

THE PARISH OF SOUTH BERSTED, CO. SUSSEX.

By DUDLEY GEORGE CARY ELWES, F.S.A.

It does not appear that this parish is mentioned in any way in Domesday Book, nor does it appear to have had any parish rights until A.D. 1200.

The name was formerly spelt *Berghestede*, and in one of the Register Books of the parish, numbered 2, the first entry on the second parchment leaf is the following:—

“ 1679. 1680.

“ The Register of the Parish of *Berghstead* in the County of Sussex, within the Peculiar Jurisdiction of the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, beginning January the 2d, 16 $\frac{7}{8}$ o.

“ WILLIAM WHITEAR, Vicar.”

It appears also to have been spelt *Berghamstede*, and quoting from a small history of the place, by Mr. Richard Dally, 1828—

Stephen Berghestede, who was consecrated Bishop of Chichester in 1262, was a native of this parish.

In the year 622¹? Wilfride, Bishop of Selsey, who on his expulsion from the Archbishoprick of York, about 681, had formed the episcopal college of secular canons at Selsey, which afterwards became the cathedral of the province (? diocese), met at *Bersted* (then named *Berghamstede*), Withred,² King of Kent, in council—and at this meeting Wilfride was restored to his Archbishoprick—*Godolphin's Repertorium Canonicum*, *Introd.* p. 76.

¹ This date must be wrong. Wilfrid was born about 634, and died in 709; was Archbishop of York in 669, and expelled in 678, and in 681 was made first Bishop of Selsey, and was so till 686, when Hedda became Bishop.

² Withred was King of Kent from 693 to 726, and it must have been during

these years that he met Wilfred, if such a meeting ever took place; and as there is a parish in the County of Kent of the name of Bersted, I am inclined to think that the meeting was more likely to have taken place in that County than in Sussex.

The following is a copy of the Terrar of South Bersted as registered in the Peculiar Court at Chichester :—

In primis, a vicarage house, with a stable, an orchard, gardens and gate-room adjoining, and belonging to the same vicarage house.

Item, one parcel of land lying in Bognor within the said parish, *near the Windmill there*,³ on the north side of the said mill, being by estimation one acre.

Item, Tythe hay of all the meadows and low lands within the same parish (saving of Shripney and North Bursted, which pay no tythe to the Vicar of Bursted aforesaid).

Item, all the tythes of the *Holy Bread Plotts* (so called from being subject to the payment of a sum necessary to purchase the consecrated bread and wafers used at High Mass) within the same parish, and of herbage—all the tythes of calves, lambs, wool, pigs, geese, pigeons, hemp, apples, pears, flax, hops, eggs, walnuts, honey and wax.

Item, the tythes of *two⁴ windmills* in the same parish; the tythe milk of kine; the tythe of coppice woods. (These have within the last 40 years entirely disappeared), *with certain tythe fish due from such fishermen as are and shall be dwelling within the same parish of Bursted*; and all other small tythes whatsoever, growing and increasing within the said parish of Bursted and tythable places thereof.⁵

The Vicar of Pagham had the tythes of geese in Bognor (a hamlet of South Bersted parish), which amounted annually to 2s. 8d.

The benefice is vicarial, within the Deanery of Pagham. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the patron. It is called a Deanery in the *Nonæ Roll*, but as dependant on Pagham, and in Ecton's *Thesaurus, edit. 1763, p. 60*, is the following :—

D. PAGHAM, in the Jurisdiction of CANTERBURY.

Living remaining in Charge.

<i>King's Books.</i>	<i>Rectories &c., with their Patrons</i>	⁶ Yearly Tenths.
07 18 09	<i>and Proprietors.</i>	00 15 10 $\frac{1}{2}$

Barsted v. alias Berghsted, St. Mary Magdalen. Archbishop of
Canterbury. Pri. Christ-Church Canterb. Propr.

THE CHURCH,

according to Mr. Dally (to whose publication I have already referred), in 1828 had nothing to recommend it to the notice of the antiquary. But let us strip it of its galleries and

³ The windmill has long since disappeared, and its site has been washed away by the sea, which now forms the sea-ward boundary of the said acre, no longer the vicar's, it having been exchanged a few years ago for land and buildings adjoining the vicarage garden.

⁴ Now there is only one windmill in the place, and that is a new one.

⁵ These Tythes have been commuted for a tithe rent charge of £400.

⁶ The yearly tenths are 16s. 4d., and are paid yearly to Queen Anne's Bounty by the vicar.

pews, take down the heavy ceiling, and once more open to view the rafters of its roof, or, as I am sorry to say now, its *double roof*, and I am not at all sure that, for proportion, it would not be a very creditable building for any architect.⁷ We know that the date of it is about 1400, as in 1405 there was a Commiss. Archiepi Cantuar. pro consecratione eccelsiæ⁸ dat Ap. 23, 1405. According to Dallaway—

The great Tythes were given to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, and under the *Land-tax Redemption Act* were purchased in 1811 by John Hasler, Gent., having been previously leased to the family of Gooch of Ditton, in Cambridgeshire. From the document above stated it is certain the present church was erected about 1400, and probably by contributions at the altar. The church is spacious, having a nave and two aisles, and particularly neat (query now ! 1872), and was completely pewed in 1729, at the expense of Thomas Grey, of Shripney (and was again repewed in 1840, at a considerable expense, by the parish). The tower is supported by very large buttresses, and has an obtuse spire of shingles.

My own belief about the church is that it is not at all an uninteresting one. It has a remarkably fine chancel as regards its proportions, and I believe that under its many coats of whitewashing,—which at one period of its existence were imposed upon it year by year, according to the parish accounts,—there is a good deal of colouring; and our respected Vicar told me that in 1840, when the above-mentioned re-pewing took place, on one of the pillars there was displayed a representation of St. Christopher⁹ ¹⁰ bearing Christ over the water, but I am afraid that the parishioners of those days actually took the trouble to have these representations painted over, and I very much doubt if we shall ever be able to bring them to light again. The chancel, which is plain and simple, has not been so much pulled about as the body of the church, and I

⁷ Mr. Christian (architect) reports on the building as in u rgent need of restoration, and gives a plan which would effect a real and permanent improvement.

⁸ This is not correct. Mr. John Hasler purchased the *Lease* of the *Great Tythes* of (as the vicar believes) a Mr. Drew, the then lessee. This lease was bequeathed by Mr. J. H. to his brother Richard, and by him to his son Richard Hasler, of Aldingbourne House, the last lessee; for the Dean and Chapter surrendered the Great Tythes to the Ecclesiastical Com-

missioners, who refused to renew the lease.

⁹ "Christofori faciem die quacunquæ tueris,

Illo nampe die morte mala non morieris." [On an early woodcut 1423, this inscription appears].

¹⁰ Christophori Sancti speciem quicumque tuetur,

Illo namque die nullo languore tenetur." [The above inscription is one which usually accompanied his effigy. Vide Sacred and Legendary Art, by Mrs. Jameson, 4th Edit., Vol. 2, pp. 439—450].

think it might be restored to *nearly* its original state. The east end has been repaired in a very singular manner; it appears to have given way at some time or another, possibly about 1737, as from the outside of the church you can see cut on a square stone, about 20 feet from the ground

L. G.
L^D B_p oF
BRISTOL
1737.

Whether the latter is a private mark of a builder, or whether it means a Lord Bishop of Bristol,¹¹ or is a notification of a brief collected at Bristol, I cannot make out, but the peculiar part of the east wall is, that it does not appear to have tumbled to pieces altogether, but the centre part of it has given way, and the present extraordinary representation has sprung out of it. This I hardly know how to describe. Instead of an east window,¹² as I imagine there must at one time have been, there are two small windows, something in the shape of Norman windows at their top, evidently built up to, or from, their bases, according to the brickwork outside. In the interior of the church half the light of these two windows is blocked up by an immense board with the Commandments, the Belief, and the Lord's Prayer, over which, and between the windows, are two escutcheons, with the Archbishop's and the King's arms. On the interior of the east wall, above the ceiling, and consequently lost to view, there is, or was, a representation of wings in colour. I have not penetrated so far myself, but Mr. R. T. Turner, a resident here, tells me he has seen it, and that he thinks it is meant to represent the "Holy Ghost" over the altar. I am in great hopes that before very long we may have this opened to view again, when the restoration so greatly needed is undertaken.

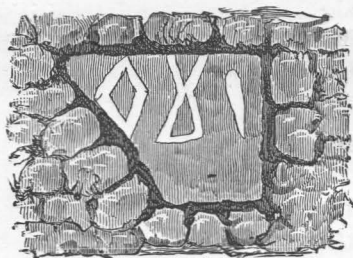
Between the chancel and the body of the church there is at present no chancel arch, and it is a question with me whether there ever was one, or whether there was a rood screen; I rather am inclined to think the latter. The arches in the body of the church are very good pointed ones, and if

¹¹ The Bishop of Bristol at that date was Thomas Gooch, and the first initial might very possibly be a T., in fact 1737 was the year of his consecration, and his family were lessees of the great tythes of

the parish. He was afterwards translated to Norwich 1738, and in 1748 again to Ely, when he had become Sir Thomas Gooch, Bart.

¹² Possibly a triplet.

all the galleries were cleared away from them, would come out in very good proportion, of the date of the 13th century. They form an arcade of five arches, supported by pillars, alternately round and octagonal. The tower has an obtuse spire of shingles, and has inside it the most extraordinary amount of strong timber work I ever remember seeing in any church tower or spire; and outside, to support it, most marvellously strong buttresses. Built into the base of the west porch of the belfry tower there is an incised stone, a sketch of which is herewith given. What the significance of the stone may be I am not able to declare, but from its position, and being built into the wall, it would seem that there must have been some significance attached to it.



¹³ The bells inside the belfry have inscriptions as follows:—

1. Thomas Mears, of London, Founder, 1833. +
2. Thomas Giles, 1614. +
3. Jefferey More, Vicar. John White. John Pechey. +
1610. William Mvnnery, John Bavlden, Wardenes. +
Jeffery Wodes, William Reader, + Richard Cordwell.
Edmvd Giles, Bell Fovnder.

And on this bell there is a hammer, and a pair of pincers holding a piece of metal.

The tenor bell measures in diameter $39\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and weighs 11cwt. 0qrs. and 5lbs.

It is curious that at the latter date, 1610, I do not find the name of More mentioned as Vicar of the parish, though all the other names mentioned occur in the Registers at that date; but there may have been an intermediate Vicar between Mr. Hayes and Mr. Maurice Rowlands, as in 1608 Mr. Hayes was the Vicar, and during his short term of office is the following very early notice of banns:—

1608. Richarde Harlbie and Marij Furner, efter dew asking of their bandes, married the 24 day of Aprill.

He was buried on the v. th daie of November in Anno Dni 1608, beinge Vicar of Bersted, and George Hayes (I conclude his son), was buried the xx the daie of November in Anno supradictō.

¹³ S. A. C., vol. xvi, p. 199.

In the year 1612 Mr. Rowlands commenced signing his name at the bottom of each page, and from that date, xxiiij Sept^r, 1612, no sureties or witnesses are mentioned, but up to that date they are hardly missed once; so Mr. Jeffery More may have been Vicar from 1608 to 1612, but there is no mention of such a person being Vicar in the Registers, and the only two times the name of More occurs is in the following notice of a christening:—

1609. Dammaris Peachey, daughter of John Peachey and Elizabeth his wife, baptized the sixth of September. Sureties Richard Peachey, MIRABILE MORE, and Burials for the year 1612. RICHARD MORE, the xiiij of February.

The church plate is valuable but in no way remarkable, and is quite modern.

The Registers begin in 1564, and have been fairly kept, the oldest book dating from 1564 to 1667. At the end of the baptisms for the year 1589, 15th April, 1590, is written, "The end of Mr. Dowlton's writing," so I suppose up to that date they are transcripts from an older book. There are several curious names in this book, and on two burials as follows:—

1588. Tho : Knight was buried the 9 of Julii	"the staffe of the stave"
John Knight was buried the 24 of Julii	"then went away"
	"wherefor Shripney"
	"and bersted pey"
	"well you may"

The above is curious rhyme, and the third line I should have thought was meant for *pray*, but I can only make *pey* of it. From that date till 1601 the entries are irregular. At the beginning of the latter year Mr. Robert Evans signs himself "Vicar ther," until the 20th January, 1607, when at the top of page 128 the following is written:—

Walter Hayes entred was the 28 of February, 1607.

This may be Anno Domini 1608; he was buried, as I have said above, on Nov. 5th, 1608, and from that date till xxiiij February, 1612, I conclude Mr. Jeffery More was Vicar; at the latter date Mr. Maurice Rowlands signs at the end of each ecclesiastical year as Vicar. On March 10th, 1637, is the following entry:—

Maurice Rowlands, Vicar, was buried.

In the year 1616 two Churchwardens, Edmond Davies and Thomas Hamelden, signed their names at the end of the ecclesiastical year, A.D. March, 1617, and the Churchwardens continued so to do until March, 1637, when a new Vicar, Mr. Anthony Perrot, signs his name as Vicar, and the Wardens' signatures cease. During this gentleman's term of office came the troubles of civil war, and another Vicar seems to have been appointed; Mr. Perrot signs the years up to March, 1641, and the last marriage entry in that year appears to be his own:—

Anthonie Perrot and Marie Morle were married Martij. 23.

And then the book becomes chaos until 1650, when some attempt at order was made by Mr. Matthew Speed, who was appointed Vicar at the same period as Mr. Perrot, when there is an entry as follows:—

Thom Hills, the son of Geo. Hills, and Mary, his wife, was borne about the beginning of May, An. Dom. 1650, as appears by the information of the parishioners.

Ita testæ Matt. Speed, Vic^s ibid.

Then Mr. Speed enters births until the year 1658, at the commencement of which year he puts at the top—"Births and Baptizings."

At the end of Burials, 1656, the signature "Tho: Wall: Scr:" occurs, and at the end of 1660 "Matthew Speed, vicar, ibid;" "Tho: Wall Scr." The latter signs again for the last time at end of 1661, and after that up to 1678 there are no more signatures in this book. On page 112 there is the heading:—

Publications of *Intention* of Marriage.
Anno 1654.

Amongst the *latter* occur many marriages, one of which is in Latin, and is as follows:—

1661.

Johannis Lucas Londinensis et Elizabetha Kenecotte de Devonshire clara orti presapia Matrimonium purum et legitimum hic complevere Die Vicesimo octavo Octobris Anno predicto.

On page 114 occurs the following sole entry:—

June 29th, 1662.

Memorandum.—That then Gertrud Woods, baptized in this parish the first day of May, in the yeare 1610, gave to the parish of Bersted one flaggon, one table cloth, and a napkin.

What has become of the flaggon I do not know. There are many entries of the Peachy family, but as I mean to collect them together at the end, I will not here put them down. There are one or two entries of the Burrell family, which I give:—

Anno 1584. Steven Burrell, the sonne of James Burrell, and Agnes, his wyf, was baptized on the 11th of December; Steven Woode, Wyll Bowlton, and Jane Fulton, Sureties.

1587. Richard Burrell, the sonne of James Burrell, and Agnes, his wife, was baptized the 28th of January; Richard Morell, John Elnott, and Alice Tayller, Sureties.

1592. Walter Burrell and Joane Peirse were married the 10th of Julii.

The following curious Christian names occur in this book:—

1609. Dammaris Peachy, daughter of John Peachy, and Elizabeth, his wife, baptized the xixth of September; Sureties, Richard Peachy, Mirable More.

1611. Garthwright Woodes, daughter of Jefery and Garth: his wife, baptized the first day of May. Witnesses, William Davies, Joane Rasold, and Joane Matthews.

1611. Godly Gray, daughter of Henry, and Joane, his wife, baptized the ijd. day of May; Joane Standmer and Godly Gotherd, Sureties.

The following entries relate probably to the families of the different vicars of the parish:—

1564. John Dowlton was buried the 6th of Novembz.

1565. Julian Dowlton was buried the 23rd of Decembris.

1580. Elizabeth Dowlton was buried the 9th of January.

1587. Ursula Dowlton was buried the 13th February (this is on page 147), and on page 148 is written "end of Mr. Dowlton, his wrytinge."

1564. John and Jane Dowlton, the sonne and daughter of Wyl Dowlton, and Elizabeth, his wife, was baptized the 14th of Novemb. (No sureties mentioned.)

1565. Wylliam Dowlton, the sonne of Wylliam Dowlton, and Elizabeth, his wife, was baptized the 8th of Decembr; Julian Brown, John Mellish, and Jane Petowe, Sureties.

1568. Thomas Dalton, the sonne of Wylliam Dowlton, and Elizabeth, was baptized the 9th of January, 1568; Thomas Gonwyn, Wylliam Poyse, and Sybyll Morles, Sureties.

1606. John Martin and Margaret Evans (probably daughter of the then Vicar), marryed the xxiiith day of November.

Walter Hayes, Vicar, bur. v. Nov. 1608. George Hayes was buried 20th Nov., 1608.

1615. Maurice, s. of Maurice Rowlands, Vicar of Bersted, bap. 12th Jun.
 1617. Margaret, d. of Maurice Rowlands, do. bap. May 2nd,
 1619. Alice, do. do. do. bap. Junii 17th.
 1620. Do. do. do. do. bur. March 3rd.
 1620. John, s. of do. do. bap. Decem. 27th.
 1623. Edward, s. of do. do. bap. Jan. 23rd.
 1624. Robert, s. of do. do. bap. Nov. 18th.
 1627. Alice, d. of do. do. bap. Nov. 27th.
 1630. Roger, s. of do. do. bap. Oct. 5th.
 1634. Margaret, d. of do. do. bur. Jan.
 1634. William, s. of do. do. bap. April 24th.
 1636. Maurice Rowlands, Vicar, bur. March 10th.
 1640. Anthony Perrot and Marie Morle were married March 23rd.
 1657. Mr. Anthony Perrott, minister of Bersted, was bur. April 29th.
 Mary Speede, the daughter of Matthew Speede and Mary his wife,
 was born the 29th day of June, and baptised 21st July, both in the year
 1663.

Sarah, daughter Mathew Speed, cler., and Mary his wife, baptised June 27th, 1665.

Mary, dau. of Mr. Mathewe Speede, Clerke, and Mary his wife, was buried July 11th, 1664.

Jane, dau. of Mr. Mathew Speed, cler., *ibid.*, and Mary his wife, was born 21st day of Dec., and baptised 3rd day of Janry., 1667.

Jane, dau. of Mathew Speed, was buried April 23, 1669.

Elizabeth Speed, daughter of Mathew Speed, cler., by Mary his wife, was borne Feb. 26th, 1669, and baptised April 7th, 1670.

William Speed, the son of Mathew Speed and Mary his wife, was borne Jan. 5, and bapt. Feb. 25th, 1672.

William Speed, son of Mathew Speed, cler., was buried January 6th, 1675.

Mr. Speed was buried 25th November, 1678.

Sarah Speed was buried 27th November, 1678.

Elizabeth Speed was buried 30th November, 1678.

Mrs. Mary Speed, widow, burd., Feb. 12, 1682.

The latter entry is taken from Register Book No. 2.

In No. 1 Register Book there are one or two notices of strangers being buried, and in 1664 there are two occurrences mentioned.

Elizabeth, dau. of William Lilliatt and Alice his wife, was buried July—killed from a horse—12th, 1664.

William Peckford, householder, buried Nov. 20th, whoe was drown'd at sea by reason of a tempest at a shipwrecke, 18th day, at night, 1664.

Thomas Wall, householder, and formerly register, died 11th of Sept., and was buried 13th, 1668. (See notice of his signature in Register above.)

The first and, I think, the only time the hamlet of Bognor is mentioned in this book is in 1676, when—

Thom. Farley, of Bognor, was buried Julii 11th, 1676.

No. 2 Register Book is very well kept, and has a few interesting entries in it, as follows:—

December y^e 29th, 1689. A gift, given by one Mr. Honi, to y^e poor of y^e parish of Berghstead, amounting to y^e sum of forty shillings was distributed among y^m by Goodman More and Goodman Peachy, of North Berghstead, according to y^e true intent and meaning of y^e will of y^e aforesaid Mr. Honi, in y^e presence of me.

WILL. PAYNE, Curate of Berghstead.

Memorandum.—That the forty shillings given by Mr. Whitcher, vicar, of this pish., at Chtmas., 1690, to bee distributed amongst the poor, was accordingly distributed by the advice of Mr. John Peachey and John Tupper.

WM. ROOKES, Curate.

Memorand.—That y^e 40s. given by Mr. Whitcher, vicar, 1691, was distributed amongst y^e poor by John Peachy and William More.

WM. ROOKES, Curate.

It is rather curious that the above curate should spell the vicar's name *Whitcher*, whilst the vicar signs himself *Whit-ear*, and a still more curious coincidence that the first marriage in this book, just underneath the vicar's signature, should be as follows:—

Married, 1679, Francis Whitcher and Mary Atwood, Febr. 15th.

There is a remarkable entry on one of the first leaves of parchment, as follows:—

Henry Hall, Clerk, Minister of the Parish Church of St. James, in Mary-Land in the West Indies, and Mrs. Mary Duval, of Anne Arundel County, in Mary-land aforesd, were married by Mr. Joseph Colbatch, Rector of All-Hallows Parish in the County aforesd, Febr. 5th, 1702.

Henry, the son of the s^d Henry Hall and Mary his wife, was born March 12th, 1703, and was baptized April 9th following, by Mr. Thomas Cockshut, Rector of All S^{ts} Parish, in Colvert County, in Mary-Land.

Ent'rd into this Register by a letter of Request, sent by the s^d Mr. Henry Hall.

What the family of Hall had to do with this parish I have no idea. The name does not occur in the Registers; at least, I do not think it does, excepting in this instance. There is a regular heading to the book as follows:—

“THE REGISTER OF THE PARISH OF BERGHSTEAD, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, WITHIN THE PECULIAR JURISDICTION OF THE ARCH-BISHOP OF CANTERBURY, BEGINNING JANUARY THE 2^d, 167⁸/₉. WILLIAM WHITEAR, VICAR.”

Bognor is mentioned once or twice in this book, but still not at all frequently, in 1689 and 1722, amongst the burials.

William Whitear signs the Register Book up to Feb. 22nd, 1704, and then he appears to have been succeeded by Mr. John Woodyer, who signs from April 24th, 1704. This gentleman was also Justice of the Peace, as his signature often occurs as such on documents in the Parish Chest. He signs the book up to March 16th, 1720, when another handwriting appears; and then, in July, 1723, Mr. John Hancocke signs as vicar, and continues to do so up to Aug. 24th, 1761, when another handwriting appears, and B. Blagden, as Curate, signs; and then, up to Dec. 7th, 1766, there are no signatures, when Mr. Thos. Durnford¹⁴ signs as Curate, and does so to the end of this book, up to June 13th, 1773. This latter gentleman appears to have started the system of mortuaries, as on

Feb. 4th, 1773. Rec^d. of Mr. John Randall, 10s., as a mortuary, on the death of Mr. Francis Peachey.

And again, on

Mar. 6th, 1773. Rec^d. of Mr. Thos. Peachey, 10s., as a mortuary, on the death of John Pannel, due by custom to y^e Vicar of Berstead, p^r Thos. Durnford, Curate.

There is no mention of them ever before. This gentleman was also Rector of Middleton from March 14th, 1768, according to the date of his induction in the Middleton Registers, and he appears to have held that until 7th July, 1799, when Mr. James Douglas, F.A.S., was inducted. There is nothing further of any particular interest in this book, and we come to No. 3, on the second page of which is the following:—

Mem.—Thos. Durnford, Clerk, A.M., was collated to the Vicarage of Berghstead, in the County of Sussex, within the peculiar Jurisdiction of Canterbury, May 2nd, and was inducted into the same May 6th, and qualified on Sunday, May 12th, 1776.

This gentleman kept the Registers in beautiful order, and as he went on signing each year, his handwriting grew larger and larger, until it arrived at a climax, where the following entry occurs:—

Memorandum.—A Public Confirmation for the Arch-Bishop of Canter-

¹⁴ Mr. Durnford was at one time Curate in Westbourne Parish. *Vide* Vol. xxii., p. 113, Mr. Sperling's Hist. of Westbourne, and in Dallaway he is amongst the list

of Vicars of Kirdford. If he was so, he must have been a fortunate man, holding South Bersted, Kirdford, and Middleton, all at the same time.

bury's Peculiars, in the Western Part of the County of Sussex (the Parishes of Tarring and Patching excepted), was held in the Parish Church of Berstead, on Thursday, 16th of October, 1794, by the most Reverend Father in God, John Moore, D.D., Lord Arch-Bishop of Canterbury.

There is another rather interesting mem. during his term of office, though why it should be entered in the parish register I know not:—

*Memorandum*¹⁵. 1787.—January 18th, 1787.—The first Foundation Stone of a Public Bathing Place at Bognor, in the Parish of Berstead, was laid by Sir Richard Hotham, Kn^t. at the House called by the name of the Lodge.

As the above house was, and is, a quarter of a mile from the sea-beach, I cannot see how the stone of a public bathing-place can have been laid there.

Mr. Durnford was buried Dec. 4th, 1800, and Sir Richard Hotham, March 21st, 1799. I believe these two gentlemen at one time were very great friends, but towards the end of their lives contrived to fall out, and become rather bitter enemies. The latter gentleman attempted to turn Bognor from a small fishing village into a flourishing seaside bathing place; but lost most of his own fortune in the attempt. He tried to foist the name of Hothampton on the inhabitants, and to do away with the ancient name of Bognor, but signally failed. He appears to have been fond of titled people, and took much trouble to induce them to come to Bognor.

After Mr. Durnford's death T. Phillips signs as Vicar. He was a Doctor of Divinity, and signs from July 19th, 1801. He made some curious entries against some of the burials, as follows:—

September 11th, 1802. Charles L'Oste, aged 43, late of Cornhill, London, belonging to the India House at the time of his decease; a very excellent man, and a good Christian.

Nov. 15th, 1804. John Yenn, Junr., aged 12 years, a youth of great promise, possessing excellent talents and a good disposition.

During his term of office Bognor becomes much more mentioned, and in October, 1806, there is the first mention of a burial from "*Bognor Barracks*," and then soldiers are

¹⁵ The wording of this memorandum is by no means clear. Its intention was to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone of Bognor Lodge (now Mr. Bray's house), as the commencement of making Bognor a place of resort for sea-

bathing, or, as Mr. Durnford calls it, a public bathing-place. Till then, the only houses in Bognor Tithing were fishermen's huts. (Note by the Vicar of the parish.)

frequently mentioned, and it appears that from that date until about 1816, there was an Invalid Depôt here. The last notice of the Barracks in the Registers, is 16th April, 1816. There is nothing further of any interest in Book No. 3.

Mr. Phillips died as Vicar of Bersted in 1822. The next Vicar was Chas. Lloyd, D.D., afterwards Bishop of Oxford. He was succeeded by the Rev. E. Eedle, the present Vicar, in 1824.

I do not think there is anything more of an interesting character in any of the Registers.

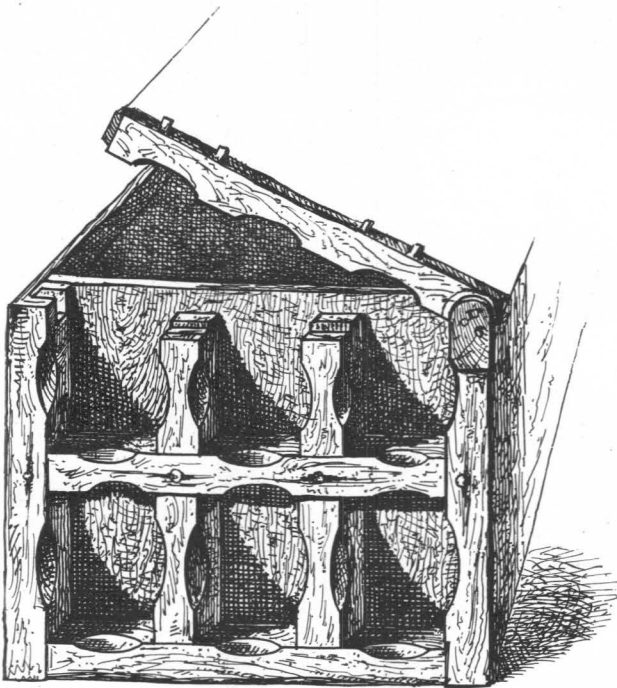
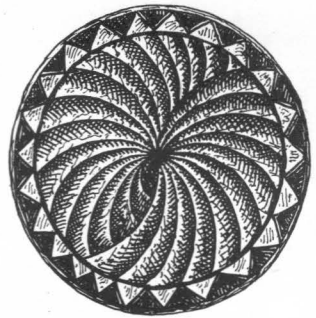
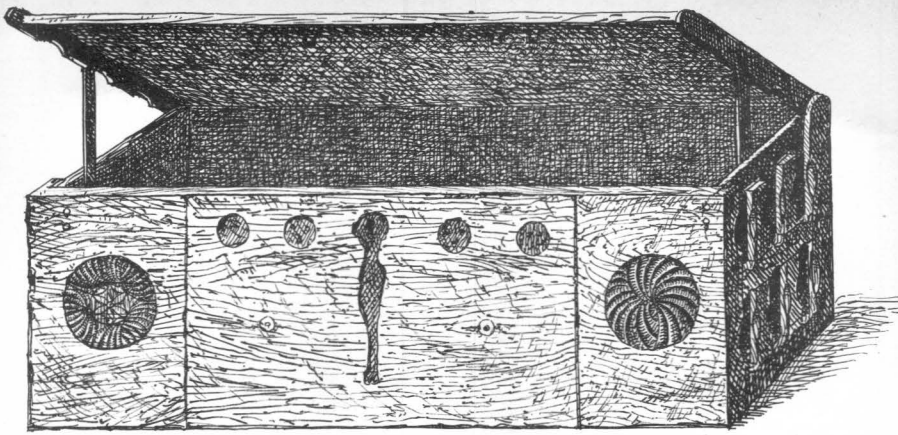
In the Registry of the "Archbishop's Peculiars," vol. i., p. 19, at Chichester, to which, by the kind permission of Messrs. Johnson and Raper, I have had access, is the following will of John Uppton,¹⁶ dated 1521, relating to this place, and I give it in full as being a rather interesting one, giving the price of a sheep in those days, and also giving the name of another Vicar of the parish:—

In the name of God, Amen, I, John Uppton, make my will and Test. My Soul to the Lady Seynt Mary, and to all the seynts that be in Hevyn, my body to be burryed in the Church of Mary Magdalen, of South Bersted. Also I give to the hie Altar iij^s. and iiij^d.; also to my Bratherene evry one of them, x shepe or els x^s. Item to every one of my servnts, a shepe or ells xii^d. Item to the Church of Barsted, for lying there, vi^s. and viij. Alsoe I will have a preste to synge for me by the space of one year, the Vicar to put hym in prayre, and to pay him his wagis, and y^e Vicar to have of my wif for the prest, vj^l. xiiij^s. iiij^d. and Margery, my wife, to be myne executrix, and the Vicar, Overseer, and he to have for his labo^r xx^s. this Witness R. Thomas Pyrre, Vicar of Barsted, Margere Uppton, Isbell Ishere, Hen. Legard, w^t many more.

From all the above and from the mention of J. Scaredevyle, mentioned in the forty days' indulgence hereafter (Sept^r. 20th, 1405), we may make the following tolerably correct list of vicars. Mr. Dally mentions one that I have not come across, as early as 1254, viz. :—

<i>John Farndon</i>	1254.	<i>John Woodyer, J.P.</i>	1704—1723.
<i>John Scaredevyle</i>	1405.	<i>John Hancocke</i>	1723—Aug. 24, 1761.
<i>Thomas Pyrre</i>	1521.	<i>*Samuel Dugard.</i>	1761—1766.
<i>William Dowlton</i>	1564—1589.	*According to Mr. Dally.	
<i>Robert Evans</i>	1601—1607.	<i>Thomas Durnford</i>	1766 to 1767.
<i>Walter Hay or Hayes</i>	1607—1608.	Held as Curate.	
<i>Jeffary More</i>	1608—1612.	<i>Thomas Durnford</i>	1776—Dec. 4, 1800.
<i>Maurice Rowlands</i> 1612—Mar. 10, 1636.		As Vicar.	
{ <i>Anthony Perrot</i> 1636—Apl. 29, 1657. }		<i>John Phillipps, D.D.</i>	1800—1822.
{ <i>Mathew Speed</i> 1650—Nov. 25, 1678. }		<i>Charles Lloyd, D.D.</i>	1822—1824.
Both held the vicarage at the same time during the Commonwealth.		Afterwards Bishop of Oxford.	
<i>William Whitear</i>	1688—1704.	<i>Edward Eedle</i>	March 6, 1824.
		Now Vicar.	

¹⁶ Not Upperton, as Mr. Gibbon has it in vol. xii., p. 67.



PARISH CHEST
SOUTH BERSTED, SUSSEX.

THE PARISH CHEST

is a very interesting old piece of church furniture, which, I am happy to say, I have just found in time to save from utter destruction by decay. My friend Mr. Malcolm Græme, of Græme's Hall, in The Orkneys, N. B., has very kindly drawn a sketch of it for me. I do not know how I ought to describe it; I should think it was of about the date of the consecration of the church, viz., 1400. The front of it has a very handsome circle at each end carved on it; it is 6-ft. long, 2-ft. broad, and 1-ft. 8-inches deep, of very handsome oak wood, and was probably originally used for the purpose of keeping the priests' vestments; its two ends are panelled, the two edges of the lid forming the upper frame of the panel on either side, the hinges being very peculiar, and what I believe are called centres (?); there are iron bosses on it, and at one time it must have been a very handsome piece of furniture, and still is if we can contrive to get the worm marks out of it. There appears to have been a bolt running the whole length of the chest, fixing into four different staples, which are still attached to the lid. It was afterwards used for the preservation of the parish accounts, &c., until 1827, when it appears to have been left to moulder away, and would have done so if I had not gone to rummage it up for old documents. There were a few such in it, but of no very great interest, the most ancient of them being:—

- (1). Letters of Administration to John Maunt, natural and lawful brother of a certain Daniel Maunt, whilst living, of the parish of South Bersted.—15 April, 1671. (2). Letters of Admon. to Jane May, widow and relict of a certain Henry May, whilst living, of the parish of Felp-ham.—11 Dec., 1679. (3). A Bond on Admon. from William Maunt, husbandman to Richard Pricksmall (yeoman), of £40.—1694.

There were many other deeds and parish accounts in it, but as I find this paper is growing too long, I will for the present conclude with a list of the surnames that occur in the Parish Registers, from 1564 to 1800, and shall hope to add some further particulars of the parish in a future volume.

The names in italics are still in existence in the parish.

A.	Alewyn-Alwin	Ansell	Arslett-Aslett
<i>Adams</i>	Amise-Amyase-	Archer	Awbinet
Alderslade	Amys	Arney	Austen-Austin
<i>Alen-Allen</i>	Androwe-Andrews	Arnold	Ayers

Stacey	<i>Tipper</i>	Violet	Whit-Payne
Staker	<i>Tomsett</i>	Voke	<i>Whittington</i>
Stanion	Towning		Wicker
Stanner	Treddie-Tridle	W.	Wilkinson
<i>Stevens-Stephens</i>	Trenchmore		Willis-Wyllis
Stillaway	Tribbe	Wackford-Wakeford	Willshe
<i>Stocker</i>	Trice	Wake	Willshear
Stoner	Trill	Walder	<i>Wisdom</i>
<i>Stow</i>	Trott	Waller	Wonham
Stowell	Trusler-Truslow-	<i>Walls</i>	Wood
Streater-Streeter als	Truslowe	<i>Ward</i>	Woodyer
Weaver	Tucker	Warner	Woodhatch
Styant	Toffe vel Luffe	Warren	Wooding
Sutton	Tuffen Tuffing	Watts	Woodland
<i>Swain-Swaine</i>	Tupper	Weaver alias	Woodman
	<i>Turner</i>	Streeter	Woods
T.		Webb	Wren
Taman		Wedge	Wryt
<i>Tapner</i>	U.	<i>Weller</i>	Wyat
Tapsell	Upperton	Wells	Wylcocke-Wyllcocke
Tayller- <i>Taylor</i>	<i>Upton</i>	Wepham	Wyse
Thistlethait	Upwood	West	Wytheir-Wyther
Thorne		Westcomb	
Thornton	V.	Weston	
Tidey	Valler	Whateley	Y.
Tiler	Varndel	<i>Wheeler</i>	
Till-Tyll	<i>Viney</i>	White-Whitear	Young-Young