

Chester Cathedral in the Eighteenth Century

Part I. 1701-1740

By THE VEN. R. V. H. BURNE.

THE beginning of the eighteenth century conveniently corresponds within a year or so with the beginning of the reign of Queen Anne (March 7, 1702), which in its turn ushers in a period with a marked individuality. The Age of Anne somehow seems far removed from the seventeenth century, though of course the transition was a gradual one. It conjures up before our eyes a vision of prosperous, be-wigged, full-skirted citizens, living in "Queen Anne" houses, frequenting coffee-houses and reading there the latest *Tatler* or *Spectator*. Marlborough of course is the dominating figure both at home and abroad, while Defoe, Swift, Steele and Addison are the big names in the literature of the period. The whole reign is taken up with the war with France, ending with the Treaty of Utrecht (1714) which laid the foundations of our over-seas empire. During the rest of our period the Hanoverians, George I and George II, occupied the throne, and, thanks to Sir Robert Walpole, peace was maintained.

Religiously, it was an Age of Reason, introduced by John Locke's "Reasonableness of Christianity" (1695), which led to a certain amount of latitudinarianism among the higher clergy, which in its turn led to erastianism on the one hand and a spirit of toleration on the other. Religion became more and more equated with morality, the sermon continued to be the most important feature of the service, and the square pew, the three-decker pulpit and the gallery at the west end became the normal furniture of a parish church. "The social gulf between rich and poor clergy was still almost as wide as in mediaeval times."¹ It is against this background that the doings of the Dean and Chapter of Chester Cathedral must be placed.

The Dean and Chapter at the beginning of the century were constituted as follows:—

Laurence Fogge, D.D., Dean, 1692

Richard Wright, B.D., 1676

Richard Wroe, D.D., 1678

John Thane, D.D., 1686

Edmund Entwistle, D.D., 1691

Peter Lancaster, M.A., 1694

Dudley Garendiers, M.A., 1696

All these except the last two have been dealt with in a previous article. (²)

Peter Lancaster was the son of the Rector of Winston, co. Durham, and went to St. John's College, Oxford, in 1676 at the age of 18. He took his B.A. from Balliol

¹G. M. Trevelyan, *Eng. Social History*, p. 359.

²*C.A.J.* 40, p. 49.

in 1684, though why he took eight years to get his degree and changed his college in the process does not appear. In 1690 he was Rector of Nantwich, was made Prebendary of Chester Cathedral in 1694 and exchanged Nantwich for Tarporley in the following year. He lost a daughter Mary in 1707 and died himself in 1709, being buried in the Cathedral on May 17th.³ His family was left very badly off and had to be relieved from time to time by the Cathedral.

Dudley Garenciers was a Minor Canon from 1673 to 1684, when he became Rector of Handley.⁴ He was collated a Prebendary on November 3, 1696. He died in 1702 and was buried in the Cathedral. In the Registers he is described as Prebendary of Chester and Rector of Warton [Waverton]. He had held the latter post since 1677. The Registers also mention that John and Elizabeth Vanburgh were his executors, and Thomas Hughes adds a note to say that he wrote a book called *A History of Christ's Sufferings*. There were at least four boys in his family. Theophilus and Athanasius were at the King's School in 1690, Thomas was his father's nominee in 1697 and remained at school until his father's death in 1702, when the new Prebendary, Dr. Fogge, nominated John in his place.

THE FINANCIAL POSITION.

At the turn of the century the financial position of the Cathedral must have been giving cause for considerable anxiety. The reason is not far to seek and is to be found in the Leicester Award of 1580, which confirmed the possession of the Cathedral estates in the hands of those who had obtained them (illegally, as the Dean and Chapter claimed) by purchase from Sir Richard Cotton in return for a fixed annual payment of rent to the Cathedral.⁵ The result was that the annual income of the Cathedral was much the same as when it was founded in 1541—i.e. about £1,000—although money had depreciated enormously in value since then and the Dean and Chapter had no power to raise the rents. Furthermore, the holders of the land were very backward in paying, so that the income of the Cathedral was always in arrear and it was difficult to find a remedy. The average annual income from 1694 to 1701 was only £901 10s. 10d. The result was that there were serious deficits at the end of each year and considerable borrowing had to take place. It was therefore decided to apply to the King for a brief. This was eventually published on April 13, 1701, and it is interesting to see what an expensive and complicated business it was; amongst other things the help of Mr. Cumberbach, the City Recorder, had to be obtained and one of the Chapter had to make a journey to London.

³The Bishop (Sir Wm. Dawes Bart.) had to leave his dinner to attend the funeral, but did not let that event cast a gloom over his party. Deputy-Registrar Prescott noted in his diary, "May 17, 1709. I dine with my Lord Bishop. A select number (including) Lord Gower, Sir Ric. Grosvenor, Sir Roger Mostyn, Sir Hen. Bunbury, Mr. Cholmley Egerton, Dr. Thane etc. fill the table. Here is an elegant dinner, good wine and free conversacon. About 4 my Lord recedes to Mr. Lancaster's funeral....My Lord returns about 5, and the conversacon improves very cheerfully." *Cheshire Sheaf*, xl, 65.

⁴*C.A.J.* 40, p. 41.

⁵*ibid.* 38, p. 86.

The Brief itself, a framed copy of which hangs in the Chapter House, states

"That such is the present ruinous condition of the said Cathedral Church in Chester, and of the Buildings thereunto belonging, by reason of the perishable nature of the stone wherewith they were built, and the damage they received in the time of the Civil Wars, that the said Dean and Chapter (though they have run themselves much in debt) have not been able with all their care and the utmost of their ability to prevent the continual and increasing decay of the said Buildings." The cost of restoration is estimated at £7000 "which the said Dean and Chapter are utterly incapable of raising themselves, by reason of the mean endowment and extream poverty of the said Church." All parsons, vicars and curates are commanded "deliberately and affectionately to publish and declare the tenor hereof to our said loving subjects, and earnestly exhort them to a liberal contribution on this occasion." In addition the churchwardens are to conduct a house to house collection, accompanied by the incumbent.

April 13, 1701.

The expenses were as follows.

Expended about the Brief

1700	A treat to Mr. Cumberland and Mr. Adams	4	7
	for paper	1	0
	for 3 sheets of stamp paper for Mr. Fowkes [the Chapter Clerk]	3	6
	for 3 sheets of large paper		6
	to Mr. Adams for procuring £50 and making the bond	5	0
	To Mr. Jackson the scrivener	10	0
	To Mr. Cumberbach for procuring a Court and Counsel	1	1 6
	To Mr. Adams for his pains	5	0
	To the Cryer of the Court	2	6
	At Dr. Entwistles parting in wine	3	0
	To Dr. Entwistle for his journey	15	0 0
		<hr/>	
		18	1 7

In the following year we have further payments.

Disbursements on Account and Credit of the Brief

	For a book in which they are entered	3	0
	To Mr. Wait Diocesan Registrar for his care at London	1	1 6
	To Mr. Bowcher which he has laid down for carriage of briefs	2	0
	For carriage by wagon	2	6
	For printing letters to the Archdeacons	8	10
	To Will Cook for dispersing Briefs	18	0
	Tho. Cradocke Note [bill] about the side Ile being all new mended next the green ch. yard	11	18 0
	Nat. Badders note for slates laths etc	7	3 6
	and Payd in part of Tho. Jones the Carpenters note for work done in the Broad Ile	5	0 0
	To John Jepson for dispersing Briefs	5	0
	For letters to and from Stafford	2	0
	To Will Ratsdall for carrying the deputations to Stafford	5	0
	To Ald. Allen for return of £100	1	5 0
		<hr/>	
		28	19 8
	Overcharged myself fourteen shillings last year	14	0
	To Mr. Fowke for stamps that have been used hitherto	10	0
		<hr/>	
		30	3 8

It is to be regretted that there is no record available of the parishes which subscribed, but the following have been recorded in *The Cheshire Sheaf* at various times.

Llanyblodwell	14	6	(I. 198)
Llanymynech	4	6	
Ormesby, Norfolk	2	2	
S. Oswald's, Chester	15	7	(III. 53)
S. Michael's, Chester	13	18	0 (N.S. I. 76)
Cuckfield, Sussex	1	5	6 (" 38)
Bunbury, Cheshire	2	18	11½ ⁶

The money seems to have come in very slowly for there are two further mentions of the Brief in the Accounts several years later.

1706 Aug 21, to Evans for carrying two packs of Briefs to the Audit Chamber

6

1708 May 6 To Mr. Heatley and his clerk for Searching the Brief 7 days

1 5 0

And in a history of Chester written in 1815 we read that the choir roof was "new planked from money raised by a brief in 1708."⁷ The Accounts do not record how the money was spent.

A memorandum in the Accounts for 1710 sums up the financial position at that date.

In^d. that the Church is now indebted

To Mrs. Plumley by bond under Chapter Seal

£100 0 0

To Mrs. Wood by like bond

£100 0 0

To Dr. Fogge as above [being the deficit for the year]

£141 12 1

Note that the salaries unpaid for the last year and rent due to Sir John Werden at Mich. as last above taxes allowed out of the same are

£388 12 5½

Note also that the arrears of rent now due, only of which taxes are to be deducted,

amount to

£410 17 8½

In November, 1711, it was decided to borrow another £200 on account of the non-payment of rents, and in 1714 another £200 was borrowed from Gabriel Wettenhall Esq., and Matthew Meakin, gent, making £700 in the course of six years. An economy was effected by paying the Lecturer £1 for each sermon he preached instead of paying him the usual stipend of £40 a year.

BISHOP STRATFORD'S FUNERAL.

In February, 1707, Bishop Nicholas Stratford died of an apoplexy in London and his body was brought to Chester for burial in the Cathedral which he had helped to repair in 1698. He is best remembered for his share in founding the Blue Coat Hospital for the maintenance, instruction and apprenticeship of thirty-five poor boys. He gave £100 to begin with, promising to bequeath a like sum at his death, but he died intestate. "His son, Dr. Stratford, finding one hundred pounds wrapped up in a piece of cloth upon a shelf in the Bishop's study, gave it to the said Charity, imagining it had been his Father's intention that it should be so appropriated."⁸ The following account of his funeral was printed in *The Cheshire Sheaf* in 1878 from a

⁶Bunbury Churchwardens' Accounts.

⁷*History of the City of Chester* [by Dr. J. M. B. Pigot] T. Poole, p. 60.

⁸Cowper MS. 13 c.c.

MS. scrap found among some papers of Dean Cotton of Bangor and gives a vivid picture of the funeral customs of that time.

"All the bells in Chester began to toll at six of the clock in the morning; and about one o'clock all the company went out to meet the Corps at the Glass House, where the undertakers who attended delivered out the gloves, scarfs, hat-bands etc. Between four and five o'clock they returned into the town in the following order—first, the Captain of the City Militia, followed by his company two and two, as slow as they could march; after them all the livery servants in the same order; after them the gentlemen; all these had pepper colore'd gloves, seamed with black. Then followed the Blue Boys on foot; after them the constables; next came the sword and mace, covered with black, preceding the Mayor and the Recorder with scarfs, hatbands and Shammy gloves; then the Aldermen; after them eight of the Bishop's servants on horseback in cloaks; then came forty or fifty clergymen, the last of whom were the six Prebends, who were the bearers, with scarfs, hat-bands, girdles and gloves; and lastly, the Dean and the Chancellor. Then followed the hearse decorated with black plumes and escutcheons, as were the horses' heads, their backs cover'd with velvet; on each side the horses were three porters in black gowns and caps, and black staves, to carry the coffin. Then several mourning coaches and others, to the number of between twenty and thirty. When they came to the Exchange, the Captain drew up his Company of Militia. The coffin was then taken out of the hearse, and the pall was supported by the bearers to the great door of the Broad Ayle. As soon as they entered the Church the bearers walked before the corps, and the choirmen and choristers chanted the services. The Choir was hung with black and escutcheons from the throne to the pulpit. The grave was at one end of the Communion Table. The coffin covered with velvet, the Ringes and plates of Prince's mettle. The Dean preached from *Daniel* chap. xii, verse 3, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever'."

Bishop Stratford's monument is now to be found on the south wall of the west end of the nave. It consists of a marble tablet bearing a long Latin inscription, surmounted by three cherubs' heads with a skull at the foot. The only references to the funeral in the Accounts are to the setting up of the tablet and the taking down of the mourning which last was not done until the new Bishop was elected in January 1708/9 eleven months after the funeral.

1708	Oct. 29.	A Beerage to the stone cutter at setting up the late Bishop's monument	2	6
1709	Jan. 23.	To the Virgers for wax when the Lord Bishop was elected		6
	Jan. 31.	To James and another man for taking down the mourning	1	0

THE ACCOUNTS.

As in previous articles we propose to extract only those items which throw light on (i) events of national importance, (ii) the social life of the times, and (iii) the condition of the Cathedral and its precincts. Also those which call for an explanation which possibly some readers may be able to supply. As it is the reign of Queen Anne (1702-1714) it is natural that ringing for Marlborough's victories should figure largely in them. I have decided to include them all, as they give us some idea of how the War affected the minds and lives of the people of those days. There were three scales of payment—2/6, 2/- and 1/6—depending no doubt on the length of time the bells were rung, so that we get a clue to the importance attached to the

different events. It is rather startling to find that in one or two cases the victory was celebrated before the battle had been fought, attributable no doubt to forgetfulness on the part of the Treasurer rather than to his power of clairvoyance, and we happen to know that one Treasurer wrote up his accounts from the notes he made in his pocket book, so that he might easily make a mistake over a date. (See p. 46).

1700	May 20 to James Evans for helping about pulling down the towers	2	0
	July 18. For redeeming the Captives in Barbary	10	0 0
1702	Dec. 24. To Mr. Sayer for laying of water pipes to the Preb. houses	8	18 0
1703	March 6 item to Mr. Thane wht he had paid for his pipe	12	0
	Feb. 24. To Tho. Pickmore for mending scarlet and purple hangings, viz. the hangings about the Com. Table, Pulpit, Cushions	9	8
	May 4. To Tho. Pickmore for a Chest to put the hangings in	10	0
	Dec. 4. Pd. Hugh Hand the Joyner for four boxes to empty the sinks wth	8	0
1704	For ringing on St. George's Day [First mention]	2	6
	For ringing on account of the news of the victory at Donawert [July 2]	2	0
	For ringing on account of the news of the victory at Hochstett [Blenheim, Aug. 13] and taking Gibraltar [Aug. 4]	2	0
1704	To four torch bearers	2	0
	For ringing on account of the victory obtained at sea	1	6

We have here preserved the memory of a nameless and almost forgotten victory won by Admiral Rooke over the French fleet on August 24, 1704. It was fought in defence of the newly acquired Gibraltar and was successful not only in protecting that place from attack but also in giving us command of the Western Mediterranean, for as a result of the engagement the French fleet retired to Toulon and did not risk another battle.⁹

1705	Sept. 2 to Evans for two days Ringing for forcing the French lines	3	6
	pd. for four torches, but not used	4	0

It is curious that this event to which such great importance was attached is not recorded in history. Perhaps the Dean and Chapter were misled by a false rumour and that is the reason why the torches were not used.

	Nov. 26. to Ald. Page's servant who brought Mr. Shackerley's present	2	6
1706	March 18. To three poor people for giving light into Mr. Jolliffe's lease	1	6

Here is a puzzle indeed! Jolliffe's lease was the lease of the bailiwick of Chester, i.e., of all the Cathedral property in that City, and that there was some difficulty about it is clear from a clause in Dean Arderne's will (1691) in which he directed that his money might be used, if desired, "to defray the expenses of procuring an Act of Parliament for disposing of the great lease, when it shall fall, called Jollive's lease, so as shall be most conducive to the welfare of this Cathedral and to the public good."

⁹*Camb. Modern Hist.*, v., 413.

I can only suggest that those three poor people were "oldest inhabitants" supplying evidence of what they remembered about the property in times gone by.

1706	May 25	to Evans for Ringing upon the news of the victory in Flanders [Ramillies, May 23]	2	6
	Aug. 26.	To Mr. Lamb for his journey to Chester, when designed to be organist	1	0 0

Unfortunately he was not appointed and the post was given to Mr. White, who was to cause a great deal of trouble later on, as we shall see.

	Sept. 18.	To Evans for ringing on account of the victory in Italy. [Battle of Turin won by Prince Eugene Sept. 7]	2	0
	Dec. 2.	To Wid. Ambrose for a brush for the Tabernacle work	1	2
1708	May 8.	To Rathbone by the Dean's order for supplying the organist's place the last half-year ending at Lady Day	2	0 0
	Oct. 23.	To Mr. Rathbone by the Dean's order, for being at the organ the last half-year ending at Michaelmas	3	0 0

Rathbone was one of the choirmen, and the vacancy he was suddenly called upon to fill was caused by the sad behaviour of Edmund White, the organist, who (says the Chapter Book under date September 16, 1707), "being entrusted to instruct a young gentlewoman (of an antient and right worshipful family) in musick, endeavoured to engage her affections by kissing courting and the like dalliances unknown to her parents and mentioned a match with her, which particulars when convened he doth deny, onely frivolously pretended the mention of marriage was in jest." White was dismissed forthwith but was restored to his post the following May although, as we have seen, Rathbone continued to 'be at the organ' until Michaelmas. The leniency of the Chapter proved to be misplaced, for in 1715 White was finally expelled since "a bastard child hath been lately filiated upon him." The organist's salary was £12 a year and Rathbone having filled the post for 14 months should have received £14 if he was being paid at the same rate, whereas he actually received only £5, in addition of course to his salary as Conduct. (£5).

He does not seem to have complained until four years later when he was dismissed from his post as choirman for "many very great misdemeanours and enormities by him committed." (Chapter minute of May 31, 1712). He at once proceeded to get what he could out of the Chapter.

1712	Aug. 12	to Rathbone by Mr. Deans order, declaring solemnly that he never recd more than 40s. from Mr. Lancaster who had entered £5 in his accompts	2	10 0
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This is possible, for Lancaster died suddenly in May, 1709, and the page of Expenditures for that year is headed "By Mr. Lancaster, late Treasurer, as appear by his Pocket Book," but Rathbone had been a long time in claiming it.

	Sept. 22	to Rathbone, by the Bp's order, in full for officiating at the organ 14 months during Mr. Whites' suspension	9	0 0
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Evidently Rathbone had appealed to the Bishop and got a decision in his favour. We return now to the year 1708.

1708	May 11.	To ringing May 9 for the preventing the intended invasion of Scotland	2	6
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Louis XIV had fitted out an expedition to take James Edward, son of James II, to Scotland, but the luckless Prince was delayed a week by an attack of measles, which gave Admiral Byng time to intercept him at the mouth of the Firth of Forth and the Chevalier with some difficulty escaped back to France.

	May 28.	To Giles Peck for leading the Muck out of the Abbey Court Lane [? Abbey Street]	2	6
	July 15.	For ringing on the 9th (sic) for the victory in the battle near Audenard [July 11th]	2	6
1708	Sept. 3.	To Susan for a mop to wash the floor about the altar		7
In this year a gallery was erected in S. Oswald's.				
1709	Sept. 8	to Evans for ringing for the victory near Mons [un-identified]	2	0
	Nov. 9	to Evans for ringing upon the surrender of Mons [Oct. 20]	1	6
	Nov. 23	to Evans for ringing upon Thanksgiving Day for the victory at Blaregnies [Battle of Malplaquet]	2	6
		Paid by Dr. Thane to Mr. Walker for Mrs. Lancaster and family	1	1 6
1710	Jan. 3.	To the Master of the House of Correction, Constable and Beadle for correcting Darwell for defiling the Church	2	0
1710	April 19	to Evans for ringing on account of forcing the enemies lines	2	6

This was a line of fortresses on the French frontier. Evans was a little early with his bell, for the allies did not begin to move until April 20, when Marlborough wrote "I hope to date my next on the other side of the lines"¹⁰ Sieges occupied the rest of the year in Flanders but battles were being fought in Spain.

	Aug. 16	to Evans for ringing on news of the victory in Spain [Almenara, July 27]	2	6
	Aug. 26	to Evans for ringing on the news of the surrender of Bethune [Aug. 29]	2	6
	Aug. 30	to Evans for Ringing on news of the second victory in Spain [Saragossa, Aug. 19]	2	6
	Sept. 25	to Evans for ringing on K. Charles arrival at Madrid and surrender of St. Venant [in France Sept. 30]	2	6
1711	Dec. 4	to Mr. Peak for Mr. Lancaster's children	10	0 0
	Sept. 17	to Evans for Ringing at the taking of Bouchain [Sept. 12]	1	6

On Dec. 31 Marlborough was dismissed from all his offices, and opportunities for bell-ringing ceased. The English army was treacherously withdrawn from France, leaving Prince Eugene to face the enemy alone; and an armistice was made with Louis XIV by which he surrendered Dunkirk.

1712	July 14	to Evans for ringing on the news of our having possession of Dunkirk	2	6
	July 16	to John Carter for pulling down and building up the wall at the end of the cloister	3	2 6
	Nov. 19	to Mr. Wishaw his bill for suing Mr. Glaseur and Darwell to Totty for worke about the Church and stoneworke for the Turnpike	10	12 0
			10	0

¹⁰W. Churchill, *Marlborough, His Life and Times*, iv., 240.

Nov. 20 to Jonathan Pickering for timber and making the Turnpike in the Ch'yard	3	9
Dec. 12 to Evans for ringing on the occasion of setting up the Queen's effegies	2	0

As far as is known there was only one statue of Queen Anne, which was set up on the south front of the Exchange in Northgate. For some reason it always attracted the attention of the mob at election time, so that by 1815 "she is now much mutilated, having lost the globe and sceptre which she formerly held."¹¹

1713 March 25 to Evans for ringing upon Dr. Sacheverell's restoration	2	6
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Sacheverell was impeached by the Whigs in 1710 for a sermon he preached against them and was suspended from preaching for three years. The Dean and Chapter's politics were evidently Tory.

In this year the Audit Chamber was restored at a cost of £29 7s. 11d., and the next item gives us a clue as to where it was situated.

(1713) May 16. For slating part of the Palace broken by the workmen at the Audit Chamber	1	6
Nov. 22 to Mr. Stratford a Bill of Court fees in prosecution of Mr. Darwell	3	0 0
1714 Feb. 3 the Society for Propagating (sic) Christian Knowledge per Mr. Callis	10	0 0
April 4. A letter of thanks from the Society above mentioned	4	
Aug. 5. Evans for ringing and gorse for a bonfire on the pro- claiming his present Majesty [George I]	3	6

This year £78 18s. 6d. was spent on the broad aisle and the steeple roof.

And here with the death of Queen Anne we may conveniently leave the Accounts for a while and look at the Chapter. Of those who composed it in 1701 only two remained, Wroe and Thane. Entwistle had been succeeded by Samuel Shaw in 1707; Garenciers by Arthur Fogge, the Dean's son, in 1702; Lancaster first by Richard Clutterbuck in 1709 and on his death by Charles Blake in 1710, and Richard Wright by John Oliver, in 1711. The Chapter in 1714 was therefore constituted as follows.

Lawrence Fogge, D.D., Dean	1692
Richard Wroe, D.D.	1678
John Thane, D.D.	1686
Arthur Fogge, D.D.	1702
Samuel Shaw, M.A.	1707
Charles Blake, M.A.	1710
John Oliver, M.A.	1711

Samuel Shaw, M.A., was Rector of Warrington. He was presented to West Kirby on January 16, 1718 in succession to Richard Wroe, but died in the following year. He was buried in Warrington Church.

¹¹*History of the City of Chester*, p. 48. Misfortune continued to follow the unhappy Queen, for the statue was removed to the Water Tower Gardens when the Exchange was pulled down and was there broken by hooligans during the second World War (1939-45).

Arthur Fogge, D.D., who was installed in the Cathedral on April 20, 1702, had been Vicar of S. Oswald's since November 28, 1699 and became Rector of Heswall on February 9, 1702, and of Dodleston, July 6, 1716. He died on January 8, 1738/9 and was buried in the Cathedral. He was remarkable even in those days for the size of his family. His first wife, Anne, died in child-bed in 1692 and her baby son soon followed her to the grave, but the Doctor married again and from 1698 to 1718 there were only five years in which a little Fogge was not brought to the Cathedral font. Altogether his second wife bore him 15 children, of whom 5 died in infancy, and she herself survived her husband two years, dying in 1740.

Richard Clutterbuck, D.D., Fellow of S. Catharine's, Cambridge, only lived a few months after being installed.

Charles Blake, M.A., was the son of John Blake, of Reading, gent. He was educated at Merchant Taylors School and gained a scholarship at S. John's College, Oxford, at the age of 19. He took his B.A. in 1687 and became a Fellow of his College where he appears to have remained until he came to Chester in 1710. His benefice was S. Sepulchre, London, from 1712 to 1716. In 1715 he left Chester to become Sub-Dean of York.

John Oliver, M.A., was Vicar of Audlem from 1696 and collated Prebendary on May 7, 1711. He was also Curate of S. Peter's, Chester from 1710, and in 1717 received the valuable living of West Kirby. He died in 1730 and was buried in S. Peter's.

THE BISHOPS.

The Bishop who succeeded Nicholas Stratford was Sir William Dawes, Bart. D.D. He was consecrated Bishop in February, 1708, and translated to York in 1714, so that he was in Chester Diocese for a few years only and had very little to do with the Cathedral. However, his character as recorded by Ormerod is worthy of mention here. "Sir William Dawes is said to have been most scrupulously laborious in discharging the duties of his high offices, uniting easiness of manners with the most dignified deportment, and recommended by all the qualifications of personal gracefulness." With this agrees Dr. Cowper, who writes, "This Prelate was of a noble and gracefull Personage, and a sweet engaging behaviour, kind and respectful to his clergy, and humane to everyone." He and Charles Blake were probably school and college friends, for he too was at Merchant Taylors School, won a Scholarship at St. John's College and became a Fellow there. This may account for the fact that Blake followed the Bishop to Chester and later followed him to York.

Bishop Francis Gastrell, D.D., who succeeded Bishop Dawes, was consecrated Bishop of Chester on April 14, 1714, and was allowed to hold his canonry of Christ Church *in commendam*. He died on November 24, 1725, and was buried without memorial in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

We owe him a debt of gratitude (i) for having helped to preserve the invaluable historical collection of the Randle Holme family after it had been refused by the Corporation of Chester, by inducing Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, to buy it and

add it to the collection which bears his name, and (ii) for having compiled his "Notitia Cestriensis," an historical record of his Diocese.¹² He was Bishop from 1714 to 1725. His death is referred to in the Chapter Book only because the mourning which was hung up in the Cathedral was by resolution of the Chapter given to the Sacrist who that year was Minor Canon Dockerill.¹³

MORE TROUBLE WITH THE CHOIR.

The steps taken at this time to improve the discipline and singing of the choir reveal that there was some difficulty in attracting sufficiently qualified men. We have seen how they had to suspend and ultimately get rid of an organist and a choirman; soon afterwards they had trouble with another choirman. On November 28, 1711, they record that William Webb who "hath been hitherto admonished concerning misdemeanours" without any effect, was now suspended from the Choir, and it is ordered "that in the meantime he doe not presume to sit in the stall that he was accustomed to sit in, or to wear his surplice, but that he constantly attend the services of the Church in some other visible [this inserted] place." Though this resolution was annulled the next year, he was ultimately dismissed in July 1713. In the following November at the Annual Chapter when all the members were expected to be present the question of the Choir was taken in hand and the following decision was come to

"Whereas some of the Quire-men by reason of age or other infirmity read the service so as not to be heard throughout the Quire, others by indecent or ill-ordered pronunciation give offence to the hearers and help not but hinder their reverent atten'on, It is decreed that those whom the Chapter judge to be such, shall hire some others of their rank in the Church to supply their Courses at such rates as the parties shall agree upon.

And whereas the Chapter through want of candidates qualified for singing according to statute have been necessitated to admitt sundry persons too meanly skilled in that faculty upon condition or promise to fitt and accomplish themselves in some reasonable time, yet when entred on their office either wilfully or through incapacity have not improved so as to perform that part of the duty not to the help but hindrance of Devotion; It is decreed that such Probationers shall have not more than one year from the date hereof allowed tryall and in the meantime make such allowance to a teacher as the Chapter shall appoint who shall also perform their office in singing verse Anthems for them when conveniently required and allow such rates to their teacher as the Chapter shall appoint not exceeding a fifth part of their salaries. And if their Proficiency in that time give not assurance that their Performance will be devout laudable and answer the end of their Institution, they shall be dismissed and the Church be no longer burthened with them.

L. Fogg	Decan ^d
Joe Thane	Preb.
Arthur Fogg	Preb.
Jo. Oliver	Preb.

1715. This year the Treasurer (Dr. Arthur Fogg) made the following note:

"N.B. Whereas the Almsmen's salaries are here mentioned six at £6 each, Their salary is properly £6 6s. 8d., which six shillings and eight pence is given by them to the sweeper of the church."

¹²Chetham Soc., 8.

¹³The accounts kept for Bishop Gastrell and his successors by the Deputy-Registrar, Mr. Edward Roberts, are preserved in the muniment room, and some account of them is given in the *Cheshire Historian*, No. 4, p. 4 (1954).

This is a queer business. If Dr. Fogge had turned back to the year 1700 he would have read in the Accounts

The Sweeper of the Ch. for the Almsmen out of their Salarys	13	4
The tolcr of the bell for the Almsmen out of their Salarys	6	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£1	0 0

At the same time the salary of the almsmen is reduced from £6 13s. 4d. to £6 os. od. What happened was that the organ blower in that year was given the title of Sexton and took over from the almsmen the duties of sweeping the church and ringing the bell for which the unfortunate almsmen had to pay him 13/4 a year. Where the other 6/8 came from does not appear. The feelings of the almsmen can be imagined when they found that they had to "give" a portion of their very inadequate wage to a man who was much better paid than they were. For James Evans, the Sexton, under this arrangement received

for organ blowing	£4	0	0
for "towler of the bells"	£2	12	0
for sweeping	£2	13	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£9	5	4

not to mention the 2/- or so that he pocketed for ringing the bells every time Marlborough won a victory.

The salaries of the rest of the staff are added for comparison:

Headmaster of the King's School	£22	0	0
Minor Canons	£15	0	0
Organist	£12	0	0
Conducts	£10	0	0
Usher of the King's School	£10	0	0
Vergers	£6	0	0
Almsmen	£6	0	0

When Evans died in 1720 the fee for organ blowing was reduced from £4 to £2 by resolution of the Chapter (p. 109) but it was restored again to £4 in 1728.

On January 16, 1718, old Dean Laurence Fogge signed the Chapter book for the last time in very tremulous writing. He died on February 27th following at the age of 88 and was buried in the Lady Chapel, his wife Mary having preceded him on January 30th, also aged 88. His epitaph in Latin, not now extant, recorded that he was Vicar of St. Oswald's for 27 years, Prebendary for 19, and Dean for 26. Born in the reign of Charles I, in residence at Oxford during the Civil War, he was Minister at Hawarden during the Commonwealth and received episcopal ordination in 1661 at the hands of Thomas Sydserff, Bishop of Whithorn, N.B.¹⁴

¹⁴Mr. W. F. Irvine writes, "He seems to have been busy in 1660-1 ordaining Cheshire folk, including the Rev. William Colley, Vicar of Bruera. Tillotson the Archbishop was another of his ordinations."

The funeral sermon was preached by his son. Henry Prescott noted in his diary "March 9. Dr. Fogg has a good discourse in ye Quire on the words of Ely—It is the Lord, let him do what to him seemeth good. In his prayers, omitting the Dean, he is moved with pious affection into tears——."

DEAN OFFLEY, 1718—1722

Dr. Fogge was succeeded on March 6 by Walter Offley, DD,⁽¹⁵⁾ a nephew of the John Offley (d. 1658) of Madeley, Staffs., to whom Isaak Walton dedicated "The Compleat Angler." He was born at Broughton Hall in 1680 in a house which still stands, and was educated at Lichfield Grammar School and Oriel College, Oxford. He was made deacon at Eccleshall, the seat of the Bishop of Lichfield, on May 23, 1703, and ordained priest on September 24, 1704. The same year he was presented by his relative, Mrs. Crewe, to the Rectory of Bartholmey, Cheshire, where we are told "he built a very handsome parsonage house." In 1715 he was made a Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral, coming to Chester as Dean three years later. In 1721 the Crewe family gave him the Rectory of Mucklestone, Staffs., (which he held in plurality with Bartholmey) but he did not live long to enjoy it, dying the following year at the early age of 42 and being buried there.

THE ACCOUNTS, 1718—

1718	April 8.	Mr. Jones for flagging Lady Maries Chap. £33, of which Dr. Fogg paid	
	£15	15s. 10d., the ballance due from his Father, the late Dean, to the Ch. on account of Collections; and the last year's Treasurer advanced him £8, vide	
		last year's accounts	£11 4 2

Last year's accounts have "Mr. Dean for his garden £10" which must be the transaction referred to. We gather from this extract that at his death Dean Fogge held in his hands money collected at Communion Services to the value of £6 5s. od. This no doubt prompted the Chapter to pass the following resolution:

Sept. 19, 1718. Memd. It is this day agreed that all Sacrament money received in the Choir of Chester [Cathedral] by the Sacrist or in his absence by the Prebendary that officiates be delivered to the Treasurer, who shall disburse the same, first providing for the poor belonging to the Cathedral, via. to Mrs. Lancaster, the widow of Preb. Lancaster decd., Elizabeth Harrison, the Widow Pickmore and such like."

On May 1, the Chapter contracted with Mr. Anthony Vater to repair the organ for £20, a work which was duly carried out.

Aug. 6.	Cleansing the water course under Mr. Thane's house	1	0
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Unfortunately we do not know where Mr. Thane's house was, but probably the watercourse means the culvert which still runs across the green opposite the houses in Abbey Street, and is monastic in origin. It was in 1275 that Edward I granted the Abbot permission to pierce the City wall and let his culvert drain into the Town ditch.

1719	Nov. 10.	Pd. the Churchwardens of St. Peter's by order of the Dean and Chapter	6	6	0
1720	Jan. 9.	To Ald. Puleston and Bingley for the Sub.-Dean's curtain and cushions	1	1	4

¹⁵Prescott wrote in his diary, "March 7. The more private news is of the disposition of the deanery. It affects many with inexpressible admiration." *Sheaf*, XL., p. 97.

At a Chapter meeting on September 6, 1720, an interesting reference was made to Bishop Bridgeman's houses which he built for the choirmen in 1726.

"Whereas Benjamin Lowndes, one of the Conducts of this Church, having dwelt in the house that was Ternals and paid him five pounds per annum for the same as long as he lived, and having continued to dwell there ever since his death without paying any rent at all, the Treasurer is hereby order'd to stop the said Lowndes's salary or pension as Conduct till the rent of the said house be paid into his hand and to take care of the house till the Bishop's pleasure be known how it shall be dispos'd, that being one of the houses that were built by Bishop Bridgeman."

A few weeks later this same Lowndes was up before the Chapter again for having pilfered for several years past the collections taken at the Communion Service in St. Oswald's, of which he was "the late parish clerk." He was ordered to be suspended from the Choir; and it is rather surprising to read that on January 2nd, 1721, he was made Sexton of the Cathedral, which comprised the posts of organ-blower, sweeper and bell-ringer. He seems to have made good, for in 1728 he was made Verger, but died before the year was out.

In 1722 we get a hint of the way the Cathedral clergy lived in those days and where they lived.

"Agreed that the cellar betwixt Doctor Thane's cellar and the School yard be assigned for the use of the two Prebendal houses now belonging to Mr. Henchman and Mr. Mapletoft."

The School was the Refectory, but where was the school yard? Much depends on that. And was this an old monastic cellar?

THE ARDERNE LAW-SUIT.

When Dean Arderne bequeathed all his estate to the Cathedral in 1691 he could not have foreseen that it would someday be considerably augmented by the property bequeathed by Mrs. Jane Done. It followed that Dean Arderne's will was "the means of wresting from his family a very large share of one of the most antient estates in the County, and has involved the representatives of two of his brothers in a series of law expenses, which compelled them to alienate a considerable portion of Mrs. Jane Done's bequest and the successive turns of presentation to the Rectory of Tarporeley."¹⁶

The Dean and Chapter were not slow to put in their claim.

Sept. 22, 1718. Mem^m. It is this day in Chapter agreed that the Treasurer for the time being shall disburse all necessary sums in prosecuting and recovering of a reversionary title to some lands in this County Palatine bequeathed to the Dean and Chapter of this Church and their predecessors by the late Revd. Dr. James Arderne, late Dean of this Cathedral."

They must have known that they were letting themselves in for considerable expense, but no doubt they thought it was worth it, and the event proved that they were right.

1719	March 25, Paid Adam Chadwick for a journey about Dean Arderne's will	5	0
	Oct. 28, Pd. Mr. Wishaw's bill in D. Arderne's cause	24	12 0
1720	Oct. 1. Repaid the Dean money laid out in the suit with Mr. Arderne	3	0 0

¹⁶Ormerod II, 83.

1721	May 22. Mr. Wishaw's bill	8	18	0
	Aug. 26, 27, 28. By Mr. Henchman at the Commission in Norwich	3	6	1
	By Mr. Henchman at the Commission in Chester pd. the Commissioners	4	4	0
	By Mr. Henchman at the Commission in Chester	1	4	0
	Pd. the Commissioners	4	4	0
1724	Aug. 1. To the messenger who brought the Survey of Utkinton and for Tarporley		2	0
	Nov. Spent at the meeting of the Commissioners in Chester to settle the return of the Utkinton Commission	11	6	
1725	Paid Mr. Henchman for his attendance on the Commission for discovering and dividing the Tarporley estate.			
	For his attendance at Northwych, Aug. 24, 25, 26, 1721 for examining witnesses	3	8	0
	Pd. him for spent in treating the Commissioners at a Meeting to settle the opening of the Commission for partition Chester, Oct. 2, 1723		8	0
	for his attending the Commission at Tarporley Dec. 14, 1723	1	1	0
	for pd. by him to Mr. Edwards, one of the Commissioners at that time	1	1	0
	for pd. by him to a Messenger into Lancash. Dec. 7		7	6
	It. a Messenger to Middlewych Dec. 8		4	0
	It. a Messenger to Tarporley Dec. 9		2	6
	for his own attendance and for spent on the Surveyors at Torpurley, Dec. 9	1	4	0
	Itm at Sandyway, July 27, 1725	1	1	0
	It. Sept. 3 and 4, 1725 at Sandyway	2	2	0
	It. Oct. 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 at Northwych	5	5	0
	pd. Mr. Prescott for attending the Commission Sept. 3 and 4, 1725 at Sandyway	2	2	0
	Oct. 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 at Northwych	5	5	0

After long drawn out and expensive litigation lasting about six years the Dean and Chapter were successful in obtaining "a considerable portion of Mrs. Jane Done's bequest."¹⁷

DEAN ALLEN, 1722—1732.

Thomas Allen was born at Kingsley in Staffordshire and educated in the village school of Dilhorne. He must have been a brilliant boy, for he eventually proceeded to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and was for 25 years Rector of Stoke-on-Trent a few miles away from his birthplace. He was also Archdeacon of Stafford. He was instituted to the Deanery of Chester on July 13, 1722.

One of the first events of his reign was the restoration of the Chapter House, which was undertaken by Prebendary Charles Henchman in 1723. No record of it appears in the Accounts because it was done by voluntary subscription, the first example of a method with which we are so familiar today. Dr. Cowper, writing in 1728,¹⁸ tells how the Chapter House lost its roof and windows during the Civil War,

¹⁷They sold the land in 1920, but still retain their share in the advowson of the living of Tarporley.

¹⁸*A Cursory View of the City of Chester.* Cowper MS.

but as the Accounts show that it was in use in the latter half of the 17th century he may have been exaggerating, as also when he writes—"it was afterwards so utterly neglected that it became a Common Receptacle for Filth and Rubbish." He continues—"In this condition it lay till the year 1723 when the Rev. Mr. Charles Henchman, one of the Prebendarys of the Cathedral, was elected Treasurer [actually he was elected in 1721], a gentleman of great knowledge and learning and an admirer of antiquity, well noted and esteemed for a generous public spirit, who.....covered it with a new roof, secured the windows and inlets to the weather, to prevent its further decay, [and] carefully reformed it into a decent order and condition in which it now remains."

1726. The Chapter Book corroborates this, for on January 20, 1726, it was "Agreed that whereas the Rev. Mr. Henchman hath received by contributions towards the repair of the old Chapter House £107 3s. 1d., and hath expended £118 2s. 11d., whereby the balance of £10 19s. 10d. remains due to him," he should be paid it out of Cathedral Funds.¹⁹

1726. While restoring the Chapter House Henchman let his admiration of antiquity lead him to excavate beneath the floor, where he found a stone coffin containing the body of a man "wrapt up in sear-cloth and stitched over with strong black leather from head to foot and at some distance resembling a man lying in armour; upon the right breast was the form of St. Andrew's Cross of yellow galloon [braid] or fervetting very fresh and stitch'd to the leather.....In diverse other parts of the Chapter House were skeletons found, but whether of Earls or Bishops or other ecclesiastics is uncertain, there remaining no monuments thereof to clear the doubt."

THE ACCOUNTS

1723	April 2.	Mr. Parker Upholder ²⁰ for Curtains for the windows and mending the cushions	1	7	6
	April 25.	Ringin on the thanksgiving day for Deliverance from the Plague		5	0
	Dec. 31.	John Johnson for 7 days and an half shewing the Surveyors the lands and houses belonging to the Dean and Chapter in Lord Vane's lease		11	6
		Mr. Grantham for abstracting the Inquisition of King James the first, and the Parliamentary Survey, and taking a particular of the premises in the Lease made to Mr. Jollife and comparing that with the Lease made to the Lord Vane	2	2	0
1724	Oct. pd.	for mending the wall between the School back side and Dr. Fog's garden		1	1
	Nov. 27.	Paid Mr. Prebend Prescott by order of the Chapter for assisting the Surveyors of Ld. Vane's lease	2	2	0
	Dec.	Spent at Mr. Willoughby's at settling the valuation of Ld. Vane's lease		15	0
	Dec. 8.	To Mr. Kennick for his opinion and drawing a clause to be added to Ld. Vane's Lease	1	1	0

¹⁹Bishop Gastrell contributed £20 on Oct. 13, 1723. See his account book. Note 13.

²⁰An upholsterer was originally an upholder, one who holds up goods for inspection. (Concise Oxford Dict.) This is the only place in the Accounts where the old spelling is retained.

This was a lease of the bailiwick of Chester called "Jolliffe's lease" mentioned in Dean Arderne's will, which was evidently due for renewal. The Chapter on June 28, 1725, in the absence of the Dean resolved that whereas £1400 was fixed in Chapter on Nov. 25 last to be the fine payable for a new lease, and whereas Lord Vane "had not yet offered to pay the said sum," if he did not pay by August 3 next the agreement would be null and void. Evidently he did not do so, and when in 1726 he approached the Dean and Chapter again he found they had raised their price. At a Chapter meeting on May 9 "a letter from Mr. William Mills on the Lord Viscount Vane's behalf was read wherein he proposed to pay the sum of £1600 for the renewal of his Lordship's lease." The Chapter agreed to accept this offer, but as the Dean was not present he was written to for his approval. He replied:

"The sum abovementioned is in my opinion too little, but to obviate all objections of hardship if all the Prebendaries agree to it, they shall have the concurrence of their and your humble servant Tho. Allen."

Viscount Vane was an Irish peer who had a lease of part of a messuage in Parsons Lane, consisting of four rooms, two up and two down.

1725	Nov.	Tolling for the Bishop [Bp. Gastrell]	—
1726	Jan. 9.	To Ringing for the King's landing [from Hanover ?]	5 0
	March 5.	To Ringing at returning the Conge d'elire [electing Samuel Peploe as the new Bishop]	5 0
		To given to Mr. Mayor's servant when we met the Mayor and the Recorder about their intended Act of Parliament	1 0

This was probably the Navigation Act for canalising the River Dee (See below p.)

	Sept. 7.	To a roller for the Saint's bell [Sanctus bell]	1 0
	Oct. 15.	To Mr. Parker Upholsterer for 1725 and 1726	7 0 0
		To Charles Boswell for paving in the Abbey Court by Sir Henry Bunbury's	3 8 0
1727	July 4.	The address to his present Majesty	3 6

This was George II, who had succeeded to the throne on June 11. In this year the head verger, Charles Hughes, was admonished a second time for immorality and drunkenness. The old reprobate had been in the service of the Cathedral since 1690 and was old enough to know better. The third admonishing, which was usually followed by dismissal, took place on June 17, 1728, but instead of being dismissed he was retired on pension, the pension being taken out of the wages of the in-coming vergers! Peter Parry, cordwainer, and William Taylor, had to sign an agreement that they would each pay £3 a year (half their wages) to Charles Hughes and his wife as long as one of them was alive, so that the old man continued to receive as pension the same amount as he had been receiving in wages. The vergers appear to have been allowed to take the "Sacrament Money" in compensation.

The "Cursory View of the City of Chester" quoted above was written by Dr. Cowper in 1728 and from it we can get a description of the Cathedral at the point we have reached in its history. We learn that it had "an excellent organ, sonorous and musical," the tapestry now in the Refectory depicting S. Paul and Elymas the Sorcerer covered the altar, or so he says, and "contiguous to, and on each side of the Altar, are several handsome monuments of marble." There were "five large bells

of such weight that formerly with difficulty but of late years at no time having been rung in a peal; the tenor, which weighs 44 hundred, is of a sweet musical tone in which respect and for bigness compared to the large bell of St. Mary-le-bow, London, and like that, is rung at nine every night, thereby useful not only to the City but to all the villages adjacent. The Cathedral was lately made clean and white-washed within,²¹ and at the same time beautified with the arms of the former earls and barons of Chester, and of the Bishops of this See, painted over the Choir door ornamentally enough; the charge whereof was defrayed by the executors of the late famous mathematician Mr. John Ward deceased, a native of this City, who by his will gave a legacy of [blank] for that purpose." The Choir door was in those days set in a wall, the remains of the old pulpitum, at the west end of the choir: the arms which were displayed on it are now on the south wall of the refectory. We are here given an indication of their age and date. The Doctor goes on to describe Abbey Square, "a pleasant square plot of ground which was lately planted with lime trees growing in regular order, the spaces between which are formed into delightful walks which from their agreeable retiredness are much resorted unto by gentlemen and ladies in the summer season."

In this connection we may note the following item in the Accounts:—

1727. June 2. To 19 loads of red gravel, laying the walks and pruning
the trees in the Abbey Court

2 2 0

Of St. Oswald's the Doctor comments that the congregation "enjoye the benefit of the Choir organ," and of the Abbey Gateway that it was used by the Dean and Chapter for a court, "therein holding a Court Baron, whereto all the tenants of the Church lands pay their suit." This must not be confused with S. Thomas' Court, which was a Court Leet held for the tenants in the City.

The ringing of the curfew in 1728 is interesting evidence of the age of the present custom, unless indeed it has been discontinued and started again in modern times. Further evidence on this point would be of value.

The Chapter House, which was restored in 1723, was fitted up as a library in 1728 with money from Dean Arderne's estate, the law suit having at last been terminated. A single manuscript preserved in the Muniment Room records that the Dean and Chapter received a sixth part of the estate in question which produced a yearly rent of £67 2s. 3d., together with the sum of £500 and "have desired the same may be applyed to the repairing and fitting up the old Chapter House (being a beautifull and antient Building, but now useless.....) and to convert the same to a Library and to furnish it with books....." Then follows an estimate of the cost.

"Estimate of Expenses of repairing the intended Library.	£	s.	d.
Carpenter's work: Floor timber, Board, Nails, carriage and work	85	17	0
Joyner's work: Wainscot, locks, hinges and nails	309	10	0
Glazing	40	0	0
Iron barrs and putting in with lead	30	0	0
Roof over Ante Room leading to the Library	50	0	0
	£515	7	0

²¹The whitewashing was done by Bishop Gastrell, whose accounts for 1725 contain the item "To white-washing of the Church, £25 0 0."

1728	Dec. 4.	Mr. Potter for Dr. Croft's Anthems, Mr. Tey's prayer book etc.	3	8	0
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Dr. Croft, M.D., who had just died, was organist at Westminster Abbey and the Chapel Royal. Two volumes of his anthems are still preserved in Chester Cathedral. Mr. Tey was one of the Minor Canons.

1730	July 15.	To a bottle of wine with Mr. Ch. Foulks when we took possession of the buildings behind the Wolf's Head	2	0	
	Dec. 1.	To Mr. Bingley Upholsterer for 8 Turkey work cushions; new curtains to the Bishop's Throne, and two matts at each end of the Communion Table	3	11	0
		To John Davis for his horse and self going to the Dean [? to Stoke-on-Trent]	10	0	
1731	Nov. 27.	To Mr. Wm. Tailour [Under-Verger] towards paying for the cure of his collar bone broken in a journey on the Church's business	11	6	

On April 1, 1730, the Dean and Chapter paid the late Prebendary Thane's widow £105 for her husband's library, he having died in 1727.

In November they passed a most revealing resolution to the effect "that no member of the said Cathedral Church inferior to Prebendary shall walk in the Broad Isle of the said Church while the Dean, Sub-dean or any of the Prebendaries are there." They evidently took themselves very seriously in those days.

A year later they resolved "that the Vergers be ordered to take care for the future that no leather nor linnen be suffered to hang upon the Church walls, which make an indecent and unseemly aspect, and that they draw the nails and other things on which they hang."

DEAN THOMAS BROOKE, 1732—1757.

Dean Allen died on May, 31, 1732, and was buried at Stoke-on-Trent where he had been Rector for twenty-five years. He was succeeded on July 18 by Thomas Brooke, LL.D., the son of Benedict Brooke, of Brereton, gent. Thomas was born at Brereton on February 27, 1692, and went to Brazenose College, Oxford, in 1710. He took his B.A. degree in 1714 and seems to have moved to Cambridge, for he took his M.A. degree from S. Catherine's Hall in that University in 1719. His first living appears to have been Wilmslow, Bucks., but on June 30, 1720, he was instituted to the Rectory of Nantwich, a benefice which he continued to hold for the rest of his life. He was made Dean of Chester in 1732, and took his LL.D. the same year. In 1738 he took to himself the living of Dodleston which had fallen vacant through the death of Prebendary Arthur Fogge.

The Chapter over which the new Dean presided was constituted as follows:

Arthur Fogge, D.D.	1702
John Prescott, M.A.	1715
Charles Henchman, M.A.	1718
John Mapletoft, M.A.	1718
Samuel Peploe, M.A.	1727
Christopher Sudell, M.A.	1730

John Prescott, M.A., was the son of Henry Prescott, Deputy Registrar of Chester and a "learned and judicious antiquary." If John was educated at the King's School it must have been as a fee-paying pupil, for his name does not occur among the King's Scholars at the appropriate date. He matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, in 1709 at the age of 18. He took his B.A. on March 20, 1712/13 and the following year became Rector of Waverton at the early age of 24. On January 27, 1715/16 he was installed Prebendary of the Cathedral, surely the youngest Prebendary on record. It was evidently not for nothing that his father was wont to dine with the Bishop (p. 40 note). He was deprived of his stall in 1746 and died in 1767.

Charles Henchman, M.A., was son of Thomas Henchman, of London, gent., and a grandson of Dr. Humphrey Henchman, Bishop of London. He matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, on June 29, 1688, at the age of 17, and took his B.A. in 1692. In 1700 he was presented by his College to the Vicarage of Great Budworth, a benefice which he held until his death. In 1707 he was appointed to assist the Headmaster of the King's School who was old and infirm, and he succeeded him as Headmaster in 1714. He combined this office with that of Prebendary from January 30, 1717/18, having previously added the Rectory of Alderley to his list (1714). Thus he held a prebend, a vicarage, a rectory and a headmastership at one and the same time. He died in 1741 and was buried in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral.

John Mapletoft, M.A., of Cambridge University was collated to a stall in Chester Cathedral on June 27, 1719, and made Vicar of Neston in 1719 to which benefice he added the Rectory of West Kirby in 1730. He died at his house in the Abbey Court on June 11, 1761. Before coming to Chester he had been Rector of Broughton, near Kettering, and in 1719 leased from Bishop Gastrell the tithes of Vicarage of Mottram.²²

Samuel Peploe, LL.B., son of the Bishop of Chester, was collated to a prebend in the Cathedral on July 4, 1727, on the death of Prebendary Thane. He was also made Chancellor of the Diocese. In 1748 he was appointed to the Rectory of Tattenhall where the Communion plate he presented is still preserved.

Christopher Sudell, M.A., was collated on August 27, 1730, in place of John Oliver, deceased. Before coming to the Cathedral he had been Rector of Holy Trinity, Chester, from 1707, but appears to have resigned this living on his appointment as Prebendary. With it he had held another one, Leyland, from 1720 to 1733, and North Meols from 1733 to 1735. His note book is still preserved at Holy Trinity Church, from which we can learn what his stall at the Cathedral was worth.

"Received from my Prebend of Chester, 1731

Nov. 25	Year's Salary	26	13	4
	Sam Ayre, rent	1	10	0
	Benjamin Glover	2	0	0
	Mr. Coker	3	2	6
		2	12	6
		5 15 0		
		35 18 4		

²²*Notitia Cestriensis*, Chetham Soc., 8, p. 55 n.

Leases—Mr. Hullen	7	10	0
J. Pery, the Verger	5	0	0
Mr. Calert	6	10	0
	<hr/>		
	54	18	4

THE ACCOUNTS

1733	May 29.	To bells, etc., and on June 11, and for passing the Navigation Bill [see 1726]	1	4	0
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This bill empowered the City Corporation to make the new cut which now exists from Chester to Queen's Ferry. There had been much opposition to it by those who had vested interests outside the City, and there was general rejoicing in Chester when the bill became law. Nathaniel Kinderly was the engineer and the work was completed by 1737.

June 5.	To Charles Boswell in part for paveing in the great Abby Court	20	0	0
Dec. 12.	To Mr. Boswell in full for paveing the great Abby Court	22	18	8
Dec. 7.	To John Cross for a new Board, and for mending an old one on which the Prebendaries kneel	1	4	
	Gratuity to Mr. Mapletoft's servants on account of the Chapter holding several meetings at his house	7	6	

This is the first instance of the custom of beginning a Chapter meeting in the Chapter House according to statute and then adjourning it to the house of the Treasurer for the time being, which no doubt was warmer and more comfortable.

1734	Aug. 6.	Given to a Greek priest and an Archimandrite [Abbot]	10	6	
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In 1735 "the Wellhouse" was leased to the Bishop for £6 p.a. It is described as "all that bay of building lying on the north side of the Abby Court," and it is evidently the building opposite the well marked in Randle Holme's plan—now No. 7.

1736	Jan. 19.	Interest for £550 due to Girls Charity School [i.e. at 5%]	27	10	0
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This money had been borrowed to pay the cost of the law-suit over the Tarporley property. As soon as the rents from this land began to come in and the library had been fitted up, they were used to pay off this loan.

In 1738 the tenor bell was sent to London to be recast by a Mr. Knight for the sum of £20. On April 29 it was taken down and weighed and conveyed to the Crane Wharfe whence it was taken by boat to Parkgate and shipped from there to London. It was returned in December.

1738	Dec. 1.	To the Freight of the new Great Bell from London to Parkgate	4	0	0
		To the River Freight from Parkgate to Chester	1	0	0
		To Craning it a' shoar	10	0	
		To the men that helped to gett it a'shoar		6	
	Dec. 4.	To the workmen and Ringers the day the Great Bell was putt up	5	0	
		To two men for watching the Great Bell all night after she was a'shoar	1	0	

	Dec. 15.	To John Wheavel for his Horses drawing the Great Bell from the Crane	10	6
1739	Mar. 20.	To Mr. George Prescott for the use of the Owners of the ship called the King's Fisher, the Freight for carrying the old Great Bell to London	1	15 3

Altogether the bell cost the Dean and Chapter £86, and when they had got it back they did not make much use of it, for Mr. Clarke writes, "except for the service bell and the tolling funeral bell, ringing had ceased by 1754, and the bells lay derelict for sixty years."²³

1737	Oct. 29.	To the Sacrist for the nursing and burying of a child born in the church porch	17	0
1738	June 4.	To Peter Parry and Wm. Carter for taking down etc. the fence of the trees [? in Abbey Square]	4	6
1740	Jan. 11.	To John Walker Joyner to making a door to the stair leading up to the Bishop's throne	13	0

In 1738 the Chapter "ordered the Treasurer pay Mr. Prescott four pound ten shillings towards the expense he had been at in making seats in St. Mary's Chappel for prayers at six in the morning," and on October 8, 1740 they decided that "the Treasurer cause the wall at the west end of the public school [the Refectory] belonging to this Church to be built quite up to the roof and such alterations made as may be by him thought necessary in and about the chimneys of the School and the inside of the School to be cleared."

THE CHOIR AND OTHERS.

The Chapter Book apart from recording the granting of leases devotes a disproportionate amount of its space to the doings of the Choir and other Cathedral servants. There is no doubt that many of them were unsatisfactory, as might be expected from the low wages they were paid. £6 to a verger and £10 to a conduct (choirman) seems very little even in those days, although a minor canon received only £15. They had a better organist than usual just now. Edmund Baker, who had been a pupil of the famous Dr. Blow and organist of S. Chad's, Shrewsbury, was appointed organist *and* conduct in 1727. How he could hold both these posts at once is not clear, and his dual role led to trouble in later years as we shall see. In 1730 he had trouble with one of the conducts (Wm. Davies) who "did on the 15th day of June in a very rude manner strike Mr. Baker on the face" and it was a week before he could be induced to apologise. He was evidently a difficult person, for on December 16, 1732—to quote from his submission written down in the Chapter Book—"upon the Sub-Dean sending to me to sing an anthem [I] not only obstinately refused so to do, but also went immediately out of the Church and upon the Sub-Dean sending after me to return and do my duty did rudely and saucily refuse so to do and thereby did occasion confusions in the service." Very likely, though one may be permitted to doubt whether the Sub-Dean handled the situation very tactfully. However, on May 17, 1733, he again refused to sing an anthem. The

²³*Cheshire Bells*, by J. W. Clarke in *Lancs. & Ches. Ant. Soc. J.*, LX, where he gives a full account of the episode.

Prebendaries who were present as soon as the service was over went at once to the Chapter House and there "in full Chapter assembled" pronounced sentence of expulsion, which was confirmed by another Chapter two days later. Next year one of the boys had to be expelled for ill behaviour and non-attendance. In 1735 William Davies turns up again and is allowed "to officiate as a probationer for a singing man or conduct—and to hold the house he living yet in (though since his expulsion he has no right thereto)" Incidentally, it is mentioned that he has to provide his own surplice. He gave no further trouble and went on drawing his salary till 1744. In 1737 we are surprised to find that Mr. Baker himself refusing to sing an anthem which by order of Chapter (March 9, 1736) were now to be sung in the Choir "and not in the organ loft unless it be upon a tryal of any new one". Dr. Bridge says it must be remembered that the time was now past for organists to be singing as well as playing, but why then did Baker receive a conduct's pay if he would not do the work? He received £12 as organist, £10 as Teacher of the Boys and £10 as Conduct together with a Conduct's house. "In time of divine evening service—in the absence of the Precentor and Dean and Sub-Dean, [he] was sent to by the Senior Prebendary to sing an anthem (which he had some times before done) and absolutely refused so to do." Immediately after the service the three Prebendaries who were present at it—John Prescott, Charles Henchman and John Mapleloft—sent for him and admonished him to be of better behaviour for the future. It was all they could do. One wonders why the singing of the anthem was not arranged before the service began but apparently even at Westminster Abbey towards the end of the century it was customary on a week day to choose the anthem during the service.²¹

Prebendary Prescott, who was very musical, did more for music than he could possibly have imagined by giving a free place at the King's School at Christmas, 1739, to a boy of 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ named Charles Burney, who had just come with his father, a portrait painter, from Shrewsbury to live in Chester. He became the great Dr. Burney, famous not only for his writings on music, but also for being the father of Fanny Burney, the novelist. He remained at the School till Michaelmas 1742, when another boy takes his place in the Accounts.

²¹Percy A. Scholes, *The Life and Activities of Sir John Hawkins*, p. 162.

