

NOTES ON
THE FOUR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PARISHES IN
THE ARCHDEACONRY OF ST. ALBANS

[By A. J. CLEAR]

In the year 1219 an agreement was come to between the Abbot of St. Albans and the Bishop of Lincoln that the Bishop should not interfere with the presentation or ordination to the four parishes of *Abbots Aston*, *Horwode parva*, *Gnesberge* and *Wynselowe*, but should leave the same entirely under the charge of the Abbot. Later on several efforts were made by subsequent Bishops of Lincoln to upset this agreement, and finally it was carried into the Court of the King, who confirmed it.

These four parishes appear to have formed part of "The Peculiar," called the Deanery of the Arch-deaconry of St. Albans, and to have been included in the Liberty of St. Albans (which still exists) until 1549, or even later, as a patent of James I. speaks of "Libertatis Dei Albani in Comitatus Hertfordiae, Buckinghamie et Bedfordiae," and although cut off from the Liberty in 1539 they were still, according to Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of 1835, in the Archdeaconry of St. Albans.

Under these circumstances, for many years the record of presentation to Livings and of the proving of wills is to be found in the rolls of St. Albans Abbey (not in the Lincoln Registers), some of which are preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, but unfortunately more often than not with leaves missing at the end and the beginning.

The items which have come under the writer's notice also include three presentations to Little Kimble and five to Wingrave, both of which parishes belonged to St. Albans Abbey, but not to the Archdeaconry; they date from 1420 to 1488, and are as follows:—

ASTON ABBOTS.

Vicars.

- 1430 William ——
- 1461-2 " Mensis January die ——
Anno domini Millesimo quadringentesimo
sexagesimo primo collatio Vicariae de Astone
Abbattis,"
[The name is not filled in, and Lipscomb
does not give it in his list of Vicars, but the
next entry apparently supplies the missing
name.]
- 1471-2 "Mensis Januarii die quatidecimo Millesimo
quadringentesimo primo data fuit Vicaria de
Abbotis Aston in comitatie Bukenham-cae
Domino Gilberto Stapulta, Capellano, vacamus per
liberam resignatiorem domini *Thomae Alforde*.
[Gilbert Stapleton died 1490.]

Wills.

- 1430 William Boucher of Abbots Aston (mention is
made of the Vicar, William———).
- 1433 Alicia Cheyne of Abbots Aston Widow.
- 1448 John Atcok of Aston Abbots.
- 1449 Agnes widow of above.
- 1448 Margaret Abbot of Aston Abbots.
- 1458 Agnes Syke of Abbots Aston.

LITTLE HORWOOD.

Vicars.

- 1427 Robert Woderman.
- 1436 Thomas Wynterton.
[Not given by Lipscomb.]
- 1440 Thomas Barlowe.
(His name occurs in a will proved 11th May,
1441, in the Archdeaconry Court).
- 1480 Thomas Borstalle.
(He appears to have died in this year); see
the following:—
" Mensis September die penultimo, Anno
Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo,
dat fuit Vicaria Horwode parva Domino

- Johanni Walton, capellano, per mortem Domini Thomae Borstalle ultimi Vicarii ibidem.
- 1481 John Walton appears to have resigned the following year, the next entry being— Mensis Augusti die vicesimo Anno Domini Millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo primo, data fuit, Vicaria de Horwode parva Domino Roberto Chamberleyn per liberam resignatoriem Johannnis Walton Capellaria. "
- 1482 "Mensis Augusti die quinto Domino Millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo secundo, data fuit Vicaria de Horwode Parva proedicto Domino *Johanni Rose* Capellano per cessionem Domini Roberti Chamberleyne antedicti."
- [NOTE.—The Vicar's name is sometimes given as John Rowse, but Rose appears to be the correct spelling. Lipscomb's list of Vicars for these four parishes is very un-reliable].

Wills.

- 1420 John Noble of Little Horwood.
- 1427 Robert Wordman Vicar of Horwood.
[NOTE.—Variously spelt Worleman (Lips-combe) and Woodman.]
- „ Richard Woodvyle of Little Horwood.
- 1430 Agnes Terry of Little Horewood.
- 1434 Thomas Stretele of Little Horewood.
- „ Juliana Brown of Little Horwode.
- 1436 John Fynell of Little Horwoode.
[NOTE.—This will mentions Thomas Wynter-ton Vicar.]
- 1437 Alicia Broun of Little Horwood.
- 1439 Agnes, wife of Thomas Bedford, of Little Horwood.
- 1440 William Salford of Little Horwood.
- 1440 'John Smith, of Little Horwood.
[NOTE.—Mentions Thos. Barlow, Vicar.]
- 1443 John Bakar of Little Horwode.
- 1448 John Baker (probably son of above).
- 1445-6 Robert Gretham of Little Horwood.
- 1448 William Adkyn of Little Horwood.

- 1450 John Pygot, of Little Horwood.
 [NOTE.—This very ancient family occupied the Manor at Little Horwood until about 1660.]
 1450 William Chicheley of Little Horwood.
 ,, Helena widow of Richard Thomlyns of Little Horwood.
 1451 Anne Barlowe, probably widow of the Rev. Thos. Barlowe.
 ,, Thomas Saltmers of Little Horwood.
 1455 Matilda Salford of Little Horwood.
 1458-9 Richard Terry of Little Horwood.

GRANBOROUGH.

This Church appears only to have been a Chapel-of-East to Winslow, the first Vicar's name, according to Lipscomb, being William Bracey, who died in 1508.

Wills.

- 1427 Johanna [John] Wattes of Grenburgh. He bequeathed to the Monks of St. Albans xii pence; to the Vicar of Greneburgh [this must have been the Vicar of Winslow] xii pence; to the Clerk of the same Church iv pence; for the iv lamps of the same Church, half a quarter of malt; to the Church of Wynges xii pence; to the Brothers of Ayles-bury [Grey Friars] xii pence.
 1455 John King Greneburgh.
 1459 John Nash Greneburgh.
 1459 William Stephens Greneburgh.
 1469-70 Ralph Eyre Greneburgh.

WINSLOW.

Vicars.

There is no record in the Rolls of any appointment being made from 1458 to 1488, but the wills proved throw a certain amount of light on the subject. According to Lipscomb, a period of 82 years elapsed during the two appointments which ranged from 1451 to 1533.

Wills.

- 1433 Nicholas Colles of Wynslowe.
[NOTE.—There buried.]
- 1437 William Couper of Wynslowe.
[NOTE.—The will mentions Richard de Mandeville clerk; in all probability he was then acting as Vicar.]
- 1438 John Eversdone of Wynslowe.
- 1439 Juliana Thomelyn of Wynslowe a widow.
- 1440 John Lane of Shipton in the town of Wynslowe.,
- 1440 John Albyn of Wynslowe.
[NOTE.—This was probably a descendant of John Alban, Vicar, who exchanged in 1405.]
- 1441 John Eliot of Wynslowe.
- 1443 Richard Marston of Wynslowe.
- 1443 John Barbor of Wynslowe.
- 1446 Thomas Cordel of Wynslowe.
- 1449 John Colman of Wynselowe.
- 1451 Henry Thomlyns Vicar of Winslow.
[Died 10th September, and by his will directed to be buried in the Chancel.]
- 1459 Stephen Asshewell of Wynselowe.
- 1459 John Orchard, of Wynselowe.
[This ancient family has just died out here, although Dr. Orchard, the well-known Nonconformist Minister, claims descent from them.]
- 1460 John Mayne pulter (poulterer) of Wynslow.
[Buried at Watford.]
- 1459 Joan Loksmyth of Wynselowe.
- 1464 John Alben of Wynselowe.
[NOTE.—Another variation of this name occurs earlier, viz., *John Alban.*]
- 1467 Isabella Arches of Wynselowe.
- 1468 John Coke of Shypton in Wvnselowe parish.
- 1468-9 Robert Myller of Wyneslow.