

Three Wills of Hurley Vicars.

Transcribed by the Rev. F. T. Wethered.

(December, 1918.)

THE WILL OF THOMAS GRAUNTE, VICAR OF HURLEY, INSTITUTED APRIL 14th, 1507.

Thom^{us} Graunte of Hurley.

In dei nōe Amen. Nonodecimo die Mensis Augusti Anno Dni Millesimo q^ungentesimo quadragesimo p^{ri}mo. Et in Anno Regni Reg Hen^{rici} Octauⁱ dei g^{ra} Anglie t^{er}ci ffran^c Reg fidei defensor dni Hibn t in t^{er}ra Supmi capit Anglicane Ecclie tricesimo tcio. I Thomas Graunt vicar of Hurley in Com^{berk} Berk & in the dio^{ces} of Sarū ordenyth deusyth & maketh in my pfyte mynd & good Remēbrans this my last wyll in maⁿ & forme folowyng ffirst I bequeth my [soul] vnto all mygthy god my maker & Redē^m my body to Crysteane buryall w^{ithin} the Church of Hurley aforesaid. Itm y bequeth vnto the mother Church of Sarū xij^d. Also to my Successor the next vicar of Hurley xij^d. Also I geue vnto Ri^{chard} Sick my kynnysmā xls. and also to elizabeth graunt I geue xls. Also I geue vnto Sir John slegge Clerk vjs. viij^d. Also I geue vnto Willm Graunt vjs. viij^d. Also I wyll that Syr Wyllm Roke do syng & say masses & p^{ay}e for my Solle my frynds Solles & all xssen Sollis an hole yere in the church of Hurley aforesaid & the seid Sir Wyllm to have therfor of myne executr vj^{li} slling. Also I geue vnto Nichol Sick xls. & a gowne. Also I geue to Jonē Lutman xls. & a gowne whome I constitute orden and make myne executr of this my last wyll and the said Sir John Slegge & Wyllm Graunt to be my o^{ver}seers of this my sayd last wyll. Also I will fardermor that the Resedeu of my goods on bequethed & not gevyn my detts payd my legacy & my wyll ffylfyled & my fu^{ll}all expen^{ce} deduct. yt to be equally & indeferently p^{ro}sed by Indefereⁿt p^{ro}sons. & that to be Sold. & the money therof to be disposed in good warks and deds of cheryte for the welth & helth of my Solle my ffrynds Solles & all xssen Solles by the discrecon & myndes of myne execut^r & o^{ver}seers as they shall thynck yt most nedefull & necessary for to be don. In wytnes hereof thes p^{ro}sons whose names folowyth. ther beyng p^{re}sens Sir John Slegge Willm Graunt & Robt Smyth.

THE WILL OF JAMES HOLLES,

VICAR OF HURLEY, INSTITUTED OCT. 10, 1541.

In the name of God, Amen. In the yere of our Lord God 1552 the xxijth day of June I James Holles, vicar of Hurley, in the Countie of Berk, sick of body and pfit of memory thus make my laste will and testament—first I bequeth my soul to Almightye God and my body to be buried in the churche of Hurley aforesaid. Also I bequeth to my cosin Elyne Baten my best gowne. Also to my cosin Richard Holles my chamlet jacket and my chamlet doblet and half a todd of wool. Itm to Margery Whithurst my bed with all that pteynith thereto and my black cloke. Itm to Sr Willm Rok my best cloke. Itm to Richard Lovelace my colte. Item to the vicar of Great Marlay my velvet night capp and to the vicar of Bishm my best capp. Itm to Thoms Crastone my fustia doblet. Itm to his wiffe my platters and disshes with the burde in the parler and my felt hatt. Itm I bequeth to Willm Janson my wosted jackett. Itm to Denisse Wilcock a payre of hosene and to his wiffe my russett gowne. Itm to Thoms Chandler a payre of hosene. Itm to Thoms Bevell a pere of hosene. Itm to Haselwood my lether dublet. Itm I bequeth to Johane Watton xx*d*. Itm to Alco Watton xij*d*. Itm to Agnes Barnard xx*d*. Itm I will to have bestowed at my buriall vs and at my moneth mynd as moch the rest of my goods not geve nother bequeathed I will that Willm Roke and Thoms Crastone whom I make my exequitors of this my last will and testament shall have the[m] and to bestow them to poore people at their descretion. Thes me witnesses Rob^t. Smith, John Burna, Denis Wilcock wth others.

Sm̄ totalis Inventarii, vils. xiiij*d*. Probatu fuit die et loco ut sup^a.

THE WILL OF WILLIAM ROOKE.

VICAR OF HURLEY, INSTITUTED CIR. CHRISTMAS 1552.

In the name of God amen primo die Septebris 1558. I Willm Rooke vicar of Hurley in the countie of Berk sicke in bodie and of parfitte Memorie make and ordeine this mie Laste will and Testament in forme foloinge ffirste I bequeth mie soll to Almightye god or Ladie Sainte Marie and all the companie of Heaven and mie bodie to be buried in the church porch of Hurley aforesaid. Itm I giue to the mother church of Sarū iij*d*. Itm I giue to the vicar of

greate Marlowe and to the vicar of Bissh̄m mie beste gowne Itm to Jone Leicrofte mie cloke Item I giue to Henrie Lovelice mie boks the rest of my gods [sic] not bequeste I giue to Lettice Bennet wife to Thōm Benet whome I make my sole Executrix. witnesses George Offerpinge vicar of greate Marlowe, Willm Hare vicar of Bissh̄m and Rafe Nuttinge the farmer of Hurley wth other.

S̄m Inuentār—lviijs. iiij*d*.

Probatū fuit p̄ns testamentum apud Redinge 14^o Januarii scdm etc. 1558 corā Mro Robrto Pound in Tl Baḥc offi^{li} Berk.

(Hurley Priory was suppressed in 1536.)—F.T.W.

Some Old Clockmakers of Reading and the Neighbourhood.

By Ernest W. Dormer, Lieut. R.A.F.

AMONG the furniture of our forefathers few things were more highly prized than the "Grandfather" clock, and to-day the dealer in antiques will tell you what store the average village housewife sets by the clock that has the virtue of having been in the family "over a hundred years." In the seventeenth century a clock was an asset of considerable value; Birmingham and Germany had not arrived with their tens of thousands of nickel "tickers" at half-a-crown each, and a tall "Grandfather," with its solemn dick-dock was only possible of acquisition after many years of thrift and self denial. Even then it was but a "thirty-hour," which had to be wound up every night, and its case was as often as not of the oak grown in the locality of the home, and made by the village cabinet-maker with not a little pride and care. But for all this it was a "Grandfather," and could be relied upon to tell the time correctly and to last many generations. A "Grandfather" is always an excellent time-keeper.

It has been my pleasure to take a more than ordinary interest in these old time-tellers, and so before naming some of the makers that have come before my notice as being men of Reading and its neighbourhood, it would perhaps be advisable to touch lightly upon "Grandfathers" in general.