

Notes on the Vicars of Tideswell During the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries.

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A LIST of the vicars of Tideswell has been published by the writer of this article in his *Guide to Tideswell and its Church*¹ and he has now collected a certain amount of information about some of them which he thinks may be interesting, as well as useful to genealogists.

EDMUND EYRE was appointed to the vicarage of Tideswell, which was then as it is now, in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, sometime between the years 1498 and 1501. On December 28th of the latter year a mandate was issued by the Dean and Chapter to Wm. Massey, vicar of Bakewell, Edmund Eyre, vicar of Tideswell, and Sir John Grene, chaplain, to admit Johannes Staple (Stapull in margin) to the Chantry of the Blessed Virgin Mary within the parish church of Tideswell founded, vacant by the death of Sir John Benet the last chaplain of the same, and on the collation of the D. and C.²

There is a manuscript in the British Museum, dated 12th of December, 1512, which speaks of a "Grant from Arthur Eyre of Padley to Edmund Eyre perpetual vicar of Tyddyswall, and Stephen Eyre, son of Roland Eyre, of lands and tenements in Thorpe, in the parish of Hathersage."³ Amongst the interesting collection of documents

¹ A new edition—the sixth—of this most interesting and comprehensive guide book has just been issued, as also a second edition of the guide to Eyam called *The Plague-stricken Derbyshire village, and what to see in and around it*, both by Canon Fletcher. They can be obtained from F. Chapman & Sons, printers, of Tideswell, price 6d. each.—EDITOR.

² *Lichfield Chapter Act Book*, vol. iii, p. 45.

³ Brit. Mus. Add. MSS. 7193, and Jeayes 2319.

in the Cathedral Library at Lichfield connected with the Peak churches is the counterpart of a lease from the D. and C. to Edward Eyre, vicar of Tideswell, and Roland Eyre his brother of the fee farm of Litton, etc., November 5th, 1516.¹

In 1529, the parishioners of Tideswell, through Hugo Meverell and others, petitioned the chapter that the vicar, Edmund Eyre, might continually reside there according to the composition by which it had been agreed that he should exercise sacramental functions in person, besides having the assistance of a priest and a sub-deacon. The vicar in answer showed letters from the Pope dispensing him for non-residence. The Chapter permitted him to be absent, but decided that during his absence he must find two priests and one sub-deacon to minister there.²

In 1526, Dns Edmund Eyre, vicar of Tideswell, is stated to have been resident at Gryn (Grindon?) in Staffordshire.³

The following account of the settlement of the boundaries of the parishes of Tideswell, Hope and Castleton, dated the Feast of S. Michael, 1537, during Eyre's vicariate, is interesting :—

Bill indented. Controversy has arisen between the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, Rectors of the Parish Churches of Tyddeswell and Hope, and Vale Royal Monastery, Rectors of Castleton Church, concerning metes and bounds of the said parishes. Agreement in Court of Forest of Peak. Witnesses examined being Sir Edmund Eyre Vicar of Tyddeswell, Edward Alen, Hugh Nedeham, Robert Bagshawe, Richard Alen, Robert Barker, Roger Pecke, Thurstan Bagshawe, Roger Marshall, Thomas Torre de ly hill, Robert Pawfreman, Thomas Torre de Wormehill, William Cruchelowe, Nicholas Oldefeld, & Thomas Jamys, who were old inhabitants and worthy of credit. They were sworn upon the Holy Gospels, & this is the result :—" That from Dovehaledale

¹ Lichfield MSS. D. 16.

² *Chapter Act Book*, iv, 59.

³ *Valor Ecclesiasticus*.

the bathom gate divideth the Parishes of Tyddeswell & Castylton unto the Damedale broke ; And so ascending up the said broke unto the Newe dame. And so the said Dame to be the Mears whyle yt lasteth. And so from the hedd of the said Dame ascending up the valey that leadeth to the old dame. And from the said olde dame ascending up the bent unto Wormall Rake. And so ascending up the said Rake unto lytell Oxlowe. And for the Meare betwixt the Parishes of Hope and Castelton from the said lytell Oxlowe ledyng over the hyll called Castelton swete knolle, and so to the Dyrtilo Rake hed. And so descending downe by the hore stonys unto the greyne at Pyndall hedd and so descending down Pyndell." All of which the parties accept & that they may stand firm they have affixed their seals.

Given at the Chapter House at Lichfield, the seal of the Dean and Chapter being affixed on 1st April 1538. Sealed at Chapter House at Vale Royal on 6 June 1538.¹

In 1543, during the lifetime of Edmund Eyre, the next presentation of the vicarage of Tideswell was granted to Ralph Snede and Thomas Fane, clerk, chaplain, who were to present Sir Arthur Meverell, clerk, if he were alive when the vacancy occurred.²

Accordingly on the death of Edmund Eyre in 1544, ARTHUR MEVERELL, chaplain, was collated (23rd August, 1544).³ There can be little doubt that he is the same man who had been the last Prior of Tutbury before the dissolution of that monastery, for the Meverells at that time held the manors both of Throwley and of Tideswell : " Arthur Meverell (alias Throwley), Prior of the House of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Tutbury (Tudbery). Surrender of House to the King, 1539." ⁴ He retained the vicarage only for the short period of two years and eight months, before resigning it, when

On April 29th, 1547, SIR (" Dominus ") GEORGE COKKE

¹ Public Record Office, Ancient Deeds, B. 9063.

² *Chapter Act Book*, iv, 129.

³ *Chapter Act Book*, iv, 136. Cf. also *P.R.O. Composition Books*.

⁴ Rymer's *Foedera*, vi, pt. iii, 25.

was admitted in his place.¹ It was during his even shorter tenure of the office, for he served as vicar for not much more than two years and four months, that the Gild of St. Mary of Tideswell, which had been founded in the reign of King Richard II, and whose chapel was at St. Mary's Altar "in the north transept of Tideswell church,"² was, like the rest of the chantries and free chapels which had escaped the hands of his father, dissolved by King Edward VI, and its revenues confiscated.³

ROBERT HULLENS succeeded him as vicar on September 11th, 1549,⁴ and he was followed by

WILLIAM FELSEND, or FIELDSEND, on October 3rd, 1551.⁵ It was in his time that Bishop Pursglove founded the Grammar School at Tideswell, and became a generous benefactor to the poor of his native place.⁶ Fieldsend was one of the witnesses to the deed (June 16th, 1560), and as vicar of the parish became *ex officio* one of the members of the corporation, or governing body of the school.⁷ He died in 1576, and was followed by

WILLIAM PENDLETON, who was in all probability vicar at the time when the body of the munificent prelate, who had done so much for the education of the boys and for the relief of the poor of Tideswell,—benefits which the inhabitants are enjoying at the present day,—was laid to rest in the chancel of the parish church in which he must have been baptised and where he must often have worshipped as a boy.⁸

The date of the appointment of his successor is un-

¹ *Chapter Act Book*, iv, 144, and *P.R.O. Composition Books*.

² Pat. R. 7 Rich. II, p. 1, m. 8.

³ Cf. Pat. R. 3 Edw. VI, Inventory of Particulars of Grants, Edw. VI.

⁴ *P.R.O. Composition Book*.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ D.A. & N.H.S. *Journal*, 1910, pp. 19-25, and Fletcher's *Tideswell and its Church*, 6th edition, pp. 23-29.

⁷ Bishop Pursglove of Tideswell, in D.A. & N.H.S. *Journal*, pp. 21, 25.

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 27.

certain, as also is the exact time when he vacated the incumbency. But WILLIAM GREAVES was vicar in 1592, as he was also in 1628 when he officiated at the baptism of William Bagshaw the "Apostle of the Peak," who was born at Litton on January 17th, 1627-8, and was baptised at Tideswell two days afterwards.¹

In his book *De Spiritualibus Pecci* Bagshaw writes as follows :—

I will now no longer stop the passage of my pen to Tidswale which is near the place of my birth ; and was the place of my baptism, that sign and seal of the New Birth. Of him (Mr Greaves) who administered that Ordinance to me (tho' he might not merit the Title of that School-man who was entitled 'the profound Doctor'), I have heard that his very plain words were directed against the Vices of his hearers, and he used that usual exercise of Catechising.

From which we may infer that he had not the reputation of being either a great scholar or an eloquent preacher, but that he was homely and catechetical in the method of his pulpit ministrations, and that he was plain speaking in his denunciation of vice. He must have died when Bagshaw was quite a little child, for his successor

CHRISTOPHER FULNETBY, who had been educated at St. Peter's College, Cambridge, terminated his own vicariate in 1634.² Of him and of the next incumbent

NICHOLAS CROSS, who was vicar from 1634 until 1636, Bagshaw writes :—

Two of his (Mr. Greaves') successors (Mr. Fulnetby and Mr. Cross), I have seen, and not much more than seen ; their labours and their lives in that place being soon terminated.

It was about this time that the threatened riot of (lead) miners, referred to in the next paragraph, took place ; and that the demand was made on Derbyshire

¹ *Life of Rev. W. Bagshaw*, by J. Ashe. London, 1704. Cf. also Bagshaw's *De Spiritualibus Pecci*, p. 28, etc.

² *Chapler Act Books*, vi, 94.

for "Ship money," as given in the following one:—

On August 6th, 1634, a tumultuous assembly of miners was held at Litton; the said miners having intended to present a petition to the King.

William Bagshawe upon his imprisonment writ a letter from Derby of the causes thereof, which letter was openly read upon Sunday last after Evening prayer at the Cross in Tideswell and thereupon the miners came forward upon Monday towards Nottingham. (Letter from Wm. Wright of Longston to Timothy Pusey Esq.).¹

Kirke the constable of Tideswell showed me a warrant from your honour for the apprehending of John Mitchell. (Letter from Edward Revell to Sir John Coxe).¹

In the seventeenth century Tideswell was one of the six most important places in the county of Derby, as is shown by the following writ:—

A.D. 1635. 11 Car. 1. Aug. 18.

Writs under special warrant of Thomas Lord Coventry, Custodian of the Great Seal of England.

Derbyshire.

Rex &c., Vicecomiti Comitatus nostri Derby.

Ballivis & Burgensibus Burgi de *Derby*

Majori, Aldermannis & Burgensibus Burgi de *Chesterfield*, ac probis hominibus in eisdem Burgis & membris eorundem, & in Villis de *Ashborne*, *Bakewell*, *Tiddeswell* & *Wirkesworth*, ac in omnibus aliis Villis, Burgis, Villatis, Hamlettis & aliis locis in dicto comitatu Derby. salutem.

These are to be charged with one ship of three hundred and fifty tons, manned with one hundred and forty men, and double equipage, with munition, wages and victuals.²

Nicholas Cross was succeeded in the vicarage of Tideswell by

RALPH HEATHCOTE, B.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, who retained his living until 1654. Although a Churchman, he espoused the cause of the Parliament;

¹ Historical MSS. Commission. MSS. at Melbourne Hall, vol. ii, pp. 61, 62.

² Rymer's *Foedera*, vol. ix, pt. i, p. 3.

and it was doubtless for this reason that he was allowed to remain on as vicar of Tideswell, during the rule of the Commonwealth, until his death, and was not expelled from his benefice as so many of his fellow Churchmen were from theirs. "He could not be charg'd with falling short as to Conformity before the war," writes Bagshaw, "whatever is charged on him for siding with the two Houses of Parliament in it."¹

The following extracts from the various Commonwealth Memorials in the Library at Lambeth Palace, relating to Tideswell, are of interest :—

Tidswell, within the jurisdiction of Bakewell, is a parish in itself, and has belonging to it Litton, Weston, Dalehead, Hardwickwall, Hill, Millhousedale, Tunsted, Farre Gatrox, neere Getrox, Meadow & Wormhill The tithes of corn & hay growing out of the feilds, towns & villages of Tidswell, Hill, Hardwick wall in Com. Derb. was by John Warner Dean & the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Lichfield leased to Richard Goodwin & James Ford by their indenture bearing date the 6th day of May 13 Carol. from five years to five years until the full end of xx years under the reserved yearly rent of xii^{lb} is viii^d payable at the Purification of the Virgin Mary & the Invention of the Cross by equal portions, but now find the tithes of Tidswall are worse Omnibus Annis. xxvi^{lb}.²

Tidswall is a Markett towne having a parish Church and is a Viccaridge worth about twenty pounds and therefore an augmentation of thirty pounds p. ann. granted to the Minister of Tydswall.

The Impropriation did formerly belong to the Dean of Lytchfield being worth about three hundred p. Ann. It is farmed out to several persons, Mr Ralph Heathcott is pres't Incumbt.

Wormhill is a parochial chappell in the parish of Tydswall and is thought fit to be made a parish having these hamlets of Tydswall parish by reason of their adiasensy (adjacency) thought fitt to be united to it, viz Hill, Hargate Wall, Tunsted, Overgratrix and Neather Gratrix, Meadow and flairbould, worth for usual tithes about Tenn pounds p. ann.

¹ *De Spiritualibus Pecci*, etc. London, 1702, p. 28.

² *Survey of Church Lands*, 1649, vol. ii, p. 1.

Therefore an augmentation of twelve pounds p. Ann. granted to Wormhill.¹

October 11, 1650.

Whereas the Committee for plundered Ministers have the 25 April 1646 granted the yearly sum of thirty pounds out of the rent payable to the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield for the tithe of corn, wool & lamb of the impropriate Rectory of Tidswall payable by John Shalcross,—Allen Widdow, Edward Bradshaw, &c.,—& for a mill in the Towne of Wormhill in the tenure of Rowland Eyre,—for the increase of the maintenance of Ralph Heathcott, Minister of the parish Church of Tidswall for that the yearly sum of twenty three pounds ten shillings granted part of the said rent only ariseth out of the said Tithes, it is ordered that Mr. William Bayly, Receiver, or Mr. James Hunt Receiver, do forthwith pay unto Mr. Heathcott the sum of eleven pounds fifteen shillings being half of the said twenty three pounds and ten shillings to him due on or before June 24th last,—Mr. Bayly or Mr. Hunt taking his acquittance.²

Tideswell. Litton. Survey of Tithes of corn and hay arising, growing, renewing and increasing in the Township of Litton in the parish of Tiddeswell, w'hin the jurisdiction of Bakewell, parcell of the possession belonging to the late Dean & Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St. Chad in Lichfield, made and taken in the month of April 1650.

All that Barn, called the Tythe Barne situated in Litton afore-said worth per ann. xxs.

All the Tythe of Sheafe and all kind of graine & hay arising growing and increasing w'hin the Townshipp of Litton,—member to hope, worth p. Ann. xxvii^{li}.

Suma totalis xxviii^{li}.

Memorand: The said Barne & Tythes were by Walter Curle, Deane & Chapter of the Cathedral of St Chad, Lichified by indentures dated 30 Oct. 21 Jacobi demised to Peter Bradshaw³ of London citizen for & during the natural lives of Francis Bradshaw, Paul Bradshaw, & Thomas Bradshaw, three of the sons of the said Peter under the reserved yearly rent of five pounds

¹ *Ibid.*, vol. vi, p. 430.

² *Augmentations of Livings*, vol. 979, p. 72.

³ Brit. Mus. 6669 (Wolley). Peter Bradshaw, merchant taylor to whom the manor of Litton had been granted 3 Nov. 1620, devised it by will to his sons Edward, Peter, Francis, Paul, Thomas, and William, 23 May, 1624. He was the fourth son of Godfrey Bradshawe of Bradshaw by his marriage with Emma Shalcross of Shalcros—vol. xxv, p. 34 of this *Journal*.

payable at the feast of the Purification of St. Mary & St. John the Baptist by equal portions. But is worth over and above the said rent p. Ann. xxij^l.

There is a covenant for non payment of rent by the space of a month to re-enter repossess & re-enjoy and to keep the barn in repair during the said time. The lives are all in being Aged 28, 30, 31.

Richard Taylor, John ffisher, George Smith, Saml. Foxcrofte.¹

The earliest volume of Tideswell Parish Registers known to be in existence dates from March, 1635-6, to December, 1675 [though the following portions are apparently missing :—July, 1646, to May, 1648 ; 1657 ; 1658 to end of November ; August, 1663, to July, 1675, with the exception of part of September, October, part of February and March, 1666-7 (the transcripts at Lichfield, however, contain *inter al.* the years 1671 to 1675)]. This volume, which was in a very bad condition, was carefully repaired and rebound in 1902, whilst the writer of this article was vicar of Tideswell, under the superintendence of one of the principal officials of the Public Record Office, and by their binders. The second volume, comprising the years January, 1675-6 to May, 1747, and which is complete, was also rebound at the same time.

From the Registers we find that during the earlier part of Ralph Heathcote's residence at Tideswell, several of his children were born and some of them died in infancy :—

- 1636, Sept. 4, Bapt. William Heathcote, son of Ralph, Vicar.
- 1637, Oct. 28, Buried William Heathcote.
- 1638-9, Feb. 10, Bapt. Thomas, son of Ralph Heathcote.
- 1641, March 25, Bapt. John Heathcott, son of Ralph.
- 1642, Oct. 8, Bapt. Ralph Heathcott, son of Ralph.
- 1643, Apr. 13, Buried Ralph, son of Ralph Heathcott.
- 1644, July 1, Buried Mrs. Ann Heathcott, wife of Ralph.

So here he laid his wife to rest ten years before his own death. And, during his time at Tideswell, two at least

of the headmasters of the Grammar School, who must therefore have been clergymen residing in the town and presumably friends and companions of his own, also passed away :—

1636, Nov. 7, Sepultus erat Johan : North magist^r Scholae.
1644-5, Feb. 24, Buried Bour Ludi M^r.

Parochial matters, at any rate during the earlier years of Heathcote's ministry, did not run quite smoothly, for at the close of the year ending March, 1639-40, when the Registers were signed by the vicar and the three churchwardens, against the names of the wardens is written the following deprecation :—

But from such officers God deliver every Church and Parish.
Amen.

No marriages appear to have been solemnized in the church between June 12th, 1648, and May, 25th 1656. And in the Chapel-en-le-Frith Registers there is an entry to the effect that in 1657 "there came from Tideswell and Litton seventeen marriages, all married by Randle Ashenhurst Esq. justice of the peace."

Some number of the entries in the Tideswell Register between December, 1652, and November, 1658, are illegible owing to damp. Possibly Heathcote's burial is amongst them, for he died sometime between 1653 and 1655, in which latter year, in consequence of the vicarage having been for some time vacant, the inhabitants petitioned that an appointment might be made so that their spiritual needs could be ministered to :—

March 6th, 1655-6, Upon consideration of the petition of the Inhabitants of Tiddesdale in the county of Derby for that the rectory of Tiddesdale aforesaid being impropriate to the late Deane & chapter of Litchfield & the vicarage thereof in the gift of these Trustees. It is ordered that Cromwell Meverell of Tiddeswall aforesaid gent do provide some honest and responsible p'son from time to time to discharge the duty of the Minister of the

said place & collect & gather the tithes rents duties and profits of the said viccarage & therewith satisfie such p'son & p'sons as he shall so p'vide for the said service till these Trustees shall have prov'ded some godly & able Minister to the said viccarage, the said Mr. Meverel giving an acc^t thereof from time to time to these Trustees.

Jo. Pocock, R. Sydenham, Edw. Cressett, R. Hall, Jo. Humfrey.¹

The two next vicars, Anthony Buxton and John Beebee, as we might conjecture from the date of their appointment, were Presbyterians. William Bagshaw, who was himself also a Presbyterian, writes of them as follows :—

After some vacancy that followed that Minister's (Ralph Heathcote) death, followed, for a time (alas! a short time) reckoned not by years, but by months, and those not many, the labouring of one whose attainments were far above his years, with an eye to preserving of whose memory, as well as that of others, this Piece is penned, to wit excellent Mr. ANTHONY BUXTON.²

He was a native of Chelmorton, studious and thoughtful as a boy, and was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where at that time Dr. Hall was Master, and Dr. Templar his Tutor. His letters home showed his deepening earnestness, and he returned from the University "singularly accomplished." He appears to have accepted Presbyterian Ordination at the hands of "The Apostle of the Peak," and to have ministered for a very short time, whether before or after his Ordination is not clear, at Mayfield a parochial chapel in Glossop, (1656-7); after which "he was through the importunity of friends . . . and through hopes of being a more general instrument of furthering the work of the Lord, prevailed with to remove to Tidswale . . . but alas he saw little more (if so much as) a quarter of a year there." During this short tenure of the Vicarage of Tideswell he injured himself when on horseback, and the accident proved to be a serious one. William Bagshaw was away from home at this time; but Buxton was ministered to during his illness by one who, ten years later, was one of the heroes of Eyam during the dreadful visitation of the plague,³ the Non-conformist Rector, "Grave, Reverend (and

¹ *Augmentations of Livings*, vol. 972, p. 427.

² *De Spiritualibus Peccis*, pp. 28, etc.

³ Fletcher's *The Derbyshire Plague Village*, 2nd Edit., pp. 47, 57.

Tender) Mr. Stanley, by whose mouth and ministry God spake peace to him." "Alas,"—continues the writer,—“within three months or thereabouts, I who was called to lay my hands upon him (when he was ordained) was called to lay my shoulder to his bier,” and in “answer to his and his relations desires,” preached his funeral sermon. This sermon, from the text Hebrews xi, 38. “Of whom the world was not worthy,” is to be found in the *De Spiritualibus Pecci*, as also is Buxton’s *Confession of Faith*.

On December 2nd, of the same year, 1656, he was succeeded by Mr. JOHN BEEBEE, an Oxford man, who had also received Presbyterian Ordination. In one of the Lambeth volumes we read :—

Tideswell, Derbyshire, Mr. Beebee, minister.

To the Com^e for Approbation of publique preachers & all others whom it may concern, we the Right honourable William Steele, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, S^r John Thorowgood of Kensington &c., &c., . . . Trustees by several Acts of Parliament for maintenance of Ministers and of the Ordinance of His Highness the Lord Protector & his counsel intituled an ordinance for better maintenance and Incouragement of preaching ministers and for Visiting of Parishes, the true and ondoubted patrons of the Vicarage and Church of Tidswall in the County of Derby now voyd, have nominated and presented and do hereby nominate and present and appoint John Beebee Minister of the word to the said Vicarage and Church, and vested with all the rightes members and app^tements thereof which we do hereby confer upon him, and . . . set our hands and seales 2nd day of December in y^e yeare according to the computation now had in England one thousand six hundred and fifty six.

J^o. Thorowgood, John Pocock, John Humfrey, Richard Sydenham, Ralph Hall.¹

Calamy speaks of him thus :—

Mr. John Beeby. A man eminent for his close walking with God. He was at Tideswell till the Restoration, when he removed to Sheldon and there was ejected by the Uniformity Act in 1662.²

¹ *Augmentations of Livings*, vol. 983, p. 26.

² Calamy’s *Nonconformist’s Memorial*. London, 1802, vol. i, p. 423.

He died before the *De Spiritualibus Pecci* (which was published on 1702) was written, for the author says:—

Since the Lord took to himself this choice young servant of his (Anthony Buxton), he was succeeded at Tidswale by one (Mr. Breboe, *sic*) who hath now succeeded him in leaving this lower state. He was then and elsewhere, particularly at the latter end of his time at Cirencester, industrious, apt to teach, and well esteemed; one thing was less satisfactory to his brethren that he married his Brother's Widow and defended his so doing from an order which did (as they believed) concern the Jewish nation and church only.¹

According to the Parish Registers ISAAC SYMPSON, M.A. became curate-in-charge of the parish in 1661, and vicar six months later. On December 2nd, 1661, when signing the Register, he wrote "Huc extinguntur distinguntur," seeming to imply that the old order changeth giving place to new, that the Parliamentary rule of the country, with the Presbyterian ministry in the vicarages, was at an end; and his desire was that the restoration of the monarchy and the return of the clergy of the Church to their parishes might be for the good of the community. He signs himself here as he does in January and in April as "Isaac Sympson, Clericus," and in this place after the names of the (new) churchwardens he writes:—"Aeconomi Meliores speram," apparently expressing a devout wish that the new wardens may be an improvement on the old.

He was appointed vicar in June, 1662, instituted on July 4th, publicly read the 39 Articles of Religion on July 13th, published his letters testimonial, etc., in church on August 31st, was presented to the head mastership of the Grammar School on October 4th, and entered into possession of the school on November 1st. Each of these steps he carefully chronicles in Latin in the Registers.

1662, Die decimo nono admissus fuit a Decano Capituloque Lichfield Isaac Sympson Vicarius.

De Spiritualibus Pecci, p. 55.

Then breaking forth into extempore Latin verse :—

Carm. Extemp.

Felices multos numeros noctesque diesque
Tandem quae tua sunt singula pace habeas
Oramq : unanimiter.

1662, July 4. Inductus fuit Isaacus Sympson in realem actualem & corporalem possessionem perpetuae vicariae de Tiddeswell, I. Samuel Cryer vic^s de Castleton & Arthur Joynson vic^s de Hope, quarto die July an : dom : 2^{dum} ritus & canonem Ecclesiae Anglicanae.

1662, July 13, Perlegi 39 Articulos Religionis Ecclesiae Anglicanae die Dominico 7^o post Trinitatem Parochianis presentibusque, secundum Canonem in hac ipsa provisum in cujus testimonium nomina eorum subscripserant alibi.

1662, Aug. 31, Publicabam literas meas testimoniales una cum declaratione quodam, actu Parliamenti anno regni Car : 2^{di} decimo 4^{to} nuper edito, in Parochiali ecclesia de Tiddeswell in Le Pecco secundum formam in eodem actu requisitam.

1662, Oct. 4, Admissus fuit Isaac Sympson magister liberae Scholae Grammaticalis Jesu de Tiddeswell per Decanum et Capitulum Lich. per vitam ejus naturalem se bene ex'ente.

1662, Nov. 1, Admissus fuit Isaac^s Sympson in possessionem liberae Scholae Grammaticalis Jesu de Tiddeswell per Oeconomos parochiae dictae de Tiddeswell secundum statuta ejusdem scholae & presentationem predictam Decani & Capituli Lichfield.

These elaborate notices of the various steps taken with regard to his appointment as vicar of the parish and head master of the Grammar School did not avail to ensure him a long continuance in the office, nor were the hopes expressed in his poetical effusion fulfilled, for in the following March, 1662-3, his name appears for the last time as vicar.

In the Public Record Office, amongst the Clerical Subsidies, is a list of the names of the clergy in the diocese of Lichfield who contributed towards a voluntary present to King Charles II.

19 Feb. 1661-2, Tiddeswell. Mr. Isaac Simpson, Vic, p^d o . 5 . o .

He was followed by LAURENCE BRIERLEY, M.A., who was instituted 13th June, 1663. Bagshaw in the notices which he gives of the vicars of Tideswell does not seem to have been aware of the few months vicariate of Isaac Simpson, but states that Mr. Brierley when at an advanced age followed Mr. Beebee. This is what he tells us of him :—

After him followed one who was stricken in years when he entered on that charge (Mr. Bryarly), and yet continued years in it. One with whom I have discoursed to edification, setting aside the points wherein we differed, and I took it to be an honour to him that he was no Arminian and that he was for the due observance and (sanctification) of the Christian Sabbath !

At this time, and indeed until it was separated off in 1859, Wormhill was a chapelry in the parish of Tideswell. In the Wormhill Registers is this quaint entry :—

1674. Nicholas Bagshaw
clerke and Schoole master
for want of a better. 1674.

Brierley seems to have reported his appointment of a curate to serve at Wormhill to the authorities at Lichfield, for amongst the Cathedral MSS. is the following :—

Know all by these p'sents that I Laurence Bryerly Vicar of Tydeswell in the County of Derby have elected nominated and chosen and by these presents doe elect nominate and choos John Morewood to serve the cure at Wormhill. Witness my hand thereunto the 16 day of August Anno Dⁿⁱ 1676.

per me Laurentium Brierly Vicarium de Tiddeswell.¹

Seeing that Laurence Brierley was “ stricken in years ” when he was appointed vicar of Tideswell, and that he continued to hold that office for eighteen years, he must have attained a great age when he died on January 9th, 1680-1. His burial is thus recorded in the Register :—

¹ *De Spiritualibus Pecci*, p. 55.

² Lichfield MSS., T. 12.

1680. Jan. 9, Sepult. erat Lawrencius Brierley de Tid., vicarius et A.M.

Visitors to Tideswell will have noticed in the "Cathedral of the Peak," suspended against the north wall of the chancel, a small brass, on one side of which is engraved a portion of an inscription to Bishop Pursglove, whilst on the other are the words: "Exuviae Lau: Brierly vic. hujus Ecclesiae v. id: Jan: 1680. Nescitis horam."¹

An account of this brass with an illustration of it may be seen in the article on "Bishop Pursglove of Tideswell," which was printed in the Society's *Journal* for 1910, or in the writer's book on *Tideswell*.

RICHARD JEPSON, M.A., who succeeded Brierley, was a graduate of St. John's College, Cambridge. He had been "admitted" curate of Longson Major (Great Longstone), on September 4th, 1680.² Brierley died on the 9th of the following January, and we find that his successor was "collated to the vicarage of" Tideswell in March, 1680-1, on the death of Mr. Jepson,³ so that he can only have been curate of Longstone for about four months, and then vicar of Tideswell for a very few weeks before his death.

He was succeeded at Tideswell by JOSEPH CRESWICK, who as stated above, was collated to the vicarage in March, 1680-1. Of him "The Apostle of the Peak" writes:—

Since his (Brierley's) departure is departed Mr. Creswick, born at Sheffield, on good accounts by me honoured, whom I have heard preach solidly; but (alas) his time (and term) for preaching was, as was his life, shortened. Poor I, in our meeting place, called on mine Hearers to improve what they had heard from him: When preachers die, may the Doctrines live in many.⁴

¹ D.A. & H.N.S. *Journal*, 1910, pp. 3, 4. Fletcher's *Tideswell*, etc., p. 26.

² *Chapter Act Books*, vii, 58.

³ *Chapter Act Books*, vii, 59. Cf. also *Liber Institutionum*, series B, vol. iv. First Fruits Office. (P.R.O.).

⁴ *De Spiritualibus Peccis*, p. 55, etc.

In the Parish Register, when in November, 1692, his name and those of the three churchwardens are written after the parochial entries, the following note is appended to the name of Edward Jackson, one of the wardens :—

who spent his 2 pence, not a farthing more, yet put a shilling upo'th parish store, there's a trick of a knave.

Upon his death, he was followed by

RICHARD UNITT, of St. John's College, Cambridge, who was collated to the vicarage on April 14th, 1691.¹ But the severity of the Peak climate was too much for him, and within a very few weeks he wrote to the patrons, the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, giving that as his reason for wishing to resign his benefice,² and before the next month had come to an end his successor was appointed.

DANIEL TOTTEY, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, was accordingly collated to the vicarage on May 28th, 1691,³ and in the following year was also appointed head master of the Grammar School,—the ninth to hold that office in the short space of fourteen years. Probably he found the combined work of the parish and of the school too exacting, for, almost immediately, in 1692, a new master, Mr. Philip Turner, is recorded as presiding over the Grammar School.

Some of the large number of candidates alluded to in the following extract, who were presented for Confirmation during Mr. Tottey's vicariate, would doubtless come from the surrounding villages.

1693, The fourth day of July the Reverend Father in God, William Floyd, Lord Bishop of Lichfield & Coventry came to Tideswell about 11 o'clock and preached and after sermon did confirme four hundred & ninety and five persons.¹

¹ *Chapter Act Books*, vii, 95 (a).

² Lichfield Cathedral Library MS.

³ *Chapter Act Books*, vol. vii, p. 95 (b).

On June 17th, 1707, 558 were confirmed at Tideswell at the same time; and at Bakewell, on June 22nd, 1820, when the Tideswell candidates were present, no fewer than 2678 were confirmed during the same service! The service must have lasted for many hours, and numbers of the candidates have left the church during the service in order to make room for others.

But, as was the case with so many of the vicars of Tideswell during these two centuries, his oversight of the parish was not a long one, and early in the year 1695-6, he was succeeded by JOHN ALLEN, B.A., as the following note in the Parish Register testifies:—

(N.B.) Johannes Allen, A.B. Vicarius, in quietam Possessionem Ecclesiae Parochialis de Tiddeswell inductus fuit, 3^o die Feb. 1695.

As Allen continued to be vicar until the year 1716, he was the last of those who had the spiritual oversight of the parish of Tideswell during any part of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The following interesting quotation of an Indenture recording the gift of a Porthos (Portiforium, or portable Breviary), i.e., Service Book, to Tideswell Church, though of a date prior to that of the first vicar mentioned in this article, may well be here placed on record:—

A.D. 1430, July 22. Indenture recording a gift by Sir Hugh Willoughby of a service book to the Church of Tiddeswall.¹

This endentur beres wittnes that Hug' of Wiloby, knyght, has delivered a booke called 'portewos' to the vicar of Tiddeswall, Richard of Lytton, William Bradshagh, John of More, Robert Wodroff, John of Nedham, forsters, Robert of Bagshagh, Robert of Peek, Nicolas Martyn, John Hoylele, Richard Aleyn, and William of Bagshagh, in this form, that the forseyd booke may be abyding in the qwer of the kyre of Tiddeswall for evermore so

¹ Parish Register.

² Historical MSS. Commission. Lord Middleton's MSS. 1911, page 110.

that Roger Foljam and his wyff and 'hor (=their) children and Hug' of Wyloby, knyght, and his wyff and 'hor children may be preyd for speciale everi Sonnenday in the forseyd kyre at the pulpitt and in all other gude preyers in that kyre don for evermore. In witness of this thing Hug' of Wyloby, knyght, for his parte, os the twelfe befornamed men for their partes, ilkon for hymselfe, has put to his seal. Mad' at Tiddeswall, in the fest of Mare Mowdleyne the yere of owr Lorde a thousand iiij hunderd and xxx.
