

SUSSEX RELIGIOUS AT THE DISSOLUTION

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THE idea, at one time widely held, that at the Dissolution the religious (monks, canons, and friars) were thrown out into the world to fend for themselves or starve is contrary to the facts, as has been well shown by the late Geoffrey Baskerville in his *English Monks and the Suppression of the Monasteries*. It is of interest to try and trace the history of the ex-religious in Sussex. The names of just over a hundred are known, and approximately half of these can be, at least tentatively, identified at later dates. Obviously, while it is possible to feel fairly certain of distinctive names, such as Geoffrey Iden and Simon Overy, one cannot be certain of the identity of a John White or a Thomas Wilson without corroborative evidence, which is usually lacking.

There is the further complication that it was quite usual for a man to take a new name on entering religion, which he might or might not abandon for his hereditary surname on returning to the world. A good example of this is the last Prior of Lewes,¹ who was the son of John Peterson of Lewes but was known while he was prior as Robert Crowham, Croham, or Crome, with the occasional addition of '*alias* Peterson'; after the dissolution of his monastery, when he became Dean of South Malling, the holder of prebends in several cathedrals, and Treasurer of Chichester, he always used his patronymic. It will be noticed that in the list of pensions granted in 1537 (see below) out of twenty-five monks of Lewes ten, at least, had aliases.

A further difficulty is that when they obtained benefices it did not follow that these were in the diocese of Chichester, as will be seen. Examples of this, in reverse, may be seen in two Bishops of Chichester, John Scory, a Dominican friar of Cambridge, and William Barlow,

¹ See *S.A.C.* LXXVI. 178-82.

an Austin canon of Bisham (Berks.), and the Archdeacon of Lewes (1551–8), Dr. Richard Brisley *alias* Gloucester, Prior of Horton (Kent).¹ Among the vicars choral of Chichester Cathedral, Mr. W. D. Peckham informs me, Roger Gough (1549–52),² John Stot (1550–3), and Richard Pashe (1551) are each styled *religiosus* and, as they do not appear in our lists, probably came from outside the diocese. Baskerville³ gives among the canons of Dunstable (Beds.): (1) Richard Bowstret, who was ‘dwelling with Mr. Gage’ (of Firle) in 1548; a vicar choral in 1551 and 1554; vicar of Oving and rector of Litlington from 1555 till his death in 1557/8;⁴ (2) Augustine Curteis, vicar of Framfield in 1544; deprived for marriage in 1554, at which date he had the prebend of Highleigh, but was made vicar of Eastbourne in 1556 and was buried there on 27 September 1559;⁵ (3) Edmund Green, ‘probably the rector of Edburton 1551 to his death in 1557’. Baskerville⁶ also mentions Anthony Clarke, a Cistercian of Stratford Langthorne (Essex), as having ‘more than one living in Sussex’, as well as the prebend of Highleigh, with which went the post of schoolmaster of the Cathedral School;⁷ he was deprived in 1560 for refusing the Oath of Supremacy, and became chaplain to Lord Montague at Cowdray, in which capacity he made his will on 30 December 1560. Mention should also be made of Miles Man, or Aman,⁸ who was a canon of the Priory of Southwick (Hants).⁹ He was vicar of West Wittering between 1540 and 1550, and of Donnington between 1543 and 1559, and Prebendary of Wyndham in 1560.

The Dissolution falls into two parts: the suppression under Act of Parliament in 1536 of the smaller monasteries with incomes below £200 a year; and the ‘voluntary’ surrender of the larger houses, and the friaries,

¹ Venn, *Gonville and Caius College*, i. 25.

² He had held one of the Mortimer Chantries: *S.R.S.* xxxvi. 47.

³ *Op. cit.* 295.

⁴ *S.R.S.* xliii. 262, 266–7.

⁵ Budgen, *Old Eastbourne*, 114–15. Curteis had also succeeded Bowstret at Litlington in 1558.

⁶ *Op. cit.* 268.

⁷ *S.R.S.* xxxvi. 48; II. 63.

⁸ Misread as ‘Arnan’ in *S.R.S.* xliii. 20.

⁹ *Deputy Keeper's Rep.* viii. 41; *L. and P. Hen.* VIII, xiv (2), p. 596.

which was brought about between 1538 and 1540. At the first suppression the head of each house was awarded a pension; the other members were offered the choice of transferring to one of the larger houses of the same Order, or of abandoning their monastic rule and receiving 'capacities', or licences to act as ordinary 'secular' clergy. The number of those whose devotion to their 'religion' made them willing to start life again in another house as displaced persons, who would probably find at best a grudging welcome there, was very small. In the six houses suppressed in Sussex out of forty-two persons thirty-eight desired capacities; of the other four, two at Tortington definitely wished to be transferred to other houses, the one at Shulbred was presumably William Burrey, a former prior who had retired on a pension of £12 (which was continued to him), and the one at Boxgrove was most likely the novice,¹ who may have decided to become a layman. The six houses were Boxgrove (Benedictine), Hastings, Michelham, Shulbred, and Tortington (Austin canons), and Durford Abbey (Premonstratensian). The Abbey of Bayham and the tiny Austin Priory of Calceto or Pynham had been suppressed, under papal licence, by Cardinal Wolsey for the endowment of his proposed college at Oxford; and the Austin Priory of Hardham had, rather mysteriously, evaporated about 1534.²

The actual grants of capacities were entered in the books of the Faculty Office, and these were abstracted by the indefatigable Dunkin in one of his notebooks now in the British Museum.³ These give the names of members of the convents at the time of the Dissolution, which are otherwise in many instances unknown. They also show, as will be seen, that the process of dispensing religious from their monastic duties to take parochial work had begun before the Dissolution. It was, indeed,

¹ *S.A.C.* XLIV. 64-65.

² *V.C.H. Sussex*, II. 75. Robert Pryklowe, rector of Iping in 1553 (*S.A.C.* LXXVII. 102), was probably the former, last, Prior of Hardham. He was vicar of Wisborough Green from 1557 (Add. MS. 39428, f. 57) till his death in 1560 (*Hennessy, Clergy Lists*).

³ Add. MS. 39401, here referred to as F.O.

common practice, from the fifteenth century onwards, for Austin and Premonstratensian canons to serve livings in the gift of their houses; and the Benedictines did so occasionally. The grant of a capacity did not necessarily mean that its recipient obtained a benefice at once, or ever. The flooding of the ranks of the clergy with dispossessed religious, greatly augmented by the suppression of chantries and colleges in 1548, meant that a man without influence had little chance of obtaining a living of any value. In Lincoln in 1547 it was said that, owing to the decay of the city, many of the city livings were not worth above 30s. yearly and that no one would take them 'but that of povertie and necessitie there are some late religious personnes being stipendiaries taken and appointed to serve the said cures and benefices, whiche for the most parte are unlerned and verie ignoraunte personnes not able to do any parte of their duties'.¹ When the larger monasteries surrendered, their heads usually received very substantial pensions and were often able to pick up valuable preferments, as in the case of the last Prior of Lewes, already quoted. The pensions assigned to the members of the convent may sound small, averaging about £6, but the ordinary chantry and quite a large number of vicarages failed to reach that figure. Many of the monks, therefore, seem to have settled down, often in the neighbourhood of their house, to live on their pension, eked out by such pay as they could get for acting as curates or assistant priests in the parish.

So far as we can judge, the officials of the Court of Augmentations seem to have done their best to pay the pensions fairly and regularly. There must, inevitably, have been cases of hardship; but the faults were not all on one side. In 1547 it was noted that various religious had gone abroad and rejoined their order, but continued to draw their pensions through friends; others were dead but their pensions were still being paid.² In future, pensioners were to appear in person or else send certifi-

¹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv (8), 12.

² See the case of Thomas Spratte, below (p. 34).

cates of their identity and place of residence, under the hands of two Justices of the Peace.¹

In the list of religious that follows the source of my information for their later history is, where not otherwise indicated, the great Card Index of Parochial Clergy, in the Society's Library at Barbican House, where references are given to the original sources.

BOXGROVE PRIORY [8 priests, 1 novice; desiring capacities, 8]

Licence to change their habit and take benefices, granted 20 March 1537 to Thomas Myles, late Prior, Thomas Mason, Richard Comby, Richard Hedde, James Ryman, John White.²

Thomas Myles became rector of New Shoreham in 1545. In 1548 he was holding the chantry in that church, worth £4. 6s. 8d., being then 70 years old: he received a pension of £4 on the suppression of the chantry.³

Sir Thomas Mason occurs at West Tarring in 1538 and 1540,⁴ and as curate of Broadwater from April 1544 to November 1547.⁵ Thomas Mason *alias* Quarley was presented to East Blatchington in November 1548; made his will as rector of that parish 6 October 1558 (pr. 29 Oct.), leaving 3s. 4d. to 'Syr James Ryman'.⁶

Sir Richard Combes was curate at East Lavant in October 1539.⁷

Richard Hedde was witness to the will of Thomas Norton at Middleton in April 1538.⁸ He was admitted to the chantry of the Blessed Virgin in Pagham Church in 1540,⁹ and at its suppression in 1548 received a pension of £5; he was then of the age of forty;¹⁰ he was still getting the pension in 1555,¹¹ but died as curate of Bepton in 1557.¹²

James Ryman, 'religiosus', was curate of Oare in Kent from at least 1554 to 1558.¹³

John White. A priest of this name appears at St. Clement's, Hastings, in 1544 and made his will in July 1542.¹⁴ The name, which is also found at Bexhill in 1542 and at Shermanbury in 1546,¹⁵ is too common for identification.

HASTINGS PRIORY [3 priests, 1 novice; desiring capacities, 4]

The only member of this house whose name is known is the prior, Thomas Harmer, who resigned on a pension of £6.¹⁶ He is probably the Thomas Harmar, clerk, of Salehurst who made his will in June

¹ *Acts of Privy Council*, 1547-50, p. 97.

³ *S.R.S.* xxxvi. 58.

⁶ *Ibid.* 159.

⁹ *S.N.Q.* x. 5.

¹² Add. MS. 39428, f. 57.

¹³ *Harpsfield's Visitation Returns* (Cath. Rec. Soc.), 308.

¹⁴ *S.R.S.* xlii. 254, 290.

¹⁶ *V.C.H. Suss.* II, 77.

² F.O., f. 81.

⁴ *Ibid.* xlv. 214.

⁷ *Ibid.* xliii. 91.

¹⁰ *S.R.S.* xxxvi. 48.

⁵ *Ibid.* xli. 224.

⁸ *Ibid.* 215.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 145.

¹⁵ *Compn. Bks.*

1543.¹ If so, he must have survived nearly four years, as his pension was paid for the first half (only) of 1547.²

MICHELHAM PRIORY [8 priests, 1 novice; all desiring capacities]

Licence to receive benefices granted on 20 March 1537 to Thomas Holbeme, prior, Thomas Lucke, Edmund Pelham, Robert Forde, Martin Cater, Robert Motte, William Couper, John Browne.³ All of these except the last were already in the priory in 1521.⁴

Thomas Holbeme retired on a pension of £20,⁵ and was dead before August 1545, when Thomas Pelham of Hellingly, who was evidently his executor, refers to his will.⁶

Thomas Lucke had obtained Gawthron's Chantry in St. Clement's, Hastings, worth £7. 6s. 8d., by October 1538.⁷ On its suppression in 1548 he received a pension of £6, being then 60 years old.⁸ As this was still being paid in 1555⁹, he is presumably not the 'Sir Thomas Lucke' of Litlington, whose will was made on 24 October 1551 and proved on 1 March 1552,¹⁰ unless it was being fraudulently drawn in his name after his death.

Edmund Pelham was probably the 'Sir Pelham' who was hired by William Kentesley and his son John to serve the chapel of Otham, in Hailsham.¹¹ He was uncle to Thomas Pelham of Hellingly, in which parish he made his will on 6 September 1551 (proved 10 March 1553), desiring to be buried in that church, at the entrance to the Lady Chapel.¹²

Robert Forde. 'Syr Robert Fourde, preest', witnessed the will of Sir William Pelham at Laughton, October 1538.¹³ He occurs as vicar of West Angmering from 1542 to 1551, but died before October 1552, when his successor was instituted.

Martin Cater compounded for the chantry of St. Peter's, Cornhill, London, on 7 May 1542.¹⁴ He presumably received a pension on the suppression of the chantry.

Robert Motte witnessed a will at Mayfield in December 1541; was admitted to the rectory of Chalvington on 16 October 1549; was still rector in November 1555, but had resigned before 2 October 1556.

SHULBRED PRIORY [5 priests; 4 desiring capacities]

On 3 April 1536, apparently just before the suppression of the priory, one canon, Nicholas Duncke, was licensed to wear the habit of his order under the robe of a secular priest.¹⁵ On 20 March 1537 licence to change their habit and receive benefices was granted to George Walden, prior, John Stany, and Lawrence Weste.¹⁶

¹ S.R.S. XLV. 83.

³ F.O., f. 87v.

⁵ Ibid. 238.

⁸ Ibid. 55.

¹¹ *Hist. of Hailsham*, p. 189.

¹³ Ibid. XLIII. 84.

¹⁶ Ibid., f. 81.

² Aug. Off. Misc. Bks. 256.

⁴ Salzman, *Hist. of Hailsham*, p. 237.

⁷ Ibid. XXXVI. 179.

¹⁰ Ibid. XLIII. 163.

¹² S.R.S. XLII. 303-6.

¹⁵ F.O., f. 36.

¹⁴ Compn. Bks.

George Walden was given a pension of £10 and remained in the parish, being curate of Linchmere in 1540 and 1544, as 'Sir George Waldren'.¹ Later he obtained two Hampshire livings, compounding for Hayling on 9 May 1544 and for Catherington on 10 August 1545.² He seems to have resigned and returned to Sussex, as *George Walden*, minister, was buried at Cocking in 1564.³

John Stany was curate of Lodsworth in 1545.⁴

TORTINGTON PRIORY [5 priests, 1 novice; 4 desiring capacities]

Licences were granted on 20 March 1537 to Thomas May, the prior, William Bremer, George Kington, Henry Ringwode, and James Stidall.⁵

Sir Henry Ringwood occurs as curate at Tortington in November 1545. As 'Syr Harry Bull curat of Tortington' made his will in the following January,⁶ it is possible that this was his patronymic.

DURFORD ABBEY [8 priests, 1 novice; all desiring capacities]

On the suppression of this house the abbot, *John Sympson*, was made Abbot of Titchfield in Hampshire: he resigned that house in 1536 on a pension of £20, which he offered to exchange for the living of Horsted Keynes.⁷ He may be the John Simpson who compounded for the Prebend of Coleworth on 17 January 1542; but the name is a common one (there was a monk of that name at Lewes). Licences were granted on 8 November 1536 to the following canons—John 'Waketon', Henry Dente, Richard Sandefelde, Roger Wheler, and Henry Wyndesore;⁸ and on 10 November 1540 to Richard Strudwick.⁹

In 1541 accusations were made against the late abbot for having carried off certain livestock and vestments from Durford to Titchfield, and among the witnesses examined were four former canons:¹⁰ William Sympson of Horsted Keynes, the abbot's brother, aged 40; *John 'Wakelyn'*,¹¹ aged 36, then a 'petie canon of Paules'; John Heepe of Steep (Hants), aged 60; and *Henry Dente*, of Priorsdene (Hants), aged 44.

Roger Wheler was perhaps the man of that name collated to the vicarage of Cocking in January 1558 on the deprivation of the previous incumbent. He was rural dean of Midhurst in 1563,¹² and made his will in 1574.¹³

We now come to the second part of the Dissolution, the surrender of the greater houses.

¹ *S.R.S.* XLIII. 154.

⁴ Add. MS. 39426, f. 26.

⁷ *V.C.H. Hants.* II. 186.

¹⁰ *S.A.C.* VII. 226.

¹¹ He was 'Eleventh Minor Canon' from 1535 to 1566: Newcourt, *Reparatorium* (ed. Hennessy), p. 49.

¹³ *S.N.Q.* IX. 96.

² Compn. Bks.

⁵ F.O., f. 81v.

⁸ F.O., f. 65.

³ Par. Reg.

⁶ *S.R.S.* XLV. 249, 251.

⁹ *Ibid.*, f. 142.

¹² *S.A.C.* LXI. 109.

BATTLE ABBEY.

Surrendered on 27 May 1538¹ by John (Hamond), abbot, *Richard Salehurst, prior, John Hastyng, subprior, Clement Westfyld, John Henfeld, *John Austyn, Thomas Levett, Vincent Dunston, John Benyng, *Clement Gregory, Thomas Cutbert, William Ambrose, *Thomas Bede, *John Jerom, *Edward Clement, *Bartholomew Ciprian, John Nuton, Richard Cony, *Richard Derthmowth. The prior received a pension of £10, all those below him in standing either £6. 13s. 4d. or £6,² and those marked with (*) were still receiving their pensions in 1555.³ Two other members of the community had already, on 28 June 1535, been licensed to abandon their order and take a benefice; these being John Crosse and Thomas Anselme.⁴

John Hamond had been abbot for twenty years and was therefore presumably elderly. He retired on a pension of £100, equivalent to about £3,000 in recent (pre-war) money, and continued to live in Battle, where he made his will⁵ on 1 December 1546, desiring to be buried in St. Katherine's aisle in Battle parish church. He does not refer to any of his former brethren.

John Austen may be the clerk of that name who witnessed a will at Ninfield in July 1556.⁶

Thomas Levett took his degree as Bachelor of Divinity at Oxford on 27 June 1527;⁷ was instituted to the vicarage of Framfield on 7 July 1540; resigned before the beginning of 1544; appears as rector of Catsfield in 1545 and 1546, in which year he died.

Sir John Benyng alias *Pylcher*, clerk, made his will at Battle on 29 October 1540, desiring to be buried in 'the chappell of our lady yn the sought yle' of Battle parish church.⁸

Clement Gregory alias *Stapleton* was instituted to Stouting (Kent) on 18 July 1556, and to Eastwell on 27 May 1559;⁹ he resigned Stouting before the end of February 1564, and died as vicar of Eastwell in or before August 1573.¹⁰

Thomas Bede and *William Ambrose* both received the degree of Bachelor of Divinity at Oxford on 23 July 1538, two months after the dissolution of the abbey, and were dispensed as secular chaplains.¹¹ Of their history during the next twenty years we know nothing; Ambrose was probably dead by the end of 1555, as he does not appear in the pension list. In 1559 Thomas Twisden *alias* Bede appeared before the Cardinal Archbishop Reynold Pole and was assigned penance and granted rehabilitation, because after the dissolution of the Abbey of Battle, in which he had made his profession and taken the religious habit, at the time that most pernicious schism was

¹ *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* VIII, no. 9.

² *Chron. of Battle Abbey* (ed. Lower), p. 210.

³ *S.R.S.* XXXVI, 144.

⁴ Printed in *S.A.C.* VI, 65.

⁵ Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*

⁶ *Harpsfield's Visitt. Returns* (Cath. Rec. Soc.), 23.

⁷ *Reg. Math. Parker.*

⁸ F.O., ff. 46, 47.

⁹ *S.R.S.* XLIII, 245.

¹⁰ *S.R.S.* XLI, 79, 87.

¹¹ *Reg. Univ. Oxford*, I, 191.

introduced into the kingdom he had left his order without papal licence and assumed the status of a secular clerk, and assenting to the said schism had received and retained houses, farms, and other possessions of the monastery by virtue of the laws passed by the wrongful authority of the then parliament. After the death of the said Thomas the goods in question shall be applied to the use of the said monastery of Battle or to some other religious use.¹

LEWES PRIORY

Surrendered 16 November 1537. The prior, Robert Peterson, or Crowham, received a prebend in Lincoln Cathedral and started on his career of picking up prebends and dignities, as already stated. Pensions² were awarded to Anthony Bolney, subprior, Dr. John Senock, Simon Overy, William Bayley, William Aderolde, David Framfelde *alias* Michell, John Canterbury *alias* Stoner, Clement Browne, George Morley, Thomas Chamberlayne, Richard Gollenge, John Grene *alias* Halifax, John Sympson, William Plumsted *alias* Hudson, John Marten *alias* Aylarde, Nicholas Orell, Richard Shernborne *alias* Ball, Andrew Benet *alias* James, John Peverell, William Panter *alias* Vyney, John Benet *alias* Middelton, William Ellis, and John Savage. On 31 December licences to accept benefices were granted to the prior and to all the above-named monks,³ with the exceptions of William Plumsted, Andrew Benet, William Ellis, and John Savage, and the addition of Thomas Atwell and Denis Mychell; 'Nicholas Canterbury', who is also mentioned, was almost certainly identical with Nicholas Orell. No monks of Lewes are mentioned in Cardinal Pole's list of pensions, drawn up in February 1555/6.

Anthony Bolney occurs in 1548 as late sacrist of the dissolved Collegiate Church of Beverley (Yorks.).⁴

John Sennock entered Gonville Hall, Cambridge, as a 'pensioner' in 1520; proceeded B.D. in 1523, and D.D. 1527; studied Arts and Theology at Cambridge for 9 years and at Oxford for 18 months. He was vicar of Kemsing (Kent) from 1542 to 1548.⁵

Simon Overy was rector of Barcombe from at least 1548 until his death early in 1555.

William Aderolde, or Atherold, was at Gonville Hall from 1513 to 1515 and returned there in 1524-5, after graduating as B.D. at Oxford on 27 June 1516. He was Prior of Stanesgate, the small priory in Essex subordinate to Lewes, and signed the surrender of that house in 1526, when it was suppressed by Cardinal Wolsey. He was rector of St. John's, Walbrook, London, from 4 July 1545 until his death in 1547 (his will being proved on 24 June), when he was buried there.⁶ William Atherold, priest, witnessed a will at Chailey on 30 April 1545;⁷ but there seems to have been another man of similar name, as a will was witnessed in Southover by 'Wylliam Atherwold mynyster

¹ Reg. Pole. ² *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xii (2), 1101. ³ F.O., f. 143v.

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI*, II, 38. ⁵ Venn, *Gonville and Caius Coll.* I, 25.

⁶ Venn, *op. cit.* 23. ⁷ *S.R.S.* xli. 260.

ther' in August 1553.¹ The fact that the London rector was 'S.T.B.' (i.e. B.D.) makes his identity pretty certain.

David Michell was rector of Horsted Keynes from 1548 to 1559. He would seem to have earned the trust and affection of his neighbours, judging from the large number of wills which he witnessed, not only in his own parish, and the many bequests which he received—including one from Canon Richard Brisley (see above, p. 25).² He was overseer of the will of his brother Simon Michell of St. John's-sub-Castro, Lewes, in 1556.³

George Morley, clerk, made his will on 5 July 1544, desiring to be buried in the churchyard of Southover, with six priests to chant at his burial, month's mind, and anniversary, and a bequest of 12s. to each of the four 'of the foresaid prestes which doth take paynes in beryng me to y^e church'.⁴

Thomas Chamberlayne, priest, of the parish of Piddinghoe, made his will there on 21 September 1540, leaving 6s. 8d. to the casting of the great bell, and a general bequest to the poor of all parishes within 4 miles.⁵

John Sympson was rector of St. Mary Westout, Lewes, in 1540; he probably died soon after this, as Hennessy's *Clergy Lists* give Richard Oliver as rector in 1541.

Richard Ball, clerk, made his will on 6 June 1544, desiring to be buried in the churchyard of Southover, Lewes.⁶

Andrew James was vicar of Willingdon from 1540 to at least 1550; and one of this name, perhaps the same, was vicar of Eartham from 1554 till his death in 1564.

John Peverel witnessed a will at Southover in 1539,⁷ and was rector of that parish in July 1542 and on 6 June 1544, when he witnessed the will of Richard Ball (see above). He seems to have held for a short time the rectory of Crawley, which he resigned in 1560, and in June and August of that year is found as rector of St. John-sub-Castro, Lewes.⁸ One of this name was instituted to the vicarage of Bodiam on 5 March 1567.

William Vyney may perhaps be the man of that name who is referred to in 1548 as late chantry priest of Eggesford in Devon.⁹

John Councister alias *Savage* was granted a dispensation on 14 September 1533 to hold a benefice with permission of his prior.¹⁰ On 31 October 1537 he was styled 'late monk of the monastery of St. Pancras of Lewes' and was authorized to abandon his monastic habit, having obtained the vicarage of Cuckfield.¹¹ He had previously studied at Oxford, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Canon Law in December 1532.¹² Some notices of him as vicar of Cuckfield are given in *S.A.C.* XLIII. 56-58. On 5 March 1546 John Savage was

¹ *S.R.S.* XLIII. 114.

² *Ibid.* XLI. 66, 68; XLII. 328; XLIII. 6, 163.

⁴ *Ibid.* 106, 112.

⁵ *Ibid.* 317-18.

³ *Ibid.* XLIII. 104.

⁶ *Ibid.* 105.

⁷ *Ibid.* 114.

⁸ *Ibid.* 104.

⁹ *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI.* I. 286.

¹⁰ *F.O.*, f. 9.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, f. 96.

¹² *Foster, Alumni Oxon.*

instituted to the rectory of Hurstpierpoint, and he held both livings until his death in 1561.

Richard Golyng had been licensed in February 1536 to wear the robes of a secular priest over his monastic habit.¹ He was presumably serving one of the priory livings; but there is no evidence of his being instituted to any benefice before or after the Dissolution.

ROBERTSBRIDGE ABBEY.

Surrendered 16 April 1538² by John (Taylor), abbot, Robert Thurgoode, Stephen Warre, William Squyre, John Wyke, Laurence Thrower, Thomas Spratte, William Senden, and Robert Copar. In 1548 the abbot was still receiving his pension of £50, and the last four monks named above had pensions of from £8 to £4,³ as they still had in 1555,⁴ though the abbot was evidently dead by that time. As early as February 1536 four monks of Robertsbridge—Edward Bawdewyn, Geoffrey Iden, John Hope, John Cartwright—had been licensed to abandon their monastic habit and receive a benefice.⁵ Similar dispensation had been granted on 10 June of that year to *Thomas Spratte*, B.D.,⁶ and on 16 December he was vicar of Bodiam and had leave to be absent during illness and for six months after.⁷ He seems to have resigned the living and returned to his abbey before the surrender. He appears as curate of Seaford in 1544–5,⁸ and made his will as a vicar choral of Chichester Cathedral on 12 July 1551 (proved 3 December). In his will⁹ he was lavish to the poor of the city and the community of the Vicars, and remembered two of his former brethren, William Senden¹⁰ and Geoffrey Iden. The latter he made his executor, and to him he left, among other things, his ‘best shorte gowne’, a bookcase, and ‘a shorte square tabull wth a stole of ease under yt’. Although he was dead by the end of 1551, his pension of £8 was still being paid in 1555.¹¹ One wonders who drew it!

Geoffrey Iden, just mentioned, was vicar of Warbleton in 1540;¹² vicar of Dallington 1541, resigning before April 1551, probably some time in 1550, when he appears at Chichester. In 1548, being then aged 46, he was holding Langton’s chantry in the Cathedral; for which he received a pension of 70s.¹³ He was a vicar choral of the Cathedral and also vicar of Wilmington until his death, before 24 July 1559, when his successor, Baldwin Hamnet (formerly priest of the Brotherhood at Eastbourne), was instituted. He must also have held the rectory of Jevington, as it was void in October 1558 by his death.¹⁴

¹ F.O., f. 32.

² *Dep. Keeper’s Rep.* VIII, no. 39.

³ Aug. Off. Misc. Bks., 256.

⁴ *S.R.S.* XXXVI. 144.

⁵ F.O., f. 32.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 44.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 69.

⁸ *S.R.S.* XLV. 93–94.

⁹ See *ibid.* XLI, index.

¹⁰ Mr. Peckham kindly verified this name, which is given in *S.R.S.* XLI. 310, as ‘Scuden’. Spratte left to the vicar of Seaford, Robert Hale, the odd bequest of a ‘battelaxe’.

¹¹ *S.R.S.* XXXVI. 144.

¹² *Ibid.* XLV. 290.

¹³ *Ibid.* XXXVI. 48, 145.

¹⁴ Add. MS. 39427, f. 17.

William Senden compounded for the vicarage of Bodiam on 3 March 1542 and resigned that living before July 1549,¹ from which year until at least 1560 he was vicar of Iden.

John Cartwright is probably the priest of that name who is found witnessing wills in the parish of St. Clement's, Hastings, from 1552 to 1558. He seems to have married and had a son Adam, to whom Thomas Wattes left 20s. in 1557.² This accounts for his being deprived of the rectory of Ore in 1554. A man of the name appears at Brighton in 1558.³

Finally we come to the Friars, whose Sussex houses were dissolved in July 1538. Not being a cloistered order, they had occasionally served parish churches in the past and seem all to have applied for capacities to do so.

ARUNDEL: BLACK FRIARS

Capacities granted 13 December 1538 to John Colville, prior, William Cosynton, Richard David, William Welche, and Thomas Mathew.⁴

John Colville is probably the 'Sir John Colwyll' who was curate at Cocking when he witnessed a will there on 5 April 1539.⁵ As another will was witnessed there on 2 April by 'Sir John Mayre', also described as curate (he occurs again in 1541 as 'Sir John Mare'), it is probable that he used both names.

William Cosynton. It may be more than a coincidence that 'Sir William Cussynton' is found in August 1546 at Ferring where a 'John Mare, or Marre', was curate in 1553.⁶ William Cosynton occurs as curate of Lyminster between 1549 and 1553,⁷ in which latter year he witnessed the will of a curate of Littlehampton.⁸

Richard David. One of this name was presented by Queen Mary to the rectory of East Horsley (Surrey) in April 1554,⁹ and (? the same) compounded for the living of Compton (Surrey) in August of that year. There is no evidence of identity.

CHICHESTER: BLACK FRIARS

Surrendered on 8 October 1538 by John Antony, prior, John Layart, William Hall, Thomas Senthill, Thomas Wilson, John Holyday, and John Cutteford.¹⁰ All of these received capacities on 9 December.¹¹

John Antony, curate, witnessed the will of John Cachilow of Hunston in January 1542.¹²

¹ *Ibid.*, f. 11v.

² *S.R.S.* XLII. 290.

³ *Ibid.* XLI. 214.

⁴ F.O., f. 158.

⁵ *S.R.S.* XLII. 33.

⁶ *Ibid.* 158.

⁷ *Ibid.* XLIII. 185.

⁸ *Ibid.* 170.

⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1553-4, p. 38.

¹⁰ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, XIII (2), 562.

¹¹ F.O., f. 157v.

¹² *S.R.S.* XLIII. 20.

William Hall witnessed two wills at Findon in 1544, and one at Ferring in 1548;¹ but the name is too common for identification.

Thomas Sentyll was curate of Harting between August 1539 and the end of September 1540.² He was instituted to the rectory of Wiggonholt with Greatham on 25 March 1548, which he resigned in 1554.

Thomas Wilson compounded for East Marden 13 September 1543; and for Trotton 27 June 1551. He was holding both livings at the Visitation in 1553,³ but had probably resigned Marden before February 1557, when Cardinal Pole dispensed him, as rector of Trotton, to hold the church of Elsted, to which he was instituted on 11 March. He resigned in 1574.

John Cuttyford was curate at Heyshott in 1540,⁴ and rector of Selham from 1541 to 1551, when he died, administration of his goods being granted to his kinsman John Clarke.⁵

CHICHESTER: GREY FRIARS

Surrendered on 8 October 1538 by William Style, Robert Benyngton, Andrew Pepper, Cornelius Smyth, Richard Hoode, John Perks, and Walter Leger.⁶ All received capacities on 11 December.⁷

William Style was rector of St. Pancras, Chichester, for which he compounded on 17 June 1543 and which he held until his death in 1568. He was admitted as a Vicar choral on 8 July 1550⁸ and retained that office until his death. In August 1547 he had been admitted to one of the two Arundel chantries in the Cathedral, and when it was suppressed in 1548 he received a pension of 70s., being at that time 60 years of age.⁹

Robert Benyngton was probably identical with the 'wardeyne of the Graye Fryers in Winchelsey' in 1530.¹⁰ He was curate of Stoughton from 1541 to at least the end of 1544,¹¹ and curate of Funtington for about a year before his death, which occurred between 31 August 1549, when he made his will, and 15 February 1550, when it was proved.¹²

Richard Hoode was collated to the vicarage of Bosham on 21 May 1547 and was still vicar there as late as December 1553. He may then have resigned, as one of his name was curate at Wilmington in 1554 and 1555.¹³

WINCHELSEA: BLACK FRIARS.

The only name belonging to this house that is known is that of Cornelius Gate, who was licensed to change his habit on 30 July 1539.²³

¹ S.R.S. XLII. 158, 165.

² Ibid. 272-3.

³ S.A.C. LXXVII. 100-1.

⁴ S.R.S. XLII. 320.

⁵ Add. MS. 39426, f. 49v.

⁶ L. and P. Hen. VIII, XIII (2), 562.

⁷ F.O., f. 157v.

⁸ Chapter Act Bk. i, f. 12.

⁹ S.R.S. XXXVI. 48.

¹⁰ S.R.S. XLV. 376.

¹¹ Ibid. 191.

¹² Ibid. XLII. 203, 209.

¹³ Ibid. XLV. 358.

²³ F.O., f. 124v.