I understand, that Stephen Anderson was like Ferdinando Poole an intruded minister, but he remained in possession and the entry of his burial is dated December 6, 1703 in which he is described as "Late Minister." He is said to have been married four times, on each occasion to a lady of means. But to use a north country expression there must have been no "house-pride" among them for, as mentioned above, he left the Rectory to his successor in a ruinous condition.

Stephen Anderson's care as to churchwardens' accounts and responsibilities and that he used his opportunities of dealing with cases of conscience is illustrated by the following entry made on a page in the churchwardens'

book: "Memorandum that Ten Pounds was about 40  
 "years ago given by the will of one Mrs. Susan Hawkins  
 "who sometimes lived at Little Catworth to ye use of  
 "the poore of Great and Little Catworth with directions  
 "in the same will to have the same moneys laid out in  
 "the purchase of lands and the rent of the same lands is  
 "to bee yearly distributed according to the discretion of  
 "the Minister and Churchwardens and Overseers for  
 "the time then living unto and among the poore of  
 "the parish of Great Catworth and Little Catworth on  
 "*Maundy Thursday* yearly w<sup>ch</sup>. said Ten Pounds should  
 "long since have been paid by one Mrs. Ellen Waltham  
 "but was not whereupon shee the s<sup>d</sup>. Mrs. Waltham  
 "being in a low condition a little before her death  
 "and being sensible of the injurie shee had done  
 "the s<sup>d</sup>. poore shee out of that little shee then had left  
 "did add to the s<sup>d</sup>. ten pounds foure pounds more soe  
 "that now the towne hath this present 7th day of Aprill  
 "1680 recd. the s<sup>d</sup>. fourteen pounds by the hands of one  
 "Thomas Browne of Spaldwick and have this present  
 "day put the same moneys out at interest to John  
 "Phillipes and George Bassingham for a yeare and  
 "taken bonds in the names of Stephen Anderson, clarke,  
 "John Laughton, Gent., Silvestor Ezrod, Will<sup>m</sup>. King,  
 "all of Catworth and Thomas Browne of the parish of  
 "Spaldwick to the use of the poore afores<sup>d</sup>. intending in  
 "the meane tyme to find out a convenient purchase  
 "whereby the same may be made perpetual for the  
 "poore afores<sup>d</sup>."

Stephen Anderson, Rector.

Thomas Glen, Churchwardens.  
 Henry Bull,

I do not know that the Registers contain many entries of importance beyond the individuals concerned, and except for one instance there are no remarks as to current events in the parish or elsewhere as is the case in some old registers, Alconbury for example. The exception is that across the page for 1650 has been

written "Exsurgat Deus et dissipentur inimici ejus." The words from the 68th Psalm are of course Oliver Cromwell's battle cry and Sept. 3rd, 1650 is the date of his victory at Dunbar. In 1608 was buried Charitie Dixie wife of John Dixie December 28th. I have not found any other mention of the family from which came Sir Wolston Dixie who was Lord Mayor of London in 1585. "He was a considerable benefactor to Emanuel College Cambridge and erected and endowed a Free School at Bosworth in Leicestershire where the family flourisheth in a worshipful estate." This was the school where Dr. Johnson had an unhappy time as usher, largely owing to the quarrelsome nature of the Chairman of the Governors, another Sir Wolston Dixie. The christian name had thus been handed on, let us hope that his Catworth ancestry was not responsible for his churlishness.

There is the entry of the burial of a murdered man who had come out of Halifax in Yorkshire and whose body was recovered from Brington Brook. Another entry records the burial of a man's body that had lain in the churchyard several days undiscovered and had been attacked by swine and dogs. Yet another entry in 1590, longer than usual, and beyond my powers of deciphering completely, records that a vagrant poor woman came into the town, that her child was born the same day, in lawful matrimony, and was baptized. So the church is ready for the wanderer, tragedy and pathos touch the uneventful village life and make their appeal to us from its faded records.

A. W. M. WEATHERLY.