

## SUSSEX EXCOMMUNICATES

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THROUGHOUT the Middle Ages there was rivalry between the Church and the State over questions of jurisdiction. During the century following the Constitutions of Clarendon (1164) a working compromise was arrived at between the rival powers and the two jurisdictions flourished side by side fairly amicably, each poaching on the other's preserves when opportunity offered. But there were occasions on which the Church had to appeal to the State for assistance to enforce her own decrees. Against those who broke her laws the Church could invoke the theoretically terrific punishment of excommunication, cutting off the offender from the community of the faithful, not only in the next world if he died unabsolved, but also in this world during the duration of the sentence. In theory no Christian might have any dealings with an excommunicate, but it is very difficult to discover what practical effect the sentence had socially; it certainly was an effective defence at law to show that the plaintiff was under excommunication, but whether a defendant could evade or postpone a suit by pleading his own excommunication, and what would happen if he did, is a point on which I have no information. One knows *hainis* during the struggle between Henry II and Archbishop *meq* Thomas Becket many of the king's supporters were almost continuously excommunicated by the archbishop without apparently causing them any particular inconvenience or preventing their carrying out their official duties; and one suspects that in the ordinary town or village the excommunicate, unless his offence was anti-social, would be excluded from the church but would meet with his usual reception at the tavern. It must be borne in mind that exclusion from the Church, with the loss of her protection against the Devil, was a pretty serious matter not only for the true believer

but also for the scoffer, who could practically never quite get rid of his fear of hell. Most excommunicates therefore came to heel pretty quickly, made their peace with the Church, and were absolved. Some, however, flouted the censures of the Church and remained obdurate. In such cases the Church could do no more, and if the obduracy continued for more than forty days the bishop of the diocese might appeal to the king to stretch out the arm of the secular law and order the arrest of the offender. The surviving examples of such appeals are preserved in the Public Record Office, and although the mere fact of contumacy can hardly be said to constitute a social classification the list for the diocese of Chichester, down to 1558,<sup>1</sup> may be of some interest, especially as it contains so large a proportion of clergy.

The letters to the king are couched in exceptionally flowery, not to say servile, language; unfortunately they rarely give any information as to the cause of the excommunication, except when this was neglect by clergy to pay their contributions towards clerical subsidies,<sup>2</sup> but sometimes one may deduce a dispute over a will, or failure to pay tithes. The dating is almost always by the Year of Grace, and not either regnal or pontifical, and more often by Kalends, Nones, and Ides than by saints' days until 1372, after which it is in modern fashion by the numerical date of the month. As an example I give the earliest in full, translated except for the preliminary flourish; it is fairly typical, except that it is not from the bishop but from his official:

15 July, 1247. Egregio ac magnifico domino Henrico dei gratia illustri Regi Anglie, Domino Hybernie, Duci Normannie Aquitanie et Comiti Andegavie, Magister Laurencius de Sumercot officialis domini Episcopi Cicestrensis—Salutem in eo qui dat salutem Regibus. Whereas Richard of Erlington [Arlington], priest, of the county of Sussex, for forty days and more has contumaciously continued under the sentence of excommunication, spurning the keys of the

<sup>1</sup> The files are continued into the 17th century, but are fragmentary, often in poor condition, and of very little interest.

<sup>2</sup> By the Bull *Clericis Laicos* (1296) any lay officials who demanded or clergy who paid such subsidies were *ipso facto* excommunicate; by the 14th century the bishops were excommunicating those who did not pay.

Church, I am led to beseech your royal highness that such distraint as the Royal Majesty is wont to exercise against such persons your highness will order to be brought to bear on him. Vale semper in domino Iesu Christo. Given at Sar' [Salisbury] the Ides of July in the third year of the pontificate of the Lord Richard Bishop of Chichester. [F.43, No. 1.]<sup>1</sup>

The remaining entries I have calendared in chronological order under the bishops concerned, giving the date and place at which the letter was written, and the names of the offenders, with any particulars of their offences when these are mentioned. There is a certain interest in noting the places from which the bishops wrote. Chichester occurs rarely; Aldingbourne and Amberley figure frequently, the latter being evidently the favourite residence of the bishops, even in winter, during the fifteenth century; Cakeham in West Wittering, where there are still remains of the episcopal manor-house, Drungewick in Wisborough Green, and Streatham in Henfield are of frequent occurrence, particularly in early years; the other episcopal manors of Bishopston, Ferring, Preston, and Selsey appear more rarely, and several letters are dated from London, where the bishops had a residence in Chancery Lane.

It will be found that a few of the letters, instead of invoking the secular arm, convey the information that an offender has either made his peace with the Church or proved his innocence, his release being therefore requested. That the actual discomforts of prison subdued many who were prepared to risk the problematical pains of hell may be assumed, but from what we know of medieval police methods, coupled with the frequent repetition of the same names in these lists, it may be doubted if the sheriff was always efficient, or ever prompt, in making arrests. One feels, indeed, distinctly sceptical of his having carried off to prison the abbot and most of the convent of Bayham and their fifty supporters in 1280-1; and Richard Holewey seems to have ignored both lay and clerical powers from 1391 to 1404, carrying on as vicar of Pevensay although two bishops considered his title as at best doubtful.

<sup>1</sup> The P.R.O. class reference is C.85, the files here calendared are 43 to 48.

Attention may be called to the two last entries as giving the names of a number of persons accused of holding heretical opinions. That we have not any letters for the arrest of any of the Sussex men and women known to have suffered death during the Marian persecutions may serve to emphasize the fact that the letters in this class which have survived are only a fraction of those which must have been written during the three centuries covered by the series.

Bishop *Richard* [de Wych], 1245-53

- 26 Dec. 1248; Winchester. Alan de Brambelhanger, layman. [F.43, No. 12.]  
 [N.D.] Simon de Colevill and Alice widow of John Russel of Haylesham. [F.43, No. 2.]  
 26 Oct. (Wed. before SS. Simon and Jude) 1250; Audingburn. John rector of the church of Findon, 'as his offences deserve'. [F.43, No. 4.]  
 7 Jan. (*Cras' Epiph.*) 1250-1; London. Godfrey Stille and Peter de Hangelton. [F.43, No. 3.]  
 10 Feb. (Thur. after Ash Wed.) 1252; Wilmington. Master Deodatus, rector of the church of Dichening [Ditchling]. [F.43, No. 5.]  
 6 Nov. (St. Leonard) —; Winchecumbe. [? Henry] de Suthwode. [F.43, No. 19.]

Bishop *John* [de Clymping], 1253-62

- 20 May (Thur. after Whitsun), 1255; Audingeburn. Brother William, Prior of Lewes, who has ignored demands for the tenth in support of the Holy Land, made by letters at long intervals and at last by our word of mouth, and has been under excommunication not only 40 days but 4 months. [F.43, No. 6.]  
 19 Oct. (Morrow of St. Luke), 1255; London. [ ] de Suwyka, Roger Seman of Seford, and William Kempe. [F.43, No. 7.]  
 28 Mar. (Thur. after Annunc.) 1258; Audingburn. Michael de Cumba. [F.43, No. 8.]  
 18 Nov. (Oct. St. Martin), 1260; Bissopeston. Hugh le Waleys and Thomas le Waleys of Little Horstede and William Wade of Tarring, on account of their manifest and multifold contumacy. [F.43, No. 9.]  
 8 Apr. 1260 (?); Cycestr'. Application by [ ] Dean of Chichester. Robert de Horn', rector of the church of Widiham [Withyham], the rector of the church of [ ]te, and Robert servant of the Abbot of Bec at Preston [in Firle]. [F.43, No. 10.]

Bishop *Stephen* [de Berghstede], 1262-88

- [N.D.] Master John de Stoke. [F.43, No. 15.]  
 26 Oct. 1263; Amberley. Richard and Ellis, chaplains, Anfrid de

- Gatewayk, William Petiuesche, Richard de la Frene, and Godfrey Freman, dwelling in the parish of Steninges. [F.43, No. 16.]  
 8 Jan. (Thur. after Epiph.) 1264-5; Kacham. Gilbert Goman of Lewes, and William Seriht of Cufaude [Cowfold]. [F.43, No. 17.]  
 10 Feb. 1264-5; London. Philip called le Bocher and Roger de la Hole his son. [F.43, No. 18.]  
 10 Mar. 1264-5; London. Gilbert Herui (?) of Beding'. [F.43, No. 22.]

*W[alter], Dean and Keeper of the spiritualities*<sup>1</sup> in the diocese of Chichester, deputed by the venerable father O[ttobon], Cardinal deacon of St. Adrian

- [N.D.] Helewise wife of John Agulun, Richard Puregod and Basile de Midhurst, Thomas de Burn<sup>3</sup> and Maud de Erham, Thomas the butcher, Richard Dayred, John Hoggespost, Richard Serle, Thomas Scori, Geoffrey le Mat and Clarice daughter of Roger le Bucher, John the smith and Isabel his wife la garlaundir, Richard Fartnayl, Alexander Hadeynor (?) of the city of Chichester. [F.43, No. 11.]  
 [N.D.] William the clerk of Rudereseud [Rotherfield], William de Ponte of Cukefeud [Cuckfield], Roger le Wode, Geoffrey Canon, Roger Cane, Roger Hune, Gervase the carpenter of Westhamme, John son of Hawise of Hutburn. [F.43, No. 14.]  
 11 Nov. (St. Martin) 1268. [ ] de Lageners, clerk. [F.43, No. 23.]  
 8 Jan. (Sat. after Epiph.) 1268-9; Chichester. Robert de la Rye. [F.43, No. 24.]  
 28 Apr. (Sat. after St. Mark) 1269. William son of William Geffr' of Iclesham, 'obstinate in his malice, fearing neither God nor man'. [F.43, No. 13.]  
 28 June (Tu. after SS. Peter and Paul) 1269. William son of William Geffrey, Alan Bredeware, Richard Lende. [F.43, No. 25.]  
 24 June (SS. Peter and Paul) 1272. Henry de la Hyde, clerk.

(Bishop *Stephen*, again)

- [N.D. but addressed to King Edward.] John bailiff (*serviens*) of Alan de Chartres at Westmeston, William called Blake of Puleburge [Pulborough], Joan called la Noble, James and William sons of Sarra of Newbridge (*de novo ponte*), and Robert son of Hawyse of the same, and Badecoc called le Mey. [F.43, No. 20.]  
 16 Apr. [ ]; Amberley. Geoffrey de Wynton, canon of St. Mary in the castle of Hastings. [F.43, No. 21.]  
 2 Apr. 1274; Chichester. German de Binstede. [F.43, No. 27.]  
 5 July 1274; Hanefeud [Henfield]. Thomas de Wautham, layman. [F.43, No. 28.]

<sup>1</sup> After the fall of Simon de Montfort, of whom the bishop had been a prominent supporter, Bishop Stephen was sent by the Legate to Rome and did not return to his diocese until after the accession of Edward I.

- 15 Aug. (Thur. after Assumption) 1275; Cocham. Walter called the smith of Bedinges. [F.43, No. 29.]
- 15 Aug. (Morrow of Assumption) 1277; Selseye. John le Neue, priest; on account of sacrilege. [F.43, No. 31.]
- 23 Mar. 1277-8; Bisoppeton [Bishopston]. Robert de la Grave, John called Mahun, and Gregory called Kadewilly. [F.43, No. 30.]
- 15 May 1278; Aldingeburn. Robert de la Grave. [F. 43, No. 33.]
- 26 May 1278; Deringwyk [Drungewick]. Mathew le Mazon of Winchelese and Simon his brother. [F.43, No. 32.]
- 27 Aug. 1279; Cakham. William called Testard of Launcyng, layman. [F.43, No. 34.]
- 14 Sept. (Exaltation of the Holy Cross) 1279; Ferring. Richard de Sutton, John de Ferles. [F.43, No. 35.]
- 13 Jan. 1279-80; Ferring. John de Beuchampe, Richard de Horton, William Peuening of Sorham [Shoreham], and William Testard of Launcinges. [F.43, No. 36.]
- [N.D.] William called Testard. [F.43, No. 38.]
- 2 Apr. 1280; Bissoppeton.<sup>1</sup> The Abbot of Begham [Bayham], bro. Robert de Carvile, bro. Ralph de Baldak, bro. Henry, bro. John de Ponte Roberti, canons of Begham, William de Bileghe, bro. Thomas de Hellingeleye, Henry Marescall of Clive [Cliffe], Jordan Sewolf, Robert de Redenerugge, William Colum, Hugh de Bradefeud, Nicholas de Aula, John and Henry grooms of the cellarer (*garciones Thalarii*) Richard Hukechese. John de Marisco, Robert de Tunebregge, Gregory Famel, Thomas Colpiper, Giles de Strington, John de Bromholme, John de Crop, William Scarlet, William de Haugingerugge, Brunecok his son, Adam le Fulur, Hugh brother of the Bishop of Rochester, Nicholas brother of the Abbot of Begham, Richard de Estbrugge, Richard de Vallibus, William le Potter, Robert Tidbrit, Robert the smith, Robert le Longe, Robert de Echehurst, William de Chiticrofte, John the bailiff (*serviens*) of the marsh, Thomas Vnimete, Thomas de Brincheswurthe, Richard le Tauerner of Sorham, Richard le Brade, Michael de Audeham, Simon le Mason, Simon the merchant, Simon de Sancto Leodegaro, Jordan de Sprenham, Thomas de Sprenham, Thomas de Norbelton, Nicholas son of Hugh, Henry de Ceringe of Kent, Robert Bunde of Tunebruge [Tonbridge], John de la Weld, Champenay de Borham, and William Scripeling. [F.43, No. 40.]
- 23 June 1280; St<sup>a</sup>tham [Streatham in Henfield]. William called de Wudestok, clerk. [F.43, No. 41.]
- 24 June 1280; Streatham. Henry son of Maud of Oving. [F.43, No. 39.]

<sup>1</sup> This was in connection with the long and fierce struggle between the Abbey of Bayham and the Priory of Michelham over the church of Hailsham: see Salzman, *Hist. of Hailsham*, 98-100. Many of the names will be found again below, 14 Apr. 1281, and 3 Nov. 1281.

- 1 July 1280; Streatham. William de Hasting', knight. [F.43, No. 42.]
- 3 Aug. 1280; Cakham. Henry rector of Westgrenestede, William vicar of Wassingstone [Washington], Adam de Bauant, Niel de Brok, and Hamo Bonet, knights, Walter Randulf, and William de la Denne. [F.43, No. 43.]
- 14 Apr. 1281; Bissoppeston.<sup>1</sup> Richard Abbot of Begham, bro. Robert de Carevile, bro. Ralph de Baldok, bro. Henry, bro. John de Ponte Roberti, bro. Roger de Hellingelegh, William de Bylighe, bro. Thomas de Hellingelighe, canons of Begham, bro. John F . . . le, John and Henry grooms of the cellarer of Begham, John de Mariso, Thomas Colpeper, Giles de Shurington, John de Bromhomme, John le Crop, William Scarleht, Ralph Sarp, William de Haukingeregge, Adam le Fulur of Borham, Nicholas brother of the Abbot of Begham, Richard de Herstbrigge, Robert Tydbrist, Robert de Ekeherst, Thomas Vnimete, Jordan de Sprenham, Thomas de Sprenham, Thomas de Norbelton, Chaumpeneys de Borham. [F.44, No. 1.]
- 5 May (Mon. after Invention of the Cross) 1281; Deringewyk. John Wyther, Warin atte Londe, John le Sippere of la Graue, Nicholas Suth' of Dreyton, Henry Kycamur, Ralph Wysdom, Hamo Gore, John Gore, and William the Miller of Ovinges. [F.44, No. 6.]
- 8 June 1281; Stratham. William de Hanemuthe (?). [F.44, No. 5.]
- 15 June 1281; Stratham. Alexander Prikeloue, clerk, committed to prison for clipping money, was delivered to us and before our commissaries purged himself by 24 priests, deacons, and subdeacons. We request that his tenements which have come to him by the death of his father Henry and have been seized into the King's hands may be released to him.<sup>2</sup> [F.44, No. 4.]
- 30 Sep. (Morrow of Michaelmas) 1281; Deringewyk. Gilbert called Sewyn of Nytimbr'. [F.44, No. 2.]
- 3 Nov. (Morrow of All Souls) 1281; Amberley. [as F.44, No. 1, with addition of Hugh brother of the Bishop of Rochester.]
- 30 Oct. 1282; Aldingburne. Sir William de Hasting', knight. [F.44, No. 7.]
- 2 Nov. 1282; Aldingburne. Pernell widow of John Augner of Crowehurst. [F.44, No. 8.]
- 16 Oct. 1285; Selsey. Geoffrey de Godyuewode. [F.44, No. 9.]
- 20 Oct. 1285; Selsey. Reynold de Eggedene, chaplain, Thomas le Spensir, Richard Thibaud, William Chupman, Robert le Sopere, Richard de la Halle, Roger le Cucku, Robert de Wysteneston, Maud de la Stanstrete. [F.44, No. 10.]
- 11 Nov. (St. Martin) 1285; Selsey. Martin de Wircelford (?). [F.44, No. 11.]
- 13 June 1286; Preston. John de C[raule ?] of Warblington, William Spryng. [F.44, No. 15.]

<sup>1</sup> See last note.

<sup>2</sup> He was accordingly released: Close R. 9 Edw. I, m. 5.

- 22 Sept. 1286; Selsey. Andrew le [            ]. [F.44, No. 12.]
- 14 Dec. 1286; Cacham. Robert de la Cumbe on account of his manifest offences was excommunicated, and as he scorned to be corrected by ecclesiastical discipline, evading the keys of Holy Mother Church, by your order he was committed to prison. He has now come to himself (*ad cor reversus*) and has been absolved for the sentence under which he lay by our authority. We beseech your excellence to deign to order the sheriff of Sussex or his sub-sheriff to release the said Robert and allow him to leave the prison. [F.44, No. 13.]
- 27 Feb. 1286-7; Ferring. Ellis the miller of Westhamme. Special clause that the liberty of the Cinque Ports shall not protect him. [F.44, No. 14.]
- 6 Aug. 1288; London. By Gilbert (the bishop) elect of Chichester. Simon de Kaneford, priest, vicar of the church of Ifeud [Ifield] was of late publicly defamed of the death of Master Geoffrey de Gates formerly Archdeacon of Chichester,<sup>1</sup> and was arrested and committed to prison, and on our demanding him to be judged in the church court he was handed over to us by Solomon of Rochester, Thomas de Suddinton, Walter de Hupton, Richard de Boylaund, your justices in eyre in Sussex. He has now purged himself of any connection with the crime. Requests that his goods and tenements may be returned to him. [F.44, No. 16.]

Bishop *Gilbert* [de St. Leophard], 1288-1305

- 2 Oct. 1289; Cacham. Adam the carpenter of Hastings. [F.44, No. 18.]
- 26 Nov. 1289; Cacham. bro. Richard, Abbot of Begeharn. [F.44, No. 19.]
- 28 Nov. 1289; Cacham. bro. Laurence de Wyndesor,<sup>2</sup> cellarer of Begeharn. [F.44, No. 17.]
- 29 Nov. 1289; Cacham. bro. Ralph de Baldock, canon of Begeharn. [F.44, No. 20.]
- 22 July 1290; Duringewyk. Richard de Basingstok, clerk. [F.44, No. 21.]
- 1291; Duringewyk. John de Hoo, Gilbert called Child, Robert de Pleydenne, priest, Robert the Miller of Pecham [Patcham], John Sutor of Flessinges [Fletching], and Thomas Kech. [F.44, No. 22.]
- 27 Dec. —; Cacham. Adam called le But, Robert le Faukener, and John le Faukener. [F.44, No. 23.]

<sup>1</sup> At the assizes at Chichester in this year the jury of Steyning Hundred presented that Simon, vicar of Ifield, was guilty of the death of Geoffrey de Gates (Assize R. 924, n. 61). It was also stated that the same vicar was caught in adultery with Alice wife of Andrew atte Ferryng by Richard son of Robert the vicar of Horsham and others and compelled to pay 2*s*.

<sup>2</sup> Laurence was one of the canons who was forcibly ejected from Hailsham Church by the Prior of Michelham and his adherents in 1280: *Coram Rege* R.60, m. 14 d. Cf. note above.



- 20 June 1293; Stratham. Philip de Wertlesford, Robert de la Graue, Ralph Beaufitz, Robert de la Hok. [F.44, No. 24.]
- 22 Sept. 1294; London. Alan de Pollingfold. [F.44, No. 25.]
- 3 June 1296; Amberley. Stephen called le Dol, clerk. [F.44, No. 26.]
- 28 May 1297; Hanfeud. Lady Elizabeth de Say, Ellis de Hertford steward of the same lady, Reynold de Farnham her chaplain, and Simon the Miller of Hammes [Hamsey]. [F.44, No. 28.]
- 31 May 1297; Hanfeud. William de St. George. [F.44, No. 30.]
- 30 Aug. 1297; Aldingburne. William de Hornecumbe of West-hodleye. [F.44, No. 29.]
- 24 Nov. 1297; Cacham. Stephen atte Pette, and William de Padyham, laymen. [F.44, No. 27.]
- 29 Apr. 1298; Duringewyk. Ralph the Shepherd of Hangelton, Stephen Peke, miller, Ralph de Newyke of Wyseberge [Wiseborough], and William de Wogeknolle of Rutherefeld. [F.44, No. 31.]
- 6 Oct. (St. Faith) 1298; Aldingeburn. John Gregori, layman, executor of the will of Vincent Machon of Rye. [F.44, No. 32.]
- 26 May 1300; Amberley. Walter called le Bal of Bydelingeton, layman. [F.44, No. 33.]
- 23 May 1303; Amberley. Robert Mauleverir. [F.44, No. 34.]
- 26 Dec. 1304; Amberley. William de la Putte of Upmerdon and Stephen his brother, Thomas de Nordene of Huua [Hove], Stephen Pek of Sefford [Seaford], William Gile of Clayton, and Ybote de Wycham. [F.44, No. 35.]

Bishop *John* [de Langton], 1305-37

- 14 May 1306; Amberley. Alexander son of Robert de Homstede, clerk, who was indicted before Sir Roger Brabauzon and his colleagues for the death of John le Risschere of Bercampe [Barcombe] killed near the chapel of Ukefeld [Uckfield], has purged himself. [F.45, No. 1.]
- 31 July 1306; Cacham. William Gyle of Clayton and Simon Gile his brother. [F.45, No. 2.]
- 31 Dec. 1307; Canterbury. William Gyle of Clayton, Philip Fydelou of Pydingho, William Bonemore of Halnaked, William Eworth of Horsham. [F.45, No. 3.]
- 11 Nov. (St. Martin) 1308; London. Robert Twysin of [ ] Kebbel of Horsham, William Cole the shepherd of Hampton, William Crul of Lullyngton. [F.45, No. 4.]
- 18 June 1314; Stratham. John de Croftes the elder. [F.45, No. 5.]
- 1 July 1314; Stratham. John de Petrechurche and John [ ] of St. Leonard in the Forest, chaplains, John de la Chaumbre and John de Gilleslond, laymen. [F.45, No. 7.]
- 31 Jan. 1314-15; Stratham. Roger de Smythwyk, Simon de Smythwyk, Alexander Testard, Isabel Bacoun, Thomas Piers, Reynold Taper (?), William Sylhard, John Hareberd. [F. 45, No. 6.]
- 3 Mar. 1314-5; London. Those named in last entry have returned

- to the bosom of the Church and been absolved; desires the sheriff not to arrest them, or to free them if arrested. [F.45, No. 8.]
- 1315. William atte Lynde of Newdegate in our diocese. [F.45, No. 9.]
- 16 July 1317; London. John de Argenteym. [F. 45, No. 10.]
- 13 Aug. 1326; Aldyngbourn. John Ranulph le Plomeer of Wynchelse. [F.45, No. 11.]
- 20 Nov. 1331; Aldyngbourn. Simon le Tournour of Cokkyng. [F.45, No. 12.]
- 2 Feb. 1333-4; Amberley. William atte Nasshe and Isabel de Woluelegh of Hanefeld [Henfield]. [F.45, No. 13.]
- 19 Nov. 1335; Aldyngbourne. William Peres, Thomas Alger, John de Edescombe, John le Gore, William Jolle, John Jordan, Roger Baunt of Estdene. [F.45, No. 14.]

Bishop *Robert* [de Stratford], 1337-62

- 18 Nov. 1338; Lamhuth [Lambeth]. By Bishop Robert as vicar-general of John Archbishop of Canterbury, who is abroad. Richard de Frome of Salisbury diocese, at the instance of Master Richard de Chaddesley prebendary of Fordyngton in the church of Salisbury. [F.45, No. 15.]
- 13 Feb. 1338-9; Boxle in Kent. Notification that Richard de Frome has satisfied Mr. Richard and has been absolved. [F.45, No. 16.]
- 23 Mar. 1344-5; Ferring. John Kechenoure of Beckele [Beckley]. [F.45, No. 17.]
- 25 Jan. 1352-3; Aldingbourn. Robert Wilteshyre of Petteworth. [F.45, No. 18.]
- 30 May, 1354; Bysshopeston. William Longe of Brade. [F.45, No. 19.]

Bishop *William* [Rede], 1370-85

- 12 Feb. 1371-2; Aldingbourn. Robert Poyntall vicar of Tycheshurst [Ticehurst] on account of his manifold contumacy and manifest offences, and his various rebellious and insolent acts was excommunicated at the instance of the Prior and Convent of Holy Trinity Hastings many years ago by our predecessor William [de Lenne], Bishop of Chichester and now Bishop of Worcester, and since by our authority, and still remains obdurate. [F.45, No. 21.]
- 6 Nov. 1372; London. The bishop sends a schedule of clergy excommunicated for not paying the subsidy of 44 Edw. III (1370). The benefices on the dorse of the schedule are so poor that no one can live on them. [The schedule, however, is lacking.] [F.45, No. 22.]
- 11 Nov. 1372; London. Similar letter, with schedule of names: William vicar of Asshbornham, William [? Cy]cestr' vicar of Rye, Thomas rector of Warbelton for the chapel of Bokstepe [Buck-

- steep], Thomas vicar of Crowherst, the Master of the hospital of Playden, Robert Poyntel vicar of Tycheshurst, Richard rector of Wygenholt, John rector of Codelawe [Cudlow], John rector of Middelton, John rector of Ilesham, Walter vicar of Ertham, Richard rector of Alfryston, Thomas vicar of Hellynglegh, Henry chaplain of the chantry of Brembeltygh [Brambletye in East Grinstead]. Names of chaplains: Thomas Taylour chaplain of Bradewater, John Carcesty of Donketon [Duncton], William Selle (?) of Threford [Treyford], Geoffrey Hom . . . of Bury, Richard Malton of Cokefeld, William Powe . . . of Bekkele. [F.45, No. 23.]
- 22 Jan. 1372-3; Amberley. Sir Thomas Kelleseye rector of Warbleton has paid his subsidy and is absolved. [F.45, No. 24.]
- 6 Apr. 1373; Bysshopeston. Sir William Dole rector of Marsefeld has paid. [F.45, No. 25.]
- 5 May 1373; London. Sir Walter vicar of Ferryng, excommunicated at the king's request for not paying 6s. 8d. as half of the tenth voted to the king, has paid. [F.45, No. 20.]
- 8 May 1373; London. Sir Richard rector of Wygenholt has paid. [F.45, No. 26.]
- 11 Oct. 1373; London. Sir Thomas rector of Codelawe has paid. [F.45, No. 27.]
- 1 Feb. 1373-4; Ferryng. The following have been excommunicated for 40 days for not paying the subsidy: Vicars of Bracklesham and 17 other places (no names), and Priors of Sele, Mortayn, and Bruton. [F.45, No. 28.]
- 6 Apr. 1374; Stratham. William vicar of Asshebournhamme was excommunicated for not paying the subsidy; moreover he daily of his malice and wickedness lies in wait for (*insidiatur*) us and our servants, publicly threatening our death, consorting with and adhering to whores and wickedly squandering his goods among them, contrary to our canonical warnings made frequently in this matter and despite the ecclesiastical censures issued by us. In which sentence of excommunication he has damnably continued despising the keys of the Church and still continues with hardened heart. [F.45, No. 29.]
- 6 Apr. 1374; Stratham. Sir Reynold Mottaye, chaplain, judicially denounced by us as a notorious fornicator, has ignored our excommunication, maliciously lying in wait for us and our servants with armed force and threatening us with death. [F.45, No. 30.]
- 13 Oct. 1374; London. Schedule (missing) of persons excommunicated; cause not stated. [F.45, No. 31.]
- 5 Mar. 1377-8; Drungewyk. Juliana Arnold. [F.45, No. 32.]
- 4 May 1378; Drungewyk. Schedule (missing) of defaulters to subsidy. [F.45, No. 33.]
- 8 July 1379; Amberley. Beatrice Wolsey of Satlescombe, Sir Henry Prest of the same, and Christine atte Persons of the same. [F.45, No. 35.]

- 3 Aug. 1379; Amberley. Sir John de la Ruwe vicar of Esborne, for non-payment. [F.45, No. 34.]
- 8 Oct. 1380; Aldingbourne. John Tryuers vicar of the parish church of Brackelesham, for non-payment. [F.45, No. 36.]
- 13 Feb. 1383-4; Amberley. Sir William rector of Whatlington and Maud Turnor of Bryghtlyng, for the sin of fornication and incontinence committed between them and continued for many years, as is said. [F.45, No. 37.]

Bishop *Thomas* [Rushoke], 1385-8

- 20 Dec. [Eve of St. Thomas] 1386; Amberley. John Stamerham of Horsham. [F.45, No. 38.]
- 21 Dec. 1386; Chichester. Robert rector of Upwaltham, William rector of Essyngton [Ashington], John vicar of Braclesham, Adam vicar of Madehurst, Nicholas Sprot rector of Hangelton, John Rede rector of Lytlyngton, John Wygot late vicar of Selmeston, William Courtays rector of Blachyngton by Seford [East Blatchington], John Ynot vicar of Hoo, Ralph Berysby rector of St. Thomas of Wynchelse, Hugh Skypwyth vicar of Rye, John Wyke rector of St. Leonard of Hastyng', Ralph son of Philip Coteley vicar of Odymer [Udimore], Walter Robert vicar of Neuenefeld [Ninfield], Thomas Houghton vicar of Pesemersch, John Keppeston rector of Playdenne, Alexander son of Richard Coupere late vicar of Coufold now rector of Notehurst; for non-payment of subsidy. [F.45, No. 4.]
- 1 July 1387; Durryngewyk. Thomas Glen, William Riche, Richard Nye. [F.45, No. 39.]

Bishop *Richard* [Mitford], 1390-5.

- 29 Apr. 1391; London. John Clerk of Launsyng. [F.45, No. 43.]
- 11 Dec. 1391; London. Richard Holewey vicar of Pevensey. Endorsed: 'To the Constable of the King's castle of Dover.' [F.45, No. 41.]
- 11 Dec. 1391; London. Stephen Sexteyn and Richard Sexteyn of Tychisherst [Ticehurst], John Clerk and Agnes Colyn of Launsyng, John Fayreman of Westefeld. [F.45, No. 42.]
- 22 Jan. 1393-4; Drungewike. Thomas Ferring vicar of Estgrenstede, Thomas Hersle rector of Estdene, Edward vicar of Chudham, John Walfard vicar of Bernham; for non-payment of subsidy. [F.45, No. 44.]
- 5 Sept. 1394; Amberley. Richard Holewey so-called (*pretensus*) vicar of the parish church of Pevensey, for his contumacy shown in not coming at a certain definite time long since passed and a suitable place which we had judicially assigned to him. [F.45, No. 45.]

Bishop *Robert* [Rede], 1397-1415

- 6 Mar. 1397-8; Amberley. Edward vicar of Chudham, John rector of Compton. [F.46, No. 1.]

- 2 Oct. 1398; Cacham. Thomas Cowper of Estgrensted, Thomas Houchon of Wylmyngton, Katherine Sperlyng. [F.46, No. 2.]
- 12 Dec. 1398; Amberley. Ellis Cook and Thomas Tanner of Hurst-mounceaux. [F.46, No. 3.]
- 20 June 1399; Bishopston. Sir Robert Swyft and Sir Richard Crosby, chaplains. [F.45, No. 5.]
- 20 June 1399; Bishopston. Richard Holeway, chaplain. [F.46, No. 6.]
- 1 Oct. 1399; Chichester. Walter Dykeby, clerk, of Bulwarhyth. [F.46, No. 4.]
- 30 June 1401; Duringewyk. John Langford parson of Codelawe, John Suwater parson of Stopham, John Aspele farmer of the prebend of Gates, Richard Schankton farmer of the Abbey of Wauerle, and Alice Roose. [F.46, No. 7.]
- 31 Aug. 1402; Amberley. Sir Richard Holewey, calling himself chaplain. [F.46, No. 8.]
- 20 June 1403; Bishopston. John Carpenter *alias* Reygate of Hammys [Hamsey]. [F.46, No. 11.]
- 20 Aug. 1403; Amberley. Schedule (missing) of defaulters to subsidy. [F.46, No. 10.]
- 1 Oct. 1403; Amberley. Schedule of defaulters: Walter Bristowe farmer of Wilmyngton, the prebendary of the prebend of Sefford, William parson of Rademeld [Rodmill], Robert parson of Bercomp [Barcombe], John farmer of Litolhorstede, John vicar of Udymer, Thomas Colbrand farmer of Wrotlyng [Wartling], William vicar of Hoo. [F.46, No. 9.]
- 29 Jan. 1403-4; London. Similar schedule: Richard Holewey acting (*se gerens*) as vicar of Pevenese, William vicar of Hoo, Richard rector of Gestling, Hugh rector of St. Thomas of Wynchelse, John farmer of the rectory of Little Horstede, Thomas Curreour farmer of the rectory of Rouspere, William rector of Estgrenstede, John vicar of Storweton [Storrington], Henry vicar of Sowntyng [Sompting], John rector of Raketon, John Yonge keeper of the manor of Chudham, John Russell farmer of the prebend of Myddelton, John Cleuere farmer of the manor of Lodysworthe, Thomas Quecheworthe and Thomas Culby farmer of the Priory of Tanrygge, John farmer of the rectory of Bercomp, Ralph farmer of the prebend of Hurst. [F.46, No. 12.]
- 28 May 1404; Duringwyk. John Treygoos. [F.46, No. 13.]
- 28 May 1404; Duringwyk. John Kentey's otherwise called Bradbrygge.<sup>1</sup> [F.46, No. 14.]
- 20 Nov. 1404; Amberley. John Kentey's otherwise called Bradbrygge. [F.46, No. 15.]
- 7 Feb. 1404-5; Duryngwyk. John Kentey's otherwise called Bradbrygge. [F.46, No. 16.]

<sup>1</sup> John Kentey's was excommunicated for seizing a horse on the bishop's land. An account of his submission and penance is given in the bishop's Register: *S.R.S.* xi, 56.

- 25 Apr. 1405; Amberley. Schedule of defaulters: William vicar of Rottynghden, Richard vicar of Kyngeston by Lewes, Henry rector of St. Mary in Westoute, Geoffrey rector of Maresfeld, Thomas rector of Little Horstede, Thomas Colbrond farmer of Wrotlyng and Hoo, John Eston farmer of Sefford, Reynold Hane farmer of Nenefeld, Sir William farmer of Holyngton, and Hugh rector of St. Thomas of Wynchelse. [F.46, No. 17.]
- 5 May 1405; Duryngwyk. Sir John Wynstre, chaplain. [F.46, No. 18.]
- 7 Aug. 1406; Amberley. Nicholas Attelee. [F.46, No. 23.]
- 1 Oct. 1406; Amberley. Richard Crosby, chaplain, and Alice Rose. [F.46, No. 21.]
- 10 Oct. 1406; Amberley. Richard Crosby, chaplain. [F.46, No. 20.]
- 28 Nov. 1406; London. Robert Goldsmyth otherwise called Scharseshull of Lewes;<sup>1</sup> for not appearing before our Official of Chichester in a case of breach of faith and perjury against him at the instance of Master Simon rector of Mechyng. [F.46, No. 22.]
- 7 Jan. 1406-7; Amberley. Richard atte Downe of Tycheshurst, Ralph Byrcher of the same, Thomas Brown. [F.46, No. 19.]
- 31 July 1408; London. Robert Schort of Berwyk. [F.46, No. 24.]
- 1 Sept. 1408; Amberley. Brother John Charnell<sup>2</sup> canon regular of the order of St. Augustine, wandering (*vagabundus*) through our diocese. [F.46, No. 25.]
- 10 Oct. 1409; Amberley. John Hallere of Bury. [F.46, Nos. 26, 27.]
- 23 Dec. 1410; Duryngwyk. John Petere of New Schorham. [F.46, No. 28.]
- 7 Nov. 1411; Amberley. John Crowchere. [F.46, No. 29.]
- 7 Nov. 1411; Amberley. Richard Brewes *alias* atte forthe. [F.46, No. 30.]
- 13 [? Nov. 1411]; Amberley. John Beaton. [F.46, No. 31.]

*Sede vacante*

- 13 Oct. 1416; Chichester. By [ ] keeper of the spiritualities of the bishopric. Roger Owset of Petteworth. [F.46, No. 32.]
- 14 Oct. 1417; Chichester. By John Blounham, keeper of the spiritualities. John Dawtre. [F.46, No. 33.]

Bishop *Henry* [Ware], 1418-20

- 4 Dec. 1419; in our palace at Chichester. John Hallere of Bury, summoned by John Goodyng rector of Bury for detaining tithes. [F.47, No. 1.]

*Keepers of the spiritualities*

- 1 Apr. 1421; Chichester. By William Milton, Dean and keeper of the spiritualities. John Badyngmer of Horsham, at the instance

<sup>1</sup> Richard Shareshulle, goldsmith of Lewes, was sued by the Prior of Lewes in 1404 for the detention of a chalice: De Banco R. 575, m. 75d.

<sup>2</sup> He resigned the office of Prior of Calceto in 1402: *V.C.H. Sussex*, ii, 81; *S.R.S.* xi, 218.

- of John Vericoyte keeper and pastor [ ] of the chapel of Lullynton. [F.47, No. 2.]
- 1 Mar. 1421-2; Chichester. By the same. William Pulhare and Agnes his wife of Marsfeld, at the instance of George Warbelton rector of Marsfeld. [F.47, No. 3.]
- 12 Nov. 1423; Chichester. By Walter Eston, canon of Chichester and vicar general for spiritualities of the reverend father in Christ Lord Thomas Bishop of Chichester engaged in distant parts. Margery Deye of Merston. [F.47, No. 14.]
- 20 Mar. 1424-5; Chichester. By the same. Roger Wolby, chaplain, William Kane, chaplain, John Schyrewode, chaplain, and Rose Barbour. [F.47, No. 5.]
- 10 June 1425; Lewes. By the same. John Shryvenham rector of Cattesfeld, for not appearing at the church of All Saints, Lewes, when summoned. [F.47, No. 6.]
- 2 July 1425; Chichester. By the same. John Wolward vicar of Barnham. [F.47, No. 8.]

Bishop *Thomas* [Poldon], 1421-6

- 1 Oct. 1425; London. John Dygoundawe rector of the parish church of Lynche. [F.47, No. 7.]

Bishop *John* [Rickingale], 1426-9

- 10 Jan. 1426-7; Chichester. By Simon Northewe, canon of Chichester, vicar general of John Bishop of Chichester, who is abroad. John Carpenter of Chichester. [F.47, No. 9.]
- 11 Feb. 1426-7; Chichester. By the same. Thomas Westlund of Mydhurst, accused of adultery. [F.47, No. 10.]
- 7 June 1429; Cakham. By the bishop. Nicholas Meryman of Bradwater, at the instance of Nicholas Chidden of Hamyldon [Hambleton] in Winchester diocese. [F.47, No. 11.]

Bishop *Simon* [Sydenham], 1429-38

- 6 Jan. 1432-3; Amberley. William Marshall, chaplain, rector of St. Mary in the Market of Lewes. [F.47, No. 12.]

Bishop *Richard* [Praty], 1438-46

- 21 Nov. 1441; Aldyngborne. John Throsshere, John Reynald, Thomas Boys, William Heywode, Richard Mose, William Milward, William Godewyn, and William Farthing of Selsey, for not paying tithes to Edmund Brugge rector of Selsey. [F.47, No. 14.]
- 27 Dec. 1441; Chichester. Roger Stylefeld of Bridham [Birdham], because he did not in accordance with our warning send away Joan Holte, whom he damnably detains in adulterous embrace, and has delayed and refused to perform the marriage between himself and Maud Whetewell, adjudged to him as wife by our authority. [F.47, No. 13.]

Bishop *Reynold* [Pecock], 1450-9

- 18 Jan. 1453-4; Amberley. Henry Faukys, chaplain, of Hastyng'. [F.47, No. 15.]  
 21 Aug. 1455; Amberley. John Hunt and Alice Hony of Forde. [F.47, No. 16.]

*Sede vacante*

- 10 Apr. 1459. By Roger Gest, D.C.L. keeper of spiritualities. Thomas Sterisaker, priest. [F.47, No. 17.]

Bishop *John* [Arundel], 1459-78

- [N.D.]; Amberley. Mr. Robert Gest, D.C.L. our official, in a matrimonial case between Nicholas Voke of Winchester diocese and Alice widow of Robert Rowte of Stoke, for the contumacy of the said Alice in not appearing has caused her to be publicly excommunicated in the parish church of Stoke and other neighbouring places. [F.48, No. 10.]  
 9 May 1462; Amberley. Thomas Stempe late of Braclesham. [F.48, No. 1.]  
 8 Oct. 1466; Amberley. Philip Rosse, priest. [F.48, No. 2.]  
 12 Nov. 1466; Amberley. Richard Mychelgrove of Jeuyngton, excommunicated by Nicholas Calf late our commissary in the Archdeaconry of Lewes, at the instance of Sir William Rede late vicar of Welyngdon [Willingdon] and of John Comber and other parishioners, for preventing the execution of a will. [F.48, No. 3.]  
 8 May 1468; Amberley. John Weston, clerk. [F.48, No. 4.]  
 — 1471; in the priory of [?]. Joan Lynde. [F.48, No. 5.]  
 13 Aug. 1473; Amberley. Thomas Towghton of Bekkele, in a case of the withdrawal of spiritual goods of the church of Bekkele. [F.48, No. 7.]  
 16 Oct. 1473; Amberley. Laurence Hysshcock late of Wysbergh. [F.48, No. 6.]  
 18 Nov. 1473; Amberley. Thomas Paynot late of Hunston. [F.48, No. 8.]  
 25 Nov. 1476; Amberley. Sir Thomas Sanderwyk, brother or canon of the house of Good Men of Edington of the order of St. Augustine, apostate, late of Selsey. [F.48, No. 9.]

Bishop *Edward* [Storey], 1478-1503

- 11 July 1479; Guildford. William Osscliff of Lewes. [F.48, No. 11.]  
 11 Feb. 1486-7; Aldingbourne. John Holmer and Alice Eston of Launsyng. [F.48, No. 12.]  
 14 Oct. 1491; Aldingbourne. Joan now wife of Alexander Stevens of St. Martin's, New Salisbury, and late widow and executrix of Peter Bromfield of Estborne. [F. 48, No. 13.]

Bishop *Richard* [Fitz-James], 1503-6

- 25 Oct. 1505; Amberley. Roger Lewkenore of Sheffield in Flechyng. [F.48, No. 14.]



Bishop *Robert* [Sherburne], 1508-36

- 5 July 1513; Amberley. Joan Gardener. [F.48, No. 15.]  
 27 June 1514. Agnes Fostern (?) of Robertsbridge, denounced by Henry Bekke, chaplain of the church of Saleherst. [F.48, No. 16.]  
 19 Oct. 1515; Aldingbourne. William Lydley, layman. [F.48, No. 17.]  
 16 Nov. 1530. John Portebery of Petworth, excommunicated by Mr. John Worthiall our Chancellor. [F.48, No. 18.]

Bishop *George* [Daye], 1553-6

- 13 Oct. 1555; Chichester. Richard Hooke of Alfriston, a child and nursling of devilish iniquity, on account of his manifest wicked errors, detestable heresies, and damnable opinions opposed, contrary and repugnant to the Catholic Faith, publicly and pertinaciously defended, has been denounced by us as an obstinate and confirmed heretic. Since Holy Mother Church can do nothing further against such a putrid member, we have handed over to your Royal Highnesses and the power of your secular arm the said Richard Hook as a heretic to be punished and broken.<sup>1</sup> [F.48, No. 19.]  
 23 Mar. 155[5-6?]; Chichester. Thomas Standen of Estborne, William Fayrwaye of Haylsham, William Asshedoune, John Newman, Thomas Newman of Retherfeld, John Spryngate of Tyshurst, Richard Hiller of Westhothelegh, Thomas Chatfeld the younger of Chetinglegh, Joan wife of Richard Thomset of Esthothlegh, and John Smyth of Estgrenestede were summoned by Mr. Robert Taylor, Archdeacon of Lewes, to answer certain questions; they did not appear, and were excommunicated; the civil arm is now invoked. [F.48, No. 20.]

<sup>1</sup> Neither Hook nor any of those mentioned in the next entry are recorded as having suffered death for their faith.