



# THE OXFORDSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY



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Oxfordshire Record Society

Articles of Enquiry Addressed to the  
Clergy of the Diocese of Oxford at  
the Primary Visitation of  
DR. THOMAS SECKER, 1738

Issued for the year 1957

*Transcribed and Edited*

by

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# The Oxfordshire Record Society

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## INTRODUCTION

**E**PISCOPAL visitation is an indispensable part of the machinery of Church government. Until the eighteenth century a bishop, visiting his diocese, relied mainly upon the presentments made by the churchwardens of the several parishes. These officials were required to answer articles of enquiry issued to them. In process of time these answers became more formal than informative. Accordingly bishops turned to the clergy, issuing to them articles of enquiry answers to which supplemented the information supplied by the churchwardens. The earliest known examples of these are those addressed to the clergy of the diocese of Lincoln at the Primary Visitations of Bishop Wake in 1706 and Bishop Gibson in 1718. The Revd. Canon S. L. Ollard and the Revd. P. C. Walker have edited and analysed the returns made to Archbishop Herring's Visitation Articles for the diocese of York in 1743. These have been printed among the transactions of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society. Dr. Secker's Primary Visitation Articles were issued to the clergy of the Diocese of Oxford on May 30th, 1738. Their interest lies in the fact that they are the earliest surviving articles of visitation for that diocese. The articles issued by Gibson, Secker and Herring present striking similarities.

It may be useful to compare them with Bishop Wilberforce's Visitation Articles for the year 1854 and the returns for the Archdeaconry of Oxford, which have been already published by this Society. The returns are deposited in the Bodleian Library. (M.S. Oxford Diocesan Papers d. 552-4).

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## THE ARTICLES

To the Minister of the Parish of

Sir,

Being desirous to obtain as particular a Knowledge as I can of the State of my Diocese, in Order to qualifie myself for being more useful in it, I send you the following Questions : under which if you please, after making due Enquiry concerning them, to write the proper Answers, to sign them with your Name, and put them into my Hands at the Visitation, sealed up if you think fit, you will greatly assist and oblige.

Your affectionate Brother and Servant,

Tho Oxford.

May 30 1738.

1. What is the Extent of your Parish ? What Villages or Hamlets, and what Number of Houses doth it comprehend ? And what Families of Note are there in it ?
2. Are there any Papists in your Parish, and how many, and of what Rank ? Have any Persons been lately perverted to Popery, and by whom, and by what means ? And how many, and who are they ? Is there any place in your Parish in which they assemble for worship, and where is it ? Doth any Popish Priest reside in your Parish, or resort to it, and by what name doth he go ? Is there any Popish School kept in your Parish ? Hath any Confirmation or Visitation been lately held in your Parish by any Popish Bishop, and by whom and when ? And how often is this done ?
3. Are there in your Parish any Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists ? And how many of each Sect, and of what Rank ? Have they one or more meeting Houses in your Parish and are they duly licenced ? What are the names of their Teachers and are they qualified according to Law ? Is their Number lessen'd or increased of late Years, and by what means ?
4. Are there any Quakers in your Parish, and how many ? Is their Number lessened or increased of late Years, and by what means ? Have they a Meeting House in your Parish duly licenced, and how often do they meet there ? Do any of them, and how many in Proportion pay your legal Dues without Compulsion ? If not, do you lose such Dues ? Or how do you recover them ? And what facts do you know, which may help to set their Behaviour towards the Clergy, or that of the Clergy towards them in a true light ?
5. Are there any Persons in your Parish who profess to disregard Religion, or who commonly absent themselves from all publick Worship of God on the Lord's Day ? And from what Motives and Principles are they understood so to do ? And what is the Number of such Persons, and is it increased of late ? And of what Rank are they ?
6. Do you reside constantly upon your Cure, and in the House belonging to it ? If not, where, and at what distance ? And how long in each Year are you absent ? And what is the Reason of such absence ? And have you a licenced curate residing in the Parish ? Or at what Distance from it ? And who is he ? And doth he serve any other, and what Cure ? And what Salary do you allow him ?



7. Is publick Service duly performed twice every Lord's Day in your Church, and one Sermon preached? If not what is the Reason? And on what Days besides are Prayers read there? Is there any Chapel in your Parish? And at what Distance from the Church? And how often are there Prayers and Sermons in it? How often and at what times do you catechize in your Church? Do your Parishioners duly send their Children and Servants who have not learned their Catechism, to be instructed by you? And do you either expound it to them yourself, or make use of some printed Exposition, and what is it? Are there any Persons who frequent publick Worship and are not baptized? And whence doth this proceed? How often is the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper administred? And how many usually receive it each Time?
8. Is there any Free-School, Hospital, or Alms-House in your Parish? And for how many, and what sort of Persons? And who was the Founder, and who are the Governours, and what are the Revenues of it? And are they carefully preserved and employed as they ought? And are the Statues and Ordinances made concerning it well observed?
9. Is there any voluntary Charity School in your Parish? And for how many Boys or Girls? And how is it supported? And what are they taught? And are they also lodged, fed, or cloathed? And how are they disposed of when they leave the School?
10. Have any Lands, or Tenements, or Tithes or Pensions or Sums of Money to be placed out at Interest, been given at any time to your Church or Poor? And what are they? And for what particular Uses were they given? And are they carefully preserved and applied to those Uses and to no other?
11. By whom, and to what Uses, is the Money given at the Offertory disposed of?
12. Is there any other Matter, relating to your Parish of which it may be proper to give me Information? And what is it?

## THE ANSWERS

ALBURY

1. Extent about 2 miles one village Tiddington about 24 houses. Fam'ly of note Earl of Abingdon.<sup>1</sup>
  2. No Papists here.
  3. No Presbyterians & c.
  4. No Quakers.
  5. Yes several often absent themselves. I have put some of them into ye Bishop's court for it but to no purpose. On what principles they are absent I cannot tell unless it be laziness or deadness to religion in general.
  6. I reside constantly and have done so these 24 years and have not been at all absent in your time. But I am not sworn to residence on my Rectory.
  7. Public Service duely performed on Sunday and other days, if any body comes, but they are all poor labouring people and I cannot expect them without a breach of charity. Sacrament 7 times a year every two months and twice at Easter. About 30 partake. Children catechis'd every Sunday in ye afternoon in ye summer with an extempore explication.
  8. No hospital & c.
  9. There will be a charity school quickly settled of ten pounds p. annum, given by ye will of My Lord Abingdon's sister, The Honble Lady Mary Bertie,<sup>2</sup> and five pounds p. annum added to it by ye present Rector during his life. No cloathing only they are to be taught to read write and cast account.
  10. No money or land left for ye poor of this parish.
  11. The money dispos'd of by ye minister only to ye poor that are there present.
  12. I can not tell of any at present.
- July 14 1738 Wm Tilly DD Rector of Albury.<sup>3</sup> [1712-40]

My Lord

My people and children were all confirmed by My Good Lord now Archbishop<sup>4</sup> at his last confirmation at Cuddesdon so that I can present none to you at Hasely.

I am My Lord

Yrs in all Duty

Wm. Tilly

I wish your Lordship joy and happiness and success in you Diocese.

<sup>1</sup>The second Earl of Abingdon (d. 1743), of Rycote.

<sup>2</sup>The school was founded by Lady Mary Bertie in her will of 1737. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I p. 483.

<sup>3</sup>R. of Godington 1712-40.

<sup>4</sup>John Potter, Archbishop of Canterbury, formerly Bishop of Oxford 1715-37.

ALKERTON

1. The Parish of Alkerton is of but small extent containing Thirty seven yard lands, which is divided into six little Farms. There is about eight Town Houses besides ; There is no Family of note in the Parish. There is 4 out of the six Farmers are Rack-renters.



2. There are no Papist yt I know of nor has not been for some years.
3. There are no Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists, nor meeting House as I Know off.
4. There is no Quakers as I know off.
5. My parishioners like the rest in the neighbourhood some good some bad.
6. I reside constantly upon my Rectory my self.
7. There is Publick Service performed twice every Lords Day if nothing falls out more than ordinary, and the children are catechized as often as there parents send them which has been every Sunday of late and I have read them some lectures upon them in the afternoon and instructed them privately twice a week in order to bring them to confirmation. The Sacrament is administered 3 times a year according to the custome of the parish.
8. There is no Free School or Alms House in the Parish nor Hospital.
9. There is no Charity School nor other in the Parish.
10. There is thirty shillings a year which is applied to the Church use.
11. It is disposed of to the poor when any is given.

Francis Townshend [R. 1733-42]

ALVESCOTE

1. My Parish consists only of one Village. There are about fifty houses, but no Familie of note in it.
2. I have no Papist in my parish & c.
3. There is but one Anabaptist or Independent in my Parish who came but lately into it.
4. The Quakers have a Meeting House in my Parish. There is only one poor woman in it who professeth that religion. There are lands within my Parish to the value of about seven pounds per an. settled upon such poor Quakers as belong to their Meeting-Houses at Wittney and Alvescote. Whether their Meeting House is duly licensed I know not.
5. I know of no Persons within my Parish who profess to disregard religion or of our Communion who commonly neglect the Public Worship.
6. I do reside upon my Cure, not in the House belong to it but in one belonging to my estate, within two or three furlongs of my Parish Church. I have been seldom absent from it more than one month in a year, and I think never longer, but when I have been obliged to go to Bath for my health.
7. Public Service is duely performed twice every Lords Day in my Church and one Sermon preached. Prayers are usually read in it on Wensdays Frydays and Holy Days and on Saturday in the afternoon before the Sacrament of the Lords-Supper is administred. I have no chapel belonging to my parish. I have usually chatechised the children every Lords Day for six or seven months in the year. My Parishioners duly send their children but not their servants to be chatechised. I expound the Chatechism myself. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administred six or seven times in the year. The number of my communicants is from twenty to about forty.
8. There is a free school in my parish endowed with five pound per an by Goddard Carter Esq late of this Parish for the teaching the poor children of the same to read.<sup>1</sup>

10. Five pound per añ was given by the aforesaid Goddard Carter for the putting out to apprentice every year one poor boy of this parish. Wch sum of five pound per añ, together with that other five pound for the school aforementioned is charged upon and duly paid to the aforesaid uses out of an Estate I am now possessed of in this parish. There was also given by the late Mrs. Jane Bray<sup>2</sup> of Shilton Berks twenty shillings per añ to buy garments for two aged persons of this parish wch sum & c. is charged upon some lands in Great Risingtonn Com: Gloucest: and duly paid and employed.
11. I dispose of the money given at the offertory and generally to these uses—to sick and aged persons to poor women in childbed—to encourage such children who have left going to school to read in their Bibles at the Church for one hour before the Evening Service every Lords-Day in the summer and to learn select Psalms Parables, Prayers etc. They are attended by the Clerk and by myself very frequently that I may know they do not forget their reading & c. I give to each of the children two pence a month and to the Clerk one shill: a quarter.
12. I have nothing more to add but that tho' I have for many years constantly observed this method in chatechising the children & c yet I have been too neglegent of it this summer, but hope by God blessing to return to it again next Lent.

July 18 1738

Sam: Adams Rector of Alvescote. [1701-51]

<sup>1</sup>Founded by will dated 1723.

<sup>2</sup>Jane (d. 1715) widow of Reginald Bray, of Great Barrington, Gloucestershire. For the bequest cf. *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* lvii (1935) p. 172.

#### AMBROSDEN

1. The extent of the Parish is in length about three miles in breadth abt two miles ; it consists of 4 villages or hamlets wch comprehend better than two hundred houses, where are some families noted for their religious good Behaviour.
2. None.
3. None.
4. None.
5. None who profess a disregard to religion but many who absent themselves from public worship by reason chiefly I am persuaded of their great distance from the Church.
6. I reside constantly in the house belonging to the Vicarage.
7. Public service is duely performed every Lords Day & every Holy Day ; the children catechis'd in Lent and the several parts of ye Catechism afterwards explain'd to them by way of lecture chiefly collected out of those authors who have in ye plainest manner writ upon ye Subject.
8. None.
9. None
10. There is an estate in the parish now let for £14=12s.=6d. per ann given to repair the Church but it does not appear by whom or when it was given.  
In 1686 it was invested in Trustees by Commissioners authorised by his then majesty to inquire into and redress the misapplyment of lands etc heretofore given to charitable uses according to the statute in that case



provided. The present Trustees are Sr James Harrington,<sup>1</sup> Doctor Cockman,<sup>2</sup> Master of University College, Oxon, Thomas Saunders Esq, Jn Piggott Esq, Jn Crook Esq, Mr Airson Vicar of Bissiter Mr Egerton and Mr Burrows of the same and Mr Cockerill the present Vicar of Ambrosden.

11. As the Rubrick directs.
12. None.

Tho Cockerill  
Vicar of Ambrosden. [1721-65]

Letter From Tho. Cockerill to (Dr Secker) the Lord Bishop.

Ambrosden Aug 21st 1738

My Lord,

I did not receive the favour of Your Lordship's of the 10th till the 20th of this instant. I should otherwise have discharged my duty before this. I acknowledge Your Lordships' goodness in imputing my former omission to its true cause. The Holy Sacrament is administered in my parish five times in the year, viz. three times at Easter once at Whitsuntide and once at Xmas. The number of Communicants the last Easter was 102 at Whitsuntide 18 besides several old people whom by reason of their great distance from the Church I administered at their houses.

I am Your Lordships

Most dutyfull humble Sert

Tho: Cockerill.

<sup>1</sup>Sir James Harrington, 6th Bart. (1706-82), of Merton.

<sup>2</sup>Thomas Cockman, Master of University College 1722-45.

#### ARDLEY

1. May it please yr Ldshp,

My parish is of small extent, containing not many more than a thousand acres or forty two yard lands (as here call'd) with my glebe lands: I have nineteen families in it severall of which have but two or three persons in: I have no family of note, two free holders only of small estates the major part of my parish belonging to his Grace ye Duke of Marlborough.<sup>1</sup>

2. I have one Papist in my parish a carpenter, but no inhabitant.
3. No Presbyterians Independents or Anabaptists.
4. No Quakers nor any meeting Place or house in my Parish where any of those sects meet for public Worship.
5. The Inhabitants comonly frequent the public Worship of God on ye Lords Day unless sickness, old age & c. prevent.
6. I reside constantly upon my cure in the house belonging to it and have no Curate now to assist me.
7. I perform public Service twice every Lords Day I preach one sermon, catechize ye children all the time of Lent use ye Bps of Glocesters and Lincolns<sup>2</sup> expositions and I administer ye Sacrament four times in ye year. I have fifteen or sixteen communicants sometimes fewer.
8. I have no free school, hospital or alms house in my parish.
9. I have no charity school in my parish.
10. Nor any lands or tenements or tythes or pensions or sums of money at any time (yt I have heard of) given either to ye Church or poor.

11. The money (at any time) given at ye offertory is disposed of by ye Minister and C Wardens to the necessitous in the parish.
12. There is no matter of moment relating to my parish that is necessary to give yr Ldship acc. of by your most dutiful son and most humble and obedient s'vant.

John Percival Rectr of Ardley [1707-53]  
in ye Diocese of Oxford.

<sup>1</sup>The third Duke of Marlborough (1706-58).

<sup>2</sup>W. Wake [formerly Bishop of Lincoln], *The Principles of the Christian Religion explain'd in a brief commentary upon the Church Catechism* (1700).

#### ASCOT-UNDER-WHICHWOOD

1. The parish of Ascot consists only of the village of Ascot which contains near seventy Houses, but there is no family of note in it.
2. There is no Papist neither did I ever hear of a Popish Priest being in the parish, or any act done to promote their religion.
3. There is only one Family, which is a Farmer and newcomer that are dissenters but of what Denomination I dont know, the Farmer having at different times professed himself as I am informed, both a Presbyterian, Independent, and Anabaptist ; and a single day labourer who has likewise professed himself an Independent and Anabaptist. There is no meeting house in the parish.
4. There is no Quaker or Quaker's meeting house in the parish.
5. None that I know of profess to disregard Religion and for the generality the Public Worship is attended pretty constantly.
6. I reside at Shipton a mile distant ; Ascot being a Curacy of small value, not exceeding seventeen pounds a year, never as yet had a resident curate.
7. Divine Service is perform'd and one Sermon preached every Sunday in the afternoon in the same manner as it was always served. Prayers are read on all great Feasts and Festivals but the town consisting in general of People of Business, there are seldom more than five or six present on prayer days. I have explain'd the catechism as at Shipton and have taken care to have ye youth instructed, tho never had any sent to be instructed publicly in the Church. There are no unbaptised people in the parish that I know of. The Sacrament is administred at Christmas Easter and Whitsuntide and there are generally between twenty and thirty communicants.
8. There is no Free School, Hospital or Alms House in the Parish.
9. Neither is there any voluntary Charity School.
10. There are some houses vested in feofment and given to the repairs of the Church the Church wardens to receive the rent and if any overplus remains to be disposed of as the majority of the inhabitants in vestry shall appoint and direct and I know nothing but that it is properly applied. They are let for about sixteen pounds a year.
11. By me and the Church-Wardens to ancient poor people of a good life especially to those that attend the Communion.
12. Not that I know of.

Jos Goodwin Cur : [V. of Shipton-under-Whichwood 1727-73]

## ASTAL

1. About two miles in length and something more than a mile in breadth, one hamlet a mile distant from ye Church a few lone houses about ye same distance. About sixty houses. No family of note.
2. No Papist of any rank nor any attempts made yt I know of to convert any of ye parishioners to ye Church of Rome.
3. Two familys yt are Anabaptists one follows tayloring and ye other farming, no meeting house, no increase of dissenters since I knew ye parish.
4. No Quakers at all.
5. There are no persons who profess to disregard Religion nor commonly absent themselves from all public worship of God on ye Lords Day.
6. I do not reside in my Vicarage house, the late Lord Bishop of Oxford having dispens'd with my residence on ye acct of my having a school at Burford, which is within two miles of my Church which I serve myself.
7. Public Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords Day in my Church and one sermon preach'd. Prayers are read on ye 30th of Janry, Ash-wednesday, Good Fryday 29th May, eleventh of June, 5th of November.<sup>1</sup> No chapel. I catechise in Lent the Church catechism but few come to be catechised. None come to Church yt are not baptiz'd. The Lord's Supper administred three times a year not above twelve or thirteen receive it at each time.
8. No Free School Hospital or Alms House.
9. No Charity School but only a few poor children taught to read which I pay for myself.
10. Mr Newborough<sup>2</sup> Master of Eton School left five hundred pounds to purchase lands for ye augmentation of my Vicarage. No purchase being yet made the trustee who is the Lord Bishop of Exeter<sup>3</sup> very punctually pays the interest to me every half year.
11. No money at ye offertory but what I give myself.
12. I know of nothing more yt can be of any use to your Lordship.

I am

Your Lordship's Most dutiful humble Servant R. Griffiths,

Vicar of Astal [1731-63]

<sup>1</sup>January 30—King Charles the Martyr. May 29—Restoration of the Royal Family. June 5—Accession of King George II. November 5—Gunpowder Treason (and the happy arrival of His Majesty King William III). The State Services were discontinued in 1859.

<sup>2</sup>John Newborough, Headmaster of Eton 1689-1711. The Provost and Fellows of Eton College were the impropiators.

<sup>3</sup>Dr. Stephen Weston, Bishop of Exeter (1724-42) was a Fellow of Eton College. *D.N.B.*

## ASTON ROWANT

1. The extent of my Parish is six miles long and one broad, which comprehend nine hamlets viz Aston which contains 23 houses, Kingstone 49, Chafford 9, Cobcott 4. The Start 7, Stoken Church 75, Water-end 13 and Bacons Bottom 11. Families of note are John Clerke Esq.:<sup>1</sup> The present High Sheriff and John Mason Gen :
2. We have no Papists in the Parish.
3. We have no Dissenters in the Parish except two Anabaptists and have no meeting House.

4. We have no Quaakers in the Parish.
5. We have none who profess to disregard Religion but there are too many who absent themselves from the Church.
6. I constantly reside in the Vicarage House.
7. Service is duly performed in the Church Twice every Lords Day (excepting from All Saints to ye First Sunday in Lent). When being obliged to Preach every Sunday in ye afternoon at my Chappel of Stoken—church which is Two Miles distant from the Church, the Days are so short I have not time to read Prayers in ye afternoon at my Mother Church. I Catechise both in my Church and Chappel every Sunday in Lent, but Preaching two Sermons and Reading Prayers twice have not time to expound. We have no Persons unbaptized who frequent Public Worship. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administred 5 times in ye year in my Church where we have usually 50 Communicants or more : And Three Times in my Chappel where we have many who receive it.
8. We have a Free School at Stoken-Church for twelve boys, founded by Bartholomew Tipping Esqr :<sup>2</sup> The Governors are four of the most Substantial Inhabitants, and ye Revenues Forty one Pounds, and six pence. Which are Employed as they ought, and ye Statutes are well observed.
9. There is no charity School in our Parish.
10. To Aston Poor there is given by Captain Cripps Two and Forty Pounds.<sup>3</sup> The Interest of which is to be distributed, to six Poor Inhabitants every half year. To Kingstone Poor the Interest of Twenty Pounds yearly : And to ye Poor of Stoken-Church ye Interest of an Hundred Pounds given by Mr Newall and fourteen Shillings a year to be paid out of Three Cottages there. To Aston Church for keeping it in Repair several Lands, the Yearly Rent whereof is Two Pounds and Eight Shillings, and to Stoken-church Chappel several Lands of ye yearly Rent of Four Pounds and Fifteen Shillings.
11. The Money given at the Offertory is given to the Poor by ye Vicar and Church-wardens.
12. There is no other Matter relating to our Parish of which it may be proper to give an Information.

Matthew Hawes Vicar of Aston Rowant [1723-61]

<sup>1</sup>John Clerke (1709-71), of Aston. The High Sheriff in 1737 is said to have been "John Clerke of North Weston." J. M. Davenport, *Oxfordshire. Lords Lieutenant, High Sheriffs and Members of Parliament etc.* (1888), p. 81.

<sup>2</sup>Founded in 1675. *V.C.H. Oxon*, I p. 483.

<sup>3</sup>Peter Crispe by will dated 1606 had left £50 for the poor folk of Aston.

#### BAMPTON

1. Bampton Parish is almost five miles in extent nigh twenty in circumference, containing six Hamlets (viz) Aston, Coat, Lew, Shifford, Chimney and Brighthampton. Several hundreds of houses, four families that write themselves Esquires, John Deve, Richd. Coxeter, John Frederick, Tho: Horde<sup>1</sup> of Coat.
2. Not one Papist in the Parish, nor any Popish Priest resorting to it; Haddon the estate of Sr Robt Throgmorton,<sup>2</sup> who lives elsewhere being occupied by a Tenant who is a Protestant.



3. Dissenters are of that Sect only who go under ye name of Anabaptists ; they have one meeting house in the Village of Coat two miles from Bampton town, their Teacher Collet<sup>3</sup> by name, a man taken from the sheepfold, his followers at best but yeomen, one with the other mean and illiterate. Their Number stands as of years past neither lessen'd nor increas'd consisting of about ten or twelve families.
4. There are but two Houses of Quakers the one, that of a farmer, the other a shoemaker, the former witholds no dues the latter has nothing to pay. Their place of meeting is at Alscot.
5. Many of the lowest rank absent themselves from Publick Worship with a view to Profit or Pleasure or Both : others out of laziness making it a Day of Rest in the worst sense.
6. I Tho Snell constantly reside in my Vicarage House, and serve my Cure Propria Persona.  
I John Edmunds reside in my Vicarage House ; have a licenced Curate residing in the Parish whose name is Thomas Middleton and hath Salary £50 p. annum.<sup>4</sup>
7. The Publick Service is duly perform'd, and two Sermons preach'd every Lords Day throughout ye year. Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays in ye afternoon and all Saints days are stated times of Prayer. There is a chapel at Shifford three miles from ye mother church serv'd every Sunday in ye year with Prayers and Sermon. Children are Catechiz'd throughout Lent, have Lewis his Catechism<sup>5</sup> put into their hands, which they learn at School and answer out of at church. This on weekdays only, in regard ye duty on Sunday is as much as a man can possibly go through with, ye Sacrament of ye Lords Supper is administred monthly. Thirty on ordinary days, Eighty or more on Festivals.
8. There is a Grammar Free School for the Parish at large founded by one Veisey, augmented by one Palmer, the Revenues thereof in land let at thirteen Pound pr. an. The Vicars for the time being and the heir of the Founder are Visitors thereof.<sup>6</sup>
9. There is no voluntary Charity School in the Parish. At Aston six pounds pr. an. charged on lands for teaching twenty poor children, duely paid.
10. The gifts to the poor are many and various. A Table with the names of ye Benefactors and their respective uses annex'd hangs up in the body of the Church, all carefully preserved and rightly applied.
11. The money at the offertory is disposed of sometimes upon the spot to the poor Communicants, sometimes by the Minister and Churchwardens jointly, sometimes separately.
12. We know of no other matter or thing worthy to be communicated to your Lordship.

John Edmunds [V. 1721-43]

Tho: Snell [V. of Bampton Aston 1715-58]

<sup>1</sup>For the Horde family of Cote and elsewhere cf. *The Topographer and Genealogist* I (1846) pp. 32 ff.

<sup>2</sup>Sir Robert Throckmorton, 4th Bart. (1702-91), of Coughton Court, Warwickshire, and Buckland House, Berkshire. (Haddon was inherited with the Buckland property from the Yate family).

<sup>3</sup>" This chapel is one of the most respectable establishments founded for the use of Dissenters, in the whole kingdom." J. A. Giles, *History of the Parish and Town of Bampton* (1848) p. 82. Joseph Collett (1684-1741) was minister from 1703 until his death. Cf. STANLAKE p. 143.

<sup>4</sup>The church of Bampton was held in three Portions. Giles *op. cit.* pp. 25-30 ; A. H. Thompson in *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* liii (1931), pp. 40-43. Thomas Snell held Bampton Aston and John Edmunds Bampton Proper and Bampton Lew.

<sup>5</sup>J. Lewis, *The Church Catechism explained. . . and confirm'd by Scripture Proofs* (1712). Over forty editions of this work were published, and it was translated into Irish and Welsh. *D.N.B.*

<sup>6</sup>Founded by Robert Vesey in 1670. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I p. 462 f.

## BANBURY

1. The Parish of Banbury I guess to be about 4 or 5 Miles in Circumference, in which we usually reckon up 6 Villages or distinct Places besides the Town ; The Parish contains betwext 6 and 700 Families amongst which we have a great Number of Substantial People, but none of greater Note residing now.
  2. Nine or ten of the Families mentiond in the first are most of them Papists, all exceeding poor, under the Influence of Mr Holoman<sup>1</sup> a very great contiguous Papist ; His Priest visits us now and then. All the rest of the Questions here are deny'd.
  3. About 50 of the Families mentiond in the first are Presbiterians or mixt ; One Independant ; One Anabaptist, generally of the meaner Sort ; Their Number not increas'd since my remembrance. One Presbiterian Meeting House, Stephen Davis the Teacher.<sup>2</sup>
  4. About ten of the Families mentioned in the first are Quakers ; their Number is lessend of late years. One Meeting House. No Dues paid by them for several years ; Neither I, nor Mr. Gerard<sup>3</sup> have receivd any tho' many due. No Facts have occur'd here.
  8. Here is one Alms House given by my Late Lord Guilford<sup>4</sup> without Revenue, governd or dispos'd of by the Mayor and c.
  9. We have a Voluntary Charity School for 20 boys and 15 girls supported by Subscription ; They are taught to read write and account, to knit spin and sew and are annually cloathed ; when they leave the School they are generally apprenticed out.
  11. Here is two Collections, the first for the Minister whilst the Offertory is reading ; the other for the poor, whilst a Psalm is singing before the Blessing ; One third of this latter is at the disposal of the Minister and the rest in the Churchwardens.
- "These answers were given by Mr Wardle<sup>5</sup> Vicar of Banbury Dec. 1739."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>William Holman (1688-1740), of Warkworth, Northamptonshire.

<sup>2</sup>A. D. Tyssen, 'The Old Meeting House, Banbury' in *Transactions of the Unitarian Historical Society* I (for the years 1916-18) pp. 276 ff. Stephen Davies was minister 1709-39. J. Stanley, *The Church in the Hop Garden* (n.d.) pp. 109 ff.

<sup>3</sup>Joseph Gerard, V. of Banbury 1734-9.

<sup>4</sup>Presumably the second Lord Guilford (1673-1729), of Wroxton Abbey.

<sup>5</sup>John Wardle, V. 1739-58.

<sup>6</sup>In Secker's hand.

## BARFORD ST. MICHAEL

1. There are in ye Parish of Barford St Michael 62 Houses and no Family of any Note but Dr Cumming an Eminent Physician.
2. There are no Papists in the Parish.
3. There are 3 Presbyterians and 2 Anabaptists of the meaner sort.

4. There are 3 Quakers.
6. I reside at Dadington about a mile distance from Barford St Michael.
7. Publick Service is duly performd. once in a Fortnight and a Sermon preachd. wch has been a Custom time out of mind. The Sacrament of ye Lds. Supper is administered at the usual Festivals of ye Church and the Number of ye Communicants is usually about 12.
11. The Money given at ye offertory is disposed of by my self and Church: Wardens to proper objects of Charity.  
Richd. Short. Curate. [V. of Deddington 1700-47]

## BECKLEY

1. The extent of my Parish is two miles. It comprehends Horton, Studley and Whitecrossgreen. No: of Houses 135. The only Family of Note Mr Ledwell of Studley.
2. There are no Papists &c.
3. There are no Presbyterians nor Independants and but one Anabaptist of low Rank.
4. There are no Quakers & c.
5. There are a few who profess to disregard Religion, and who commonly absent themselves from all publick Worship of God on ye Lords Day. I believe its merely out of Ignorance. Some of them have promised to attend constantly for ye future. They are of low Rank.
6. My constant place of Residence is Oxford, my Chaplainship at New Coll: requiring constant Attendance, besides ye Income of my Parish is too small to maintain a Resident Curate, it being but eight Pounds per annum.<sup>2</sup>
7. Publick Service is duly performed once every Lords Day in my Church, and one Sermon preached. One Sunday in ye Morning and ye other in ye Afternoon, it being ye antient Custome of ye Place. I read Prayers on Good Fryday and on Easter Tuesday, being ye day on which we chuse a Church Warden. There is a Chapel at Studley about a mile and a half distant from ye Church, I have served it once every Lds Day for about a year under Mr Nicholls of Jesus Coll: I constantly catechise in Lent and at some other times of ye Year, my Parishioners are backward in sending their Children and Servts: I have not as yet expounded, nor made use of any printed exposition. There are no Persons & c. The Sacrant of ye Lds Supper is administred four times in ye year. There are not above twelve Communicants each Time.
8. There is an Alms-House at Studley for four men and four women. The Founder was George Crook Esqr.<sup>3</sup> Mr Ledwell is ye Governour. The Revenues of it are five Pounds four shillings a year each, twenty shillings wood, a gown one year, shirt another. Prayers are read three times a week by ye Clerk, for which he is allowed twenty shillings a Year. They are carefully preserved and employed as they ought. And ye Statutes and Ordinances made concerning it well observed.
9. There is no Charity School & c.
10. There were given formerly ten Pounds, ye interest of which to be laid out in Bread and distributed to ye Poor, but I cant find to what use it is applied.
11. The money given at ye Offertory is disposed of sometimes by me, and sometimes by ye Church Warden to ye Poor.

12. There, my Lord are ye best Answers I can give to ye foregoing questions, nor is there at present any other Matter relating to my Parish, of which it may be proper to give your Lordship Information, except what I sometime since informed you of, but if anything should offer, you may depend upon hearing from,

My Lord,

Your Lordships most dutifull, Obedient and Humble Servt:

Richd: Carter.

<sup>1</sup>William Ledwell (d. 1766) married Charlotte Croke, of Studley Priory.

<sup>2</sup>In 1745 the Vicarage house was reported "as being almost ready to drop down." MS. Oxford Archdeaconry Papers c. 51 f. 134.

<sup>3</sup>Endowed in 1639 by Sir George Croke (1560-1642), of Studley Priory. Sir Alexander Croke, *Genealogical History of the Croke Family* II (1823) pp. 857-60.

#### BEGBROOK IN THE DEANERY OF WOODSTOCK

1. The Parish of Begbrook is near a mile in Length and half a mile in Breadth. It consists only of one Township of ye same Name, in which are fifteen Houses, eight whereof are Poor Cottages. There is not any Family of Note in it.
4. There is neither Papist nor Dissenter of any Denomination in the Parish.
5. There are none of the Parishioners who profess to disregard Religion, nor any who commonly absent themselves from the Publick Worship of God on the Lord's Day, except one Person, who keeps a Publick House.
6. I reside at Oxford four miles distant from Begbrook.
7. Publick Worship is duly perform'd twice every Lord's Day in the Church. There being few Children in the Parish, and no School there, it has not been customary to Catechise in the Church. There are none that I know of who frequent Publick Worship and are not baptiz'd. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administred there three times a year. The Number of Communicants is usually about nine. "None confirmed."<sup>1</sup>
8. There is not any Free-School Hospital, or Alms-House in the Parish ;
9. Nor is there any Voluntary Charity School;
10. Nor have any Lands, or Tenements and c. that I know of, been given at any time to its Church or Poor.
11. The Money given at the Offertory is distributed by the Minister and Churchwarden among the Poor of the Parish.
12. There is no other Matter, that I know off, relating the Parish, of wch. it may be proper to give your Lordship Information.

H. Wilbraham Curate. [V. Thomas Stanley<sup>2</sup> 1704-40]

<sup>1</sup>In Secker's hand.

<sup>2</sup>R. of Middleton Cheney, Northamptonshire, from 1710.

Bix

#### 1. My Lord,

The Parish of Bix is between 3 and 4 Miles in length, and between 2 and 3 in breadth. It consists of several little Hamlets, and comprehends about 60 Houses. Families of note, none.

2. There is no Papist.
3. There is only One Family of Presbyterians ; and Two Women, the One Married, the Other a Widow. No Independent nor Anabaptist. The Presbyterians are of no rank and have no Meeting-House. The number of them is neither lessend, nor increased, of late years.

4. There are only Two Quakers, a Man and his Wife. The Man became a Quaker by means of his Wife.
5. There are no Persons who profess to disregard Religion ; but there are some of the meaner sort who sometimes absent themselves from all Publick Worship on the Lord's Day. I know not from what Motive, but that of Idleness. Their Number, I think, is rather lessend than increas'd.
6. I do not reside at Bix, but at my other Living of Shirburn, which is about Six Miles distant. I have a Curate residing in the parish, whose Name is Matthew Dutton: He serves no other Cure ; and the Salary I allow him is 40 pound a Year.
7. Public Service is duly perform'd twice every Lord's Day, and one Sermon Preached. Prayers are read on no day besides, but on Christmas Day and Easter Monday. The Children are Catechiz'd every Sunday in Lent. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administered Three times a Year. The Number that receive each time, are abt. 15.
8. There is no Free-School, Hospital nor Alms-House.
9. There is no Charity-School.
10. There have been no Lands, and c given to the Church or Poor.
11. There is seldom any Money given at the Offertory.
12. There is no other matter, relating to Bix, that I need inform Your Lordship of.

I am, My Lord,

Your Lordship's Most Dutiful and Obedient Humble Servant,

July 26th 1738

Tho Hunt.<sup>1</sup> [V. 1729-74]

<sup>1</sup>V. of Shirburn 1731-48, Canon of Christ Church 1739, Laudian Professor of Arabic 1738-74, Lord Almoner's Professor of Arabic 1741-8, Regius Professor of Hebrew 1747-74.

#### BLACK-BOURTON

1. The Extent of my Parish is suppos'd to be 3 Miles in Length, and 1 Mi: and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in Breadth : it comprehends 44 Houses. Inhabitants 207 ; the only Family of Note is Edwd: Hungerford's Esqr.
2. There are 4 reputed Papists viz      Edwd: Hungerford Esqr.  
    Joseph Nobes Mason and  
    — alehouse keeper  
    Mary Nobes his Wife  
    Thos: Newman Shoemaker.

None of these since my being concerned with ye Parish have been proselyted : Edwd: Hungerford declard himself to be of the Roman Catholic Comunion a little before my Predecessor's Decease, the two next mention'd (as 'tis thought) chang'd their Religion at his Instigation being Tenants—the last was born and bred a Papist and brot into ye Parish by ye aforesd: Gent.

3. To this Question and the two following I answer in ye Negative.
6. I reside upon my Cure in ye vicarage—house and am seldom longer absent than a Fortnight in ye year, when I visit my Relations ; and then I take Care to have my Church duly serv'd.
7. Publick Service is perform'd twice every Lord's Day in my Church and one Sermon preach'd—Prayers are read likewise there on holydays besides those appointed by Acts of Parliament and every Fryday in ye Year unless I am from Home, and every Wednesday and Fryday in

Lent ; at wch Season I catechise such Children and Servts : as are sent to me for Instruction, in expounding ye Catechism I make Collections from A—Bp—Wake,<sup>1</sup> Hamond,<sup>2</sup> Nowel,<sup>3</sup> and Ostervald's Cat:<sup>4</sup> The Sacrament of ye Lds. Supper is administred 4 Times in ye year and there be genlly 30 Communicants.

8. To this and the two next Questions I have only a negative Response.
11. I dispose of ye money given at ye Offertory to the most indigent in my Parish.
12. I have laid before yr: Lordship a just Accot: of the State of my Parish in my Answers to ye Questions propos'd and did I know of any other Matter relating thereto, I would communicate it without Reserve ; and shall be glad on all Occasions to approve my self

My Lord

Yr Lordship's Most humble and Obedt Servt:

C: Knollis.<sup>5</sup> [V. 1732-71]

<sup>1</sup>Cf. ARDLEY p. 9.

<sup>2</sup>Henry Hammond, *A practical Catechisme* (1645).

<sup>3</sup>Alexander Nowel, *A Catechisme or first Instruction and Learning of Christian Religion*. Translated out of Latine into Englishe (1571).

<sup>4</sup>Jean Frédéric Osterwald, *The Grounds and Principles of the Christian Religion, explained in a catechetical discourse*. . . . Rendered into English by Mr. Hum. Manley (1704).

<sup>5</sup>Charles Knollys (1703-71), claimant to the earldom of Banbury.

BLADEN [WOODSTOCK]

My Lord,

The Parish of Blayden (where the Mother Church is) contains in it, the Town of Blayden ; the Borough of New-Woodstock, which has a chapel of it's own ; and ye Township of Hensington. It extends in Length above two Miles (Woodstock being situate nearly in the Middle) but is for ye most part very Narrow. It contains in the whole about 240 Houses. Blenheim with the Park is Extra-Parochial.

There is one Quaker-Woman in Woodstock, who has perverted her Husband. I have no Demand of Dues from them but of three Pence for an Easter Offering ; wch they have paid, ye first, and refused ye Second Time, I have demanded of them. I think to give them no Trouble about it but to make my Claim from Time to Time. We have no Meeting-House, nor Scarce any other Dissenters. There were formerly in Woodstock a pretty many Presbyterians and Independents : but they have been decreasing of late Years, as in most other Places. But this, I doubt, is not to be imputed by any extraordinary Increase of Knowledge ; or Regard to Unity, Order, &c. but to that general decline of Zeal and Inclination to Divine Things in any Shape, by wch Most Men are Now-a-days, become but too Indifferent to Religion in ev'ry Shape. Hence also

There are, in all Places, more Absentees than dissenters ; We have but too many of that Sort, and Some of them, I doubt in Woodstock, are so, out of very Irreligious Principles. Yor Lordships Admonition to ye Church-Wardens to go to ym as with a Special Charge from yor Lordsp, to reform herein, might be of Weight.

I do reside Here Constantly on my Cure, not in the ancient Parsonage-House at Blayden ; but in an House built by an Excellent Predecessor of yr Lordsp's, Bp Fell,<sup>1</sup> in charity to the Borough of Woodstock ; to draw the

Rector of Blayden to reside at Woodstock, and to induce him, by such Residence, to perform full service in their Chapel ; to wch He is not otherwise obliged : there being no sufficient Provision made for such Service. And it has of late answered the end : Dr Baker,<sup>2</sup> afterwards Bishop of Norwich, Dr. Robert Cocks,<sup>3</sup> and Myself, having now for about 26 Years past resided in the Said New-Erected House at Woodstock, and, by finding an Assistant, provided for the Full Performing of divine Service in both Churches. To wch however we have not thought ourselves bound, in Respect of ye Chapel of Woodstock, otherwise than voluntarily, and in Honour of the said Benefaction of Bishop Fell.

I found My Predecessor had Catechizd Here only in ye Time of Lent, and I have continued to do ye same. I did not find it absolutely necessary to do more, having had a greater Number than Ordinary in both Churches yt cd make their Responses well. I have used to expound the Catechism to ye Congregation at ye same Time, and at other Times have frequently expounded ye 2d Lesson for Ye Evening Service, as above, to the Congregation. The Children being often so young that they are not capable ; and the grown People being generally so ignorant, that they stand not less in need of Such Instruction Than ye Merest Children.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administer'd about eight Times in a year at Woodstock, and five or six Times at Blayden. The Number of Communicants at Woodstock is from 60 to 80, at Blayden from about 20 to 40.

There is an Alms-House at Woodstock for about eight Persons and also a Free-School<sup>4</sup> with a Salary of £20 per an for ye Master, both under the Government of ye Corporation ; who wd not like yt the Minister sd concern Himself with their Civil Affairs ; and therefore I have made little Enquiry into ye Foundation, and Management, of the said School and Alms-House. But ye School at present seems to be made little other than a Sine-Cure to the Master Mr Du Bois who, I think, was a French Refugee, and has been admitted to degrees and Orders at Oxford.

There are also some Largesses of Bread and Money distributed on certain days to ye Poor of Woodstock by ye Corporation, concerning wch, for ye Reason above assign'd, I have made little Enquiry.

The Money at the Offertory is given by the Minister and Church-Wardens to ye Then-Receiving Poor.

There is an Abuse not peculiar to this place, but frequent in Many ; viz, by ye Negligence of Church-Wardens and Profanity of Bakers and Vintners, ye Worst of Bread and Wine often provided for ye H. Sacrament. Nothing being more common than to have ye former ye most Stale, or Coarse, or Musty ; and ye latter, ye most Sour, or Vapid, yt can be got.

There are two Women Supposed to be Papists, in Woodstock, but I never heard they had any Priest came after them ; And one of them, who is a Child-bearing Woman, submits to let Her Husband have their Children baptiz'd in ye Church. I have no more at present to trouble your Lordship with, I am My Lord,

Your Lordships

Most dutifull and Obedient Humble Servant,

B. Holloway<sup>5</sup> [V. 1736-9]

Woodstock

Jul. 24 1738.

<sup>1</sup>John Fell, Bishop of Oxford 1675-86.



<sup>2</sup>William Baker D.D. (1668-1732) R. 1712-15, Archdeacon of Oxford 1714, Bishop of Bangor 1723, Bishop of Norwich 1720. *D.N.B.*

<sup>3</sup>Sir Robert Cocks, 3rd Bart. (c. 1660-1736), of Dumbleton, Gloucestershire, R. 1715-36.

<sup>4</sup>Founded by the will of Richard Cornwall dated 1585. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I p. 482.

<sup>5</sup>R. of Middleton Stoney 1724-59.

## BLETCHINGDON

## 1. My Lord,

The extent of this Parish by computation is about two miles in length; no villages nor Hamlets in it it comprehends about sixty houses, some of which are not inhabited; here are no families of note in it at present.

WitNESS W. Scott. Rector.

## 2. My Lord,

We have but one Papist in the Parish, Katherine ye wife of Robert Harrison. none have been perverted to Popery of late, neither hath any Popish Priest resided here or resorted to this Parish, that I know of, no Popish School in this Place.

WitNESS W. Scott. Rector.

## 3. My Lord,

We have but one Presbyterian in this Parish, Martha the wife of Robert Springall; no Independents nor Anabaptists, no meeting houses here.

WitNESS W. Scott, Rector.

## 4. My Lord,

We have no Quakers in this Parish.

WitNESS W. Scott. Rector.

## 5. My Lord,

Here are none that profess to disregard Religion, some dont frequent the church so often, as others do, but promise to amend, and be more constant at the publick worship of God on the Lords Day.

WitNESS W. Scott. Rector.

## 6. My Lord,

I have no Curate, but have constantly resided upon my cure ever since my Institution and Induction, and dwell in the Parsonage house.

WitNESS W. Scott. Rector.

## 7. My Lord,

Publick Service has been duly perform'd twice every Lords day in my church, and one sermon preach'd. Prayers are read on Holydays, there is no chapel in the Parish. Catechizing, and expounding ye Catechism is observ'd at proper times. The Sacramt. of the Lords Supper is four times in the year administred.

WitNESS W. Scott. Rector.

## 8. My Lord,

No Free School here, there are four Alms houses<sup>1</sup> for four poor Widows, each of which has a yearly allowance of two pounds, ten shillings and ten pence which money is paid out of some Rents of grounds in the Parish, the Benefactor not known, upon the death of any of those four women, I at present make choice of a person to succeed.

WitNESS W. Scott. Rector.

9. My Lord,  
There is no such School here.

Wittness W. Scott. Rector.

10. My Lord,  
We have Several lands, not only here but elsewhere belonging to ye poor of this Parish the Rents of which are duly paid into the Overseers Hands, and dispos'd of accordingly by them. There is thirteen pds. in money given to ye poor of this Parish by William Braithwhait, and one—Jenkins. The Interest of which us'd to be given to the poor in Bread on every Christmas day but at present for want of a propr. Security it ly's in the church chest undispos'd of.

Wittness W. Scott. Rector.

11. My Lord,  
The money given at the offertory is always dispos'd of to the poor by me and the Church Wardens.

Wittness W. Scott. Rector.

12. My Lord,  
I have nothing more at present necessary to inform your Ldship of and am

Your Ldships most obedient humble Servant

W. Scott. [R. 1707-43]

BLETCHINGDON September 13 1738

My Lord,

I humbly acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th of the last moneth and my defering so long an answer to it has given your Lordship (I am very sorry for it) the trouble of writing to me a second time on that occasion. As to ye number of Communicants on Sacramt. days it is never the same, but more or less according to the different Seasons of the year. Several of the Parishioners living at least a mile from the church, but at Easter and Whitsuntide I have generally speaking between fifty and sixty. What your Lordship is pleas'd to observe that in Bishop Fells<sup>2</sup> time were lands belonging to the poor in Bletchington to the value of above £28 a year, here are now, my Lord, lands belonging to the poor much about the same value, but as to ye £105 in money is what I nevr. heard of before, neither by my enquiring can find any such thing by any person now living here, above £10 out of ye Rents of these grounds is paid yearly to ye four Almshouses I before mention'd in my answers to your Lordship's Queries, ye rest is paid into ye Overseers Hands towards ye maintenance of the poor and they give Acct. of the same to ye parish twice in the year. As to ye list of ye children that were to be confirm'd by yor. Lordship, I had but three of the age that you required that come to me to be instructed, namely, Sarah Baynard, Eliz Hirons and Eliz Springall. And why I did not present them according to yor Lordships direction in person, I was So lame at that time by an unfortunate fall a little before your Visitation, that I durst not venture my self in the crowd, and so was forced to leave them to the care of the Church Wardens. My Lord, I doubt you will look upon this information relating to the affairs of my parish to be still imperfect, but it is the best I can give at present and am,

Your Lordships most dutifull and obedient humble Servant

Will. Scott.

<sup>1</sup>Founded by the will of Leonard Power dated 1620.

<sup>2</sup>John Fell, Bishop of Oxford 1675-86.

## BLOXHAM

1. In ye Town of Bloxham are 192 Families, 16 poor people in a Work-house ; two Mills about a mile from Bloxham each. A place call'd the Grove of about a Mile distance, ye Estate of Sr James Dashwood Bart,<sup>1</sup>—An Hamlet call'd Milcomb containing 30 Families, a Small Mile From Bloxham. A great part of it belongs to Sr John Thornycroft Bart,<sup>2</sup> and Thomas Cartwright Esqr.<sup>3</sup> Neither of these Gentlemen live there. There is a chapel in it supplied by me. There are no Families of note living in either Town.
2. None at all. There is no one in ye Parish in ye least inclin'd to popish principles that I can learn, except one poor widow woman of very low rank.
3. No Independents that I know. The Presbyterians and Anabaptists go to one another's Meetings, For wch reason it is difficult to know their Principles. But according to ye best that I can find out there are Presbyterians 30 Anabaptists 11 Quakers 8.

Four of ye Presbyterians are some of ye richest men. They have a meeting house in Bloxham supplied by their Teacher Mr Nickling<sup>4</sup> who lives in Bloxham, their number is much lessend of late years, their meeting house is licenced. The Anabaptists have an House licenced but do not meet at it above once in a Quarter. Their Teacher is Daniel Willmot of Hooknorton ;<sup>5</sup> their number not encreas'd, Both ye Meetings Consist of those of different Parishes, as well as our own.

4. 8 Quakers, their number not encreased. No Quakers Meeting House in our parish. They meet at Adderbury. I have my legal dues From them but not without Compulsion.

In Milcomb are 30 Families. 5 Quakers. 2 Anabaptists. 1 Presbyterian, of low Rank all.

The Anabaptists have a Meeting House there Licenced, and supplied once in a Month by Daniel Willmot of Hook-Norton ; it is composed of different adjacent Parishes.

5. I know of None but what go to Some publick Worship of God on ye Lords Day. I know of none that profess to disregard Religion from any other motive than laziness. Some few of low Rank not coming to Church so frequently as they ought to do.
6. Always resident in ye Vicarage House. I have no Curate or assistant.
7. Publick Service is perform'd duly in Bloxham Church twice every Lords Day, one Sermon preach'd. Prayers are read on all Holidays and Fasting days. The Chapel of Milcomb is supplied by me three Sundays in a Month : the fourth by ye Rector of Wigginton.

I catechise all Lent, Sundays ; Wednesdays and Fridays, on wek days prayers are read in Lent : I make use of Dr Wakes exposition ; and Dr. Holes Catechetical Sermons<sup>6</sup> together with mine own thoughts. There are none that Frequent publick Worship but What are baptiz'd so far as I know ; But many come to Church that have been baptizd by Dissenting Teachers,

The Lords Supper is administerd at Bloxham four times in ye year Viz Christmas, Easter, Whitsuntide, and Michaelmas. At Christmas and Easter, at Bloxham about 60 Communicants ; at ye other two times not so many—The number of them increases.

In Milcomb Chapel the Sacrament is administerd at Christmas, Easter, And Whitsuntide.

8. None.
9. None.
10. There is in Bloxham in Lands and Tenements the clear Income of about 70 pounds p. annum, given to ye Repairs of ye Church, ye Bridges, and ye Relief of ye poor, made use of accordingly. 20 pounds set to interest ; ye interest of it is to set poor Children to be Apprentices ; truly observd, when it amounts to a proper Summ.
11. The Offertory mony, wch is but little is dispos'd of by ye Minister to ye poorest people that mostly frequent ye Church and Sacrament.
12. My Lord,

These are ye most punctual Answers that I can make to your Lordships Questions. When any other matter occurs, of wch it is proper to give your Lordship information, no one Shall be more ready to give your Lordship notice of it, than

My Lord, yr Lordship's most dutifull Son And most obedient Servant  
Robt Pargeter. [V. 1724-41]

<sup>1</sup>Sir James Dashwood, 2nd Bart. (d. 1779), of Kirtlington.

<sup>2</sup>Sir John Thornycroft, 2nd Bart. (1691-1743), of Milcomb.

<sup>3</sup>Thomas Cartwright (1671-1748), of Aynhoe, Northamptonshire.

<sup>4</sup>A. D. Tyssen, 'The Presbyterians of Bloxham and Milton, near Banbury' in *Transactions of the Unitarian Historical Society* II Pt. 2 (for the year 1920) pp. 9 ff. Mr. Nicklin is thought to have ministered at Bloxham from about 1740 to 1747, when "falling into a low and melancholy state of mind, he laid aside preaching, and went to reside in or near Dudley, where he died."

<sup>5</sup>Cf. HOOK NORTON p 84.

<sup>6</sup>Matthew Hole, *A Practical Exposition of the Church Catechism in Several Discourses* (1708).

#### BRADWEL

1. The Parish of Bradwel extends in Length 5 Miles, in Breadth 1 ; it comprehends 4 Villages containing 136 Houses Bradwell, Filkins, Kelmescote, Holwell.<sup>1</sup>
2. There are but 3 Papists in the Parish and those Persons of no Rank. All the other Questions in this Article I may answer in ye negative.
3. As likewise in this.
4. in this.
5. and in this.
6. My Patron, Mr Whitfield, is now in Scotland with his Regiment.
7. From Lady-Day to Michaelmas Publick Service is performd twice every Lords Day and one Sermon preach'd at Bradwel : during the remaining Part of the Year Morning Service only is perform'd, there being 2 chapels each at the Distance of 2 Miles and a half. In one of which Evening Service is performed every Sunday : which I suppose is ye Reason why it has not been usual to catechize. I know of no Person not baptiz'd who frequents ye Church. The Sacrament is administred monthly. The Number of Communicants generally about 20.
8. There is neither Free-School, Hospital nor Alms House in ye Parish.
9. There is no Charity School.
10. There is a Tenement of £15 p. an purchas'd, in ye late Incumbents Time, for ye Augmentation of ye Living, by Queen Ann's Bounty, together with a Contribution of ye late Ld Orkney,<sup>2</sup> Mr Colston and Several of ye Parishioners. Besides which there is one guinea a Year for two Sermons

at Holwel<sup>3</sup> one of ye Chapels belonging to Bradwel and the Interest of seven Pound for two Sermons at Kelmscot.<sup>4</sup> I know of nothing left to ye Poor.

11. The Money given at the Offertory is dispos'd of by me to ye Poor of ye Parish.
12. I Know of no other Matter, relating to this Parish, of which it may be proper to give your Lordship Information.

John Eyton Curate of Bradwel  
[V. Henry Whitfield 1727-43]

<sup>1</sup>These four names are added in Secker's hand.

<sup>2</sup>The first Earl of Orkney (1686-1737), who had bought a property here. *D.N.B.*

<sup>3</sup>Marginal note by Secker " Chrday and Epiph."

<sup>4</sup>Marginal note by Secker " St. Stephens and Whitsun Monday."

#### BRIGHTWELL

1. The Parish of Brightwell extends itself from East to West about 2 miles and from North to South about ye Same distance, It consists of 2 Hamletts Calld Upper Town and Nether-Town and a Separate Lordship by itself containing one farm House only called Cadwell. There are within ye Circuit of the Whole about 35 families, There is but one person of Note in ye Parish namely Mrs Stone Widow of ye late John Stone Esqr and Patroness of ye Rectory.<sup>1</sup>
2. There is no Papist of any order or rank wtever in this parish neither are there any occasional meetings of such Persons ever held here for ye performance of any Episcopal or Ministerial office.
3. There are no Protestant Dissenters of ay denomination wtever residing in this Parish neither have there been any Such in ye memory of Man.
4. There are no Quakers neither ever were there any in this Parish.
5. There is no professd Atheist in the Parish that I know of ; There are indeed too many here as in all other places, who thro' inconsideration as I suppose rather than any fixd hatred of religion too commonly absent themselves from ye Worship of God on ye Lords day. I should be very glad to observe any Instructions from yr Lordship to remedy this evil.
6. I reside constantly upon my Cure of Brightwell in ye house belonging to it. To ye best of my remembrance I have not been absent above 6 weeks in any one year since my Institution and that by small portions of time accidental avocations.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice and one Sermon preach'd every Lords day. Prayers are read on all the Principal Holy days. There is no Chappel in this parish except a private one in Mrs Stones House. The Children are Catechizd all the Lent Season : the Catechism is expounded no otherwise than in Sermons and privately as I have opportunity ; There is no Unbaptiz'd person yt I know of or can suspect that comes to ye publick worship. The sacrament of ye Lords Supper is administred four times in a Year, generally there are between thirty and Forty Communicants.
8. There is no free School Hospital or Alms House in our Parish.
9. There is no Voluntary Charity School in our Parish.
10. There have been Several sums of money given at different times for ye use of ye Church and Poor. With part of this money there has been a

purchase made in ye Parish of Bensington of 4 pounds pr ann: ten shillings of wch is order'd to be laid out in repairing ye Church, and ye rest to be distributed among ye poor. With ye remainder of ye aforesaid money given in charity, ye Parishioners of Brightwell were joint purchasers wth ye Parish of St Giles Oxon of a parcel of land in ye Parish of Ensham out of ye rents of wch we have in proportion to our purchase money about 20 shill: pr ann: paid us yearly, and wch according to ye Will of ye Donors is distributed among ye Poor.

11. There is usually very little money given at ye Offertory, wt there is is distributed by ye Minister amg the Poor.
12. One Other matter of wch I wld Inform yr Ldship is that the Youth of this parish are commonly guilty of profaning ye Lords Day by Spending ye Afternoons in Sports and Diversions such as Cricket. I have endeavour'd to prevent it but to no purpose. If your Lordship wld be pleas'd to take notice of this Disorder, it will be a great obligation to yr Lordships Most Dutifull and Obedient

Humble Servant

John Edwardes Rector of Brightwell. [1734-40]

<sup>1</sup>Mary (1684-1739) widow of John Stone (d. 1732), of Brightwell Park.

#### BRITWELL SALHAM

1. The Parish of Britwell Salham is intermixd wth that of Brittwell Priory. Brittwell Priory is in ye tything of Newington and has a chappel belonging to that Church.<sup>1</sup> As they lye together they extend themselves from North to South near two miles and from East to West about a mile and a half In ye parish of Brittwell Salham wch contains about 20 houses, the Inhabitants are all Farmers or Labourers. In Britwell Priory there is one person of Note, Namely Sr Edward Simeon Bar't<sup>2</sup> who is a Papist.
2. There are two families of Papists in our parish the Masters of them are Coachman and Gardiner to Sr Edward Simeon. Both of them have wives and Several children, all of the Popish persuasion—There is also one of Sr Edward's maid servants married to a farmer and settled here ; there has been but one person of this parish perverted to popery namely John Wincott since Sr Edward Settled here about ten years ago : being a poor and Ignorant fellow I suppose it was ye hopes of advantage that Seduc'd him. I do not believe they ever assemble in this parish (tho I take it for granted they do at Sir Edward's) for Worship. There is no Popish Priest in our parish but in Brittwell Priory att Sr Edward's there is a man suppos'd to be such : his name is—Brown,<sup>3</sup> there is no Popish School. I never was Inform'd neither did I ever Suspect there was any Confirmation and Visitation by any Popish Bishop held here.
3. There is but one Presbyterian, a young Woman lately married to a farmer very well affected to the Church. There is one Independent an old Woman of mean Condition. There is no Meeting house.
4. There are no Quakers.
5. There is no professed Atheist that I know of in this parish. There are indeed too many here as in all other places who thro' inconsideration as I suppose rather than a fix'd hatred of religion too commonly absent themselves from the Worship of God on the Lords Day. I should be very glad to observe any Instruction from yr Lordship to remedy this evil.

6. Be pleased to turn to ye foregoing page.

*Quest 6th*

I do not Indeed reside here but att Brightwell as I have inform'd yr Lordship in my answers to ye Questions relating to that place but I humbly offer it to yr Lordship's consideration that my two parishes of Brightwell and Brittwell Salham are Contiguous : that the Villages are but a mile distant from each other, yt the Parsonage house of Brightwell in wch I live is allmost as near Some houses of Brittwell as it is to Some of Brightwell : and that I am att the town of Brittwell almost every day of my life. My Curate is Mr Thomas Morgan A. M. Fellow of Jesus Collage where he usually resides. He did not enter upon ye Cure so soon as Intended being detain'd in Wales by sickness, during part of wch time Mr Ellis fellow of ye same Collage serv'd it for him and in his name apply'd to yr Ldship for yr approbation wch yr Ldship was pleas'd to grant. He serves no other cure and is allowd after ye rate of 25 pounds pr ann: wch considering taxes repairs and other accidental deductions is near half the Value of ye living.

7. Publick Service is perform'd twice every Lords Day and one Sermon preach'd. On ye 1st Sunday in every month ye Service ought by custom of ye place to be performd and a Sermon preach'd att the Chappel belonging to Newington by ye Curate thereof. This Chappel tho out of my Parish is not above a furlong distant from my Church. Prayers are read on the principal Holy-days but ye Parish being Small and consisting of labouring people, 'tis Seldom that I can get a Congregation on week days. The parshioners tho warn'd have of late been negligent in sending their children to be catechizd, but I shall endeavour to persuade them to be more careful for ye future. I expound some part of ye Catechism sometimes in Sermons and Instruct privately as I have opportunity. I Intend moreover to distribute some printed tracts, but am not at present determnd wt are the best and Cheapest. There are no unbaptiz'd persons that I know of that frequent publick worship. The Sacrament of ye Lords Supper is administer'd 3 times a year. There are generally about 20 Communicants.
8. There is no free School Hospital or alms House in ye Parish.
9. There is no Voluntary Charity School in our Parish.
10. There are no lands or Tenements or Tithes or Pensions or Sums of money to be placed out at Interest that have been given to our Church or Poor. Only there is an estate in ye neighbourhood obligd to provide 2 gowns and a parcel of coarse linnen to be annually given to 2 poor Widows or Old Maids.
11. There is no money ever given by ye Parishioners att ye Offertory.
12. I do not at present know of any other matter of wch it may be proper to give yr Ld'ship Information.

I am Yr Lordship's Most dutifull and Obedient Humble Servant  
John Edwardes Rect of Brittwell Salham [1732-40]

<sup>1</sup>Newington, with the Chapelry of Britwell Prior, was in the peculiar of the Archbishop of Canterbury known as the Deanery of Monks Risborough.

<sup>2</sup>Sir Edward Simeon, 2nd Bart. (c. 1682-1768), of Britwell Prior. Cf. Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *A History of the Post-Reformation Catholic Missions in Oxfordshire* (1905) pp. 278 ff.

<sup>3</sup>Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *op. cit.* pp. 282 f.



## BRIZE-NORTON

1. This Parish is in length two Miles in breath the same ; it is of a round Compass. There are eighty nine Houses in it. There is only one person of Note in it viz Madam Ann Greenwood<sup>1</sup> ye Relict of John Greenwood Esquire. The Lord Wenman<sup>2</sup> hath a good Estate in this psh, but his Seat is in the parish of Whitney just by it.
2. Madam Ann Greenwood is a Papist. Her Son who is now beyond Sea is a Papist. He has a good House in this parish in which resides Mr Byally<sup>3</sup> their Priest, four of the Family besides are Papists and it is supposed yt ye Papists out of Town who resort thither come to Mass there. They have no school Kept.
3. There are two Families of Presbyterians comprehending four or five in Number. They have no meeting house in this psh nor do their Number increase. Their teacher lives at a Distance.
4. Quakers none in this psh.
5. No prophane persons or such as disregard Religion.
6. The Vicar Mr Kipling is Master of the Free School at Thame. He lives there constantly. His Curate's Name is Thomas Bonnell, he is not licenced yet. He resides at Norton and serves ye Cure of Yelford besides. He is allow'd £20 per Ann and ye House Garden and Orchard for serving Norton. And £9 pr Ann for Serving Yelford every other Sunday. The Churches are 3 Miles distant.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords Day and a Sermon preach'd every Sunday Morning and prayers read every Holiday in the Morning. The Children are chatechizd on Sundays in ye afternoon. The Sacrament is administ'r'd four Times in the Year ; At ye three great Solemnities about thirty or forty Communicants at Michaelmas about ten or twelve.
8. There is no Hospital or Alms-House. There is a Free school.<sup>4</sup> The Founder was One Mr Carter of Alvescot. The present Trustees are Sir John D'oily<sup>5</sup> and Doctor Adams,<sup>6</sup> It is endow'd five pounds per Ann for teaching eight Children to read their Bible to write a legible hand and Addition. The Statutes and Ordinances concerning it are (as far as I know) well observ'd.  
This School is a Charity School.
10. The Sum of ten Pounds was given in the year 1731 by Ann Sommers a Single Woman. The interest to be distributed every Year among poor Widdows by the Overseers of the poor. They have been carefully applied and preserved and are now lodg'd in hands of Mr John Collier of this Parish.
11. None ever given here.
12. None (as far as I know) at present.

[V. John Kipling<sup>7</sup> 1723-69]

<sup>1</sup>Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *A History of the Post-Reformation Catholic Missions in Oxfordshire* (1905) p. 169. Anne is said to have been the widow of Charles Greenwood, of Brize Norton.

<sup>2</sup>The sixth Viscount Wenman (1719-60), of Thame Park and Witney.

<sup>3</sup>Will Bryerley of Leicestershire. (?) Dom Ildefonsus. Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *op. cit.* p. 170.

<sup>4</sup>Founded in 1723.

<sup>5</sup>Sir John D'Oyly, 2nd Bart. (c. 1670-1746), of Chislehampton. He married Rebecca, daughter of Goddard Carter, of Alvescot.

<sup>6</sup>Samuel Adams, R. of Alvescot 1701-51.

<sup>7</sup>P. C. of Chearsley, Buckinghamshire, from 1721.

## BROUGHTON

1. May it please Your Lordship.

My Parish is about two miles and an half cross every way, the Village or Hamlet of Northnewton belongs to it, and comprehends eight and thirty Houses, and in Broughton are thirty Houses. John Twisleton Esqr<sup>1</sup> is the only Person of Note that lives here. The Right Honble the Lord Viscount Say and Seale<sup>2</sup> and Richard Burdett Esqr have Estates in this Parish.

2. There are no Papists in my Parish.
3. There are two Presbyterians in my Parish which go to the Meeting House at Banbury.
4. There are Nine Families of Quakers in my Parish which make thirty and four in Number which is rather lessen'd of late Years. They are obliged to go to Banbury having no meeting House nearer. They Generally pay me my Dues by Some Neighbour without Trouble. I know of no Facts which can be of any Service to the Clergy.
5. There are a few poor illiterate Persons who often absent themselves from the Publick Worship on the Lords Day but from what Motives and principles I cannot learn, the Number of them is much lessen'd of late.
6. I reside in my House belonging to my Cure and am absent only when Business requires and at Such times I take care to have my Church Supplied by some Neighbouring Clergy but keep no constant Curate.
7. I Read Prayers and Preach twice every Lords Day in Summer and Read Prayers twice in Winter and Preach once only. I have no Chapel. I catechize and expound and administer the Sacrament four time in ye Year and have usually about fifteen or twenty at a time to Receive it.
8. There is no Free School Hospital or Alms-House in my Parish.
9. There is no Charity School in my Parish.
10. A small close of the Yearly Rent of one pound and seven shillings was formerly given to the Poor of Broughton and Northnewton to be equally divided between them, which is carefully applied to that use.
11. The money Given at the Offertory is disposed of to the Poor  
By Your Lordship's  
Most Dutifull Son and Servant  
John Eddowes, Rectr of Broughton [1732-71]
12. A new Pulpit and Reading Desk are much wanted.

<sup>1</sup>John Twisleton (1698-1763), de jure twelfth Baron Saye and Sele.

<sup>2</sup>The fifth Viscount Saye and Sele (c. 1690-1742), of Broughton Castle.

## BROUGHTON POGGS

1. 1 Mile in Length, 3 in Circumference, 15 Houses.
2. None
3. None
4. None
5. None
6. Yes
7. twice every Sunday in the Summer, once every Sunday in the Winter.

8. None
9. None
10. None
11. None collected
12. Nothing.

[R. William Goodenough<sup>1</sup> 1734-68]

<sup>1</sup>William Goodenough (1707-68), Lord of the manor of Bradwell, R. of Kimpton, Hampshire, 1732-50.

#### BUCKNELL

1. I cannot tell exactly the Extent of the Parish of Bucknell, but it is not very large, the Parish being valued in the whole not at above £600 a year. There are no Villages nor Hamlets belonging to it. There are in the Parish 28 dwelling Houses most of which be very near to the Church. There is no Family of Note but that of the Lord of the Mannor Samuel Trotman Esqr.<sup>1</sup>
2. There are no Papists in the Parish.
3. There are no Presbyterians Independents or Anabaptists in the Parish.
4. There are no Quakers in the Parish.
5. There are no Persons in the Parish who profess to disregard Religion, or who comonly when they are well absent themselves from the Publick Worship of God on the Lords Day.
6. I reside constantly upon my Cure and in the House belonging to it.
7. The Publick Service is duly performed twice evry Lords Day in the Church, one Sermon preached. Prayers are likewise read on all Holy Days. There is no Chappel in the Parish. When I am Well I commonly Catechise the Children all the Summer : I most times expound the Catechism Myself but sometimes make Use of Arch Bp Wake's Exposition.<sup>2</sup>

The Parishioners send their children to be catechiz'd but not so punctually as could be wished. The Sacrament of the Lds Supper is administered four times in the year. At Xmas and Easter between forty and fifty Persons usually receive it at Whitsuntide not so many, and on Palm Sunday not above fifteen or Sixteen.

8. There is no Free School or Hospital in the Parish.
9. There is no Charity School in the Parish but the Ld of the Mannor is so good as to pay for the Schooling of most of the Poor children Who are taught to read and to say their Catechism by a poor Woman of the Parish.
10. There are no Lands or Tenements or Tithes or Pensions belonging to the Church or Poor of Bucknell, there is only one fifty pound given to the Poor, wch is in the Hands of Mr Trotman who has given security for it & punctually pays the Interest wch is duly distributed amog the Poor according to the Discretion of the Minister and the more Substantial Parishioners.
11. The Money given at the Offertory is always distributed among the Poor of the Parish by the Minister and Church-Wardens.
12. I cannot recollect any other Matter relating to the Parish of wch it may be proper to give yr Lordship Information.

My Lord, Yr Lordship's most Dutiful Son

John Woodford Minister of Bucknell. [R. 1710-46]

<sup>1</sup>Samuel Trotman (1684-1748), of Bucknell Manor, and Syston Court, Gloucestershire.

<sup>2</sup>Cf. ARDLEY p. 10.

## BURCESTER

1. Q. 1st. Our Parish is near 15 Miles in circumference. It consists of two Hamlets besides the Market-Town, and contains near 400 families. No Person of note now lives in it. The Revd. Mr Canon Coker<sup>1</sup> who now resides at Salisbury has an estate and Seat in it.
2. There are three families in our Parish Papists. In one of them the Husband, who keeps an Ale-house and one Son come to Church ; his wife and other 4 Children are Papists. Another family tenants to Sir Edward Turner.<sup>2</sup> And the 3rd is a poor family. None have been perverted to Popery since I came to this Parish. I know of no place in this Parish wherein the Papists assemble for worship. Neither doth any Popish-Priest reside here, nor is there any Popish School here, Nor hath any Confirmation or visitation by any Popish Bishop been here in my time.
3. There are in this Parish several hundred Presbyterians. No Independents and but one Anabaptist who is a very old woman. The Presbyterians have a large Meeting-house which, I suppose, is Licensed. The name of their Teacher is John Troughton.<sup>3</sup> Their number is much lessen'd of late years by the death of some of the principal of them, and by the good Influence of the Charity-School set up in this Parish.
4. There are 6 families of Quakers in ys Parish. In one of wch the husband only is a Quaker. In another the wife only. The other 3 Families are all Quakers : And in the 6th family the mother and her daughter are Quakers, and her two sons come to Church. Their number is increas'd of late by the birth of some young Children, notwithstanding this I hear, it hardly will amount to 24. They have a Meeting-house, wch, I suppose, is Licenced. They meet there every Sunday and every Thursday. All of ym refuse to pay me my legal Dues. The method I have us'd to compel them to pay me was by having recourse to two of his maties. Justices of the Peace. This course I have taken with ym about five times in ye 22 years and a half I have been here, and never us'd any other but once thro' mistake at my first coming, when I was advis'd to put them in ye Exchequer, which prosecution I put a stop to as soon as I was better inform'd : as has been already intimated to your Lord by Mr Gerard.<sup>4</sup>
5. There are none in this Parish, as far as I am, or can at present be inform'd, who profess to disregard all Religion, or who commonly absent themselves from all publick worship of God on ye Lord's Day, but one woman the wife of John Hart : She was some years ago a Quaker ; but of late, I hear, She has frequented no place of publick worship.
6. I do reside constantly upon my Cure and in ye Vicarage house. I have no Curate residing in my Parish: but I have one Mr Penrose of Christ Church College in Oxford, who is to come every first Sunday in the month and at such other times as I shall require him, to assist me in the Administration of the Communion, whom I satisfy for his assistance, and shall so continue to do, that he shall not be troublesome or burthensome to your Lordship.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd every Lord's day twice in my Church and two Sermons Preach'd, one in the morning and ye other in ye afternoon, from the beginning of March to the beginning of October and from the beginning of October to the first week in March one Sermon only, wch is commonly in the Afternoon, at ye request of ye Parishioners

except on such days as ye Sacrament of ye Lord's Supper is administer'd, wñ I preach in the morning.

There is no chapel in my Parish. I catechize every Sunday in ye afternoon and every Wednesday and Friday in Lent ; and the Parish-ioners send yr Children and Servants to be catechiz'd, to whom I expound ye Catechism in a plain and familiar method collected out of Mr Lewis,<sup>5</sup> Dr Hole,<sup>6</sup> Mr Newcome,<sup>7</sup> Dr Beveridge<sup>8</sup> and others. I know not of any who frequent my Church who are not Baptiz'd. The Sacrament of ye Lord's Supper is administer'd every first Sunday in the month, once at Christmas, thrice at Easter, viz on Palm Sunday, Easter day, Low Sunday and Whitsunday.

8. We have none.
9. We have a Charity School in our Parish Supported by the annual voluntary contribution of the neighbouring Nobility, Clergy and Gentry, and the Inhabitants of this Parish, of whom several are lately dead, whereby the subscription is very much lessen'd, and without the help of fresh Subscribers 'tis much to be fear'd the School cannot long subsist. In this School 30 boys are taught 24 whereof are cloath'd : when they leave ye School they are dispos'd of by their parents, some to husbandry and some to services.<sup>9</sup>
10. We have none.
11. By me and the Churchwardens to the poor of the Parish.
12. I have nothing more to inform yor. Lordship of and am

Your Lordship's most obedient and dutiful son

Thos. Airson [V. 1715-52]

Burcester 7ber 18 1738

My Lord,

I am very Sorry to give your Lordship the trouble of making a second Enquiry concerning the Charities<sup>10</sup> left to the poor of this Parish, but I hope your Lordship will excuse me because I was really unacquainted with them.

I hope the following is a true account of ym. The Estate Mr Richard Burrowes left our poor is about 6 pounds or 6 pounds and ten shillings per annum for Cloathing 7 poor men or women and is constantly dispos'd of annually on All Saints day according to his Will.

As to the Legacy yor. Lordship mentions of £10 a year left by Mr Hart we have never yet had the Benefit of it, and, as far as I can learn, never shall.<sup>11</sup>

As to the £80 p. annum, which yor. Lordship mentions, it was at first (I am inform'd) but a small Sum left for the Support of the aged, impotent poor of this Parish, but by whom it was given none of us knows, but by the great care of the Feoffes it is now Improv'd to an £100 a year and well apply'd to the uses it was left for.

As to Bowels Legacy of £5 a year for placing out Apprentices poor children of Wendlebury, Chesterton, and this Parish alternately, I am informd, that we have no Title to it, unless Chesterton and Wendlebury shod. want poor children to put out Apprentices, which 'tis suppos'd they never do.

We have another Small Charity left by Mrs Mary Carleton the Mother of Mrs Sarah Kennet wife of the Right Revd. Dr. Kennet late Bishop of Peterborough for preaching a Sermon annually on the Second day of March<sup>12</sup> and buying 40 6 penny loaves for 40 poor widows of this Parish.

We have likewise a Legacy of £2 10s a year left by Sr Thomas Grantham<sup>13</sup> for buying a Christmas dinner for poor widows. This is the best Information I can get at present ; If I can hereafter procure a better your Lordship shall have an account of it from

My Lord, Yor. Lordships most dutiful Son and most humble Servant

Tho: Airson

<sup>1</sup>The Rev. Thomas Coker (d. 1741), of Bicester House, and Canon of Salisbury.

<sup>2</sup>Sir Edward Turner, 2nd Bart. (1719-66), of Ambrosden.

<sup>3</sup>John Troughton (1666-1739) was dissenting minister at Bicester from 1698. *D.N.B.*

<sup>4</sup>Joseph Gerard, V. of Banbury 1735-8.

<sup>5</sup>Cf. BAMPTON p. 14.

<sup>6</sup>Cf. BLOXHAM p. 23.

<sup>7</sup>P. Newcome, *A catechetical course of Sermons for the whole year, being an explanation of the Church Catechism* (1702).

<sup>8</sup>W. Beveridge, *The Catechism explained for the use of the Diocese of St. Asaph* (1704).

<sup>9</sup>The school was founded about 1667 and accommodated in the church. *V.C.H. Oxon* I pp. 463 f.

<sup>10</sup>Cf. J. C. Blomfield, *The History of Bicester* (1884) pp. 59 ff.

<sup>11</sup>Bequeathed by the will dated 1664 of John Hart of Cottisford. The testator had only a leasehold interest in the property which he charged with this payment.

<sup>12</sup>The date of death of Sarah, daughter of Robert Carver of Bicester, and wife of White Kennett (V. of Ambrosden 1682-1701), Bishop of Peterborough.

<sup>13</sup>Sir Thomas Grantham (1639-1718), a noted sea-captain in the reign of Charles II. *D.N.B.*

#### BURFORD

1. The Vicarage of Burford consists of 3 different Fees Tythings, Burford or the Burrough, The Outward (Signet and Upton) and Fulbroke. Burford contains 390, The Outward 19, and Fulbroke 45 houses or thereabouts. The extent of ye same is from north to south 3 miles from east to west 2 miles and a half or thereabouts. The only Family of Note here (tho there are many who have pretty Estates) is John Lenthal's Esqr.<sup>1</sup>
2. There is but one Master of a Family a reputed Papist in ye Parish and two lodgers, the remainder of yr Query I answer in the Negative.
3. Of Presbyterians, Independents and Anabaptists I have about 13 : their top man a skinner, how many of each sect I know not, for they all promiscuously meet at the same house,<sup>2</sup> Their Teacher's name Collet.<sup>3</sup> Whether The House be duly licenced or their Teacher qualified according to Law I know not for certain. Their number lessend of late years. N.B. Since I wrote the within I am inform'd ye Dissenters have no regular Teacher, A Feltmonger in ys town sometimes preaching to others—Collet lives at Bybury in Glostershire and comes over here once in a fortnight or 3 weeks Only.
4. My Number of Quakers are 12, neither minish'd nor increas'd of late. They have a meeting house in the parish I believe licenc'd, to wch they resort as I am informd every Sunday, and sometimes on Thursdays. They none of them pay me my dues (except one, whose Wife is a Church Woman), Neither have I hitherto us'd any means to compel them. I have often demanded them and have as often been deny'd, I once summond them to appear before two Justices of the Peace, but proceeded

no farther neither have I ever put ym to any expence, altho I never recd. a farthing from them since I have had the Vicarage, wch. has been on wards of four Years.

5. There are none in my Parish as I know of, who profess a disregard for Religion, altho too many wo. are very negligent in frequenting the publick Worship of God. Their Motives for so doing they always, when I talk with any of them about it, pretend to be business and c. The number of such is not great, less than they have been.
6. I reside (& in my Vicarage house) constantly myself, am never absent more than from Monday to Saturday and yt but seldom, unless it be once in ye Year at most, when my business calls me to London, where I am detain'd generally about 3 weeks, I was once there six, during such absence my Churches are duly supply'd by some of my Neighbours.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd in my parish Church twice every Sunday, and one Sermon preach'd, prayers are read on Wednesdays and Frydays (one Fryday only excepted since I came here) on all Feasts and Fasts and at all such other times as the Rubrick has more particularly directed. There is a chapel<sup>4</sup> Here about half a mile distant from the Church where prayers are read and one Sermon preach'd every Sunday in the afternoon. I catechize all Lent, and once since I came I have done it for Six or Eight Weeks in the Summer when I had a Curate wo. servd my Chapel. I have made use of Bp Wakes<sup>5</sup> and ye Bp of Mans<sup>6</sup> Catechism both, tho I generally take another Method of expounding, which is by trying, whether the children know the meaning of their Answers, if they do not I explain them to them, there is no person I know of wo. comes to Church unbaptis'd. The Sacramt. of ye Lords Supper is administered every first Sunday in the Month and c. We have from 30 to an 100 Communicants.
8. There is a Free School<sup>7</sup> and Alms Houses<sup>8</sup> in the parish anything more concerning them I am a stranger to.
9. No Voluntary Charity School in my parish.
10. There are Lands Houses and Money to be plac'd out at Interest to a Considerable Value (I have heard to upwards of 4000 pounds) given in charity to ye parish. The Feoffees the Corporation. Whether applied as the Wills direct, as there is a Commission of Charitable use<sup>9</sup> now depending concerning them, it is not for me to determine either way.
11. First to ye payment of the schooling of Six poor children. The Residue given away by ye Church-Wardens to such poor Inhabitants of the parish as are by age or Sickness render'd unable to work for their Family and wo. receive not alms from the parish.
12. My Lord,

I have nothing more to acquaint yr. Lordship with, as I know of.

I am may it please yr Lordship

Your Lordship's Most Dutiful Son and Servant

Burford July 17 1738.

Fran: Potter [V. 1734-46]

<sup>1</sup>John Lenthall (d. 1763), of Burford Priory.

<sup>2</sup>A house on the site of the present chapel was bought by the congregation in 1728. W. J. Monk, *History of Burford* (1891) p. 175.

<sup>3</sup>Cf. BAMPTON p. 13.

<sup>4</sup>Fullbrook.

<sup>5</sup>Cf. ARDLEY p. 10.



<sup>6</sup>Thomas Wilson (Bishop of Sodor and Man), *The Principles and Duties of Christianity. . . To which is now prefixed the true Christian Method of educating. . . children, etc.* (1736).

<sup>7</sup>The Grammar School was founded by Simon Wisdom in 1571. *V.C.H. Oxon* I pp. 464 ff.

<sup>8</sup>W. J. Monk, *op. cit.* pp. 133 ff.

<sup>9</sup>R. H. Gretton, *The Burford Records* (1920) pp. 66 ff., 391 ff.

## CASSINGTON

1. Cassington is in Circumference about seven or eight Miles ; Consists of One Village and One Hamlet: comprehends between fifty and sixty Houses: Two Families of Note.
2. There are Three or four Papists (as is suppos'd) in this Parish ; of the lowest Rank; No Persons have been lately perverted; There is no Place in wch. they assemble to worship;<sup>1</sup> nor any Popish School; nor has ye Parish been lately visited, as far as I can learn, by any Popish Bishop.
3. No Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists or Meeting-Houses in this Parish.
4. No Quakers in this Parish.
5. Not One Person, as I know of, in this Parish of this Character.
6. Neither Vicar nor Curate reside in this Parish; but Both reside upon their Chaplainships at Christ Church in Oxford; The Curate serves no other Church; His Salary is under twenty Pounds pr Annum.
7. Publick Service is perform'd twice every Lord's Day and one Sermon preach'd : No chapel belonging to this Church; Children are Catechis'd in Lent: I know of no Persons that are not Baptiz'd in this Parish: The Sacrament is administred four Times in the Year; The Number of Communicants sometimes thirty sometimes forty and c.
8. There is a Free-School in this Parish for four poor Boys, endow'd only wth forty Shillings pr Annum.
9. Here is no voluntary Charity—School.
10. Here are some few Legacies to the Poor, to be given either in Money or in Bread, wch. is duly perform'd every week.
11. The Money given at the Offertory is carefully dispos'd of to the Poor by ye Curate and Church-Wardens.
12. My Lord,

I know of no other Matter, relating to the Parish of Cassington of wch. I can give your Lordship any Information, except, that the Vicarage-House is in very good Repair—I remain, wth all proper Respect, your Lordships most dutiful Son and Servant

O. Jones Curate [V. 5 Dec. 1738-75]  
[V. Jonathan Colley 1718-27 Oct. 1738]

<sup>1</sup>The Reynolds family had a private chapel in their house. Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *A History of the Post-Reformation Catholic Missions in Oxfordshire* (1905) p. 194.

## CAVERSHAM

1. The Parish of Caversham is about three miles in length and two in breadth. It contains but two Villages tho' a great number of scatter'd houses at a great distance from ye Church. The whole number of houses and cottages yt are inhabited according to ye best information I have been able to get amounts to about 146, 96 of which are cottages.

Its most considerable Families are the Lord Cadogan's<sup>1</sup>, Henry Smith's Esqr, Thomas Brigham's<sup>2</sup> Esqr and Mrs Loveday's.<sup>3</sup>

2. There are no Papists in my Parish.
3. There are two Presbyterians and one Anabaptist in my Parish Farmers. But no meeting house.
4. There are no Quakers in my Parish.
5. As there are many persons who live three miles from the parish Church yey cannot conveniently resort thither, however many of them with whom I have talked upon ys subject assure me yt yey generally go to the parish Church yt lyes next to them. I know of but one person in the Parish yt professes a disregard to all religion and absents herself from all publick worship And she is by report a person of very lewd and debauch'd life and conversation. She is supposed to be worth three thousand pounds wch I am inform'd was left her by her keeper.
6. I have been absent from my cure but Six weeks in the two years yt I have been possess'd of it. And ye Reason of yt absence was to see my Father whom I had not seen for some years before. Business indeed has now and then call'd me to Oxford for four or five days. I have no house to reside in and therefore am oblig'd to live in lodgings. I have no Curate.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords Day and one Sermon preach'd. Prayers are read upon Wednesdays and Fridays and all Holy Days, Unless I am prevented by illness or necessary business. There is no Chapel in my Parish. I Catechise upon Wednesdays and Fridays. No Unbaptiz'd persons yt I know of frequent publick worship. The Sacrament of ye Lords supper is administer'd the first Sunday in every month. At Easter Whitsuntide and Christmas there are usually about fourty Communicants at other times about ten.
8. There is neither Free-School, Hospital nor Alms-House in my Parish.
9. The Countess Dowager of Kildare<sup>4</sup> puts twelve poor children to school at two pence apiece p week they are taught to read ye Bible and to say the Church Catechism, there is no other provision made for them. The Lady Cadogan<sup>5</sup> puts twelve poor children to School in like manner.
10. The sum of 2000 pounds was given to the Parish by the late Earl of Kildare<sup>6</sup> but for wt particular use I cannot learn. It is at present out at Interest at four and a half per Cent and is applied by ye Officers of the Parish to put out poor Children Apprentices.  
The Sum of one and twenty pound is likewise out at Interest wch is dispos'd of to ye poor at ye discretion of the Officers of the Parish. But by whom and to wt uses it was given I cannot learn. And an acre of Ground let at seven shillings and six pence a year, by whom given and to wt uses I cannot learn is applied according to the pleasure of the Parish Officers.
11. The Money given at the Offertory is disposed of by myself. I pay so much a Quarter to a Schoolmistress for teaching ten poor children to read and the remainder I give to poor families when they happen to be sick.
12. I know of no other matter relating to the parish of wch it may be proper to inform your Lordship.

I may not have written so full an answer under Your Lordships Questions concerning catechizing as you may expect and therefore I here acquaint you yt I Examine such children as are sent to me by their parents, wch may be about 20 at a time, in the Church Catechism with-

out expounding it my-self or using any printed exposition. But if your Lordship will be pleas'd to recommend to me any particular Exposition I will for the future make use of it

I am, My Lord, Your Dutifull and Obedient Servant  
Francis Gastrell Minister of Caversham.

<sup>1</sup>The second Baron Cadogan (1685-1776) bought the manor of Caversham from the Earl of Kildare in 1718.

<sup>2</sup>Thomas Brigham, of Canon End, Lord of the manor.

<sup>3</sup>Sarah (d. 1761), widow of Thomas Loveday, of Caversham Rectory.

<sup>4</sup>Elizabeth (1665-1758), widow of the eighteenth Earl of Kildare.

<sup>5</sup>Elizabeth (d. 1768), daughter and coheirss of Sir Hans Sloane, Bart.

<sup>6</sup>The eighteenth Earl of Kildare (1661-1707), of Caversham Lodge.

#### CHADLINGTON AND SHORTHAMPTON

1. the extent of Chadling and Short-Hampton may be ten Miles. One Village called Chilson and an House which belongs to Rowland Lacy Esqr called Pudlicot. there are about an hundred and thirty Families. The Families of note are Sir William Osbaldeston,<sup>1</sup> William Rawlinson and William Diston Esqrs.
2. I do not know of any Papist in the parish.
3. None to my Knowledge.
4. There are two poor families, call'd Quakers at Chilson they have no Meeting-House in the Town, they come to Charlbury Meeting-House.
5. I dont know of any Person who disregards Religion and who absents himself from all publick Worship of God on the Lords Day.
6. Mr Arrowsmith<sup>2</sup> resides constantly at Charlbury. Doctor Haywood<sup>3</sup> allows him, I suppose, thirty-pounds per Annum.
7. Publick Service is duly performed once every Lord's day in the Morning and one Sermon preach'd at Chadlington. Prayers and Sermon at Short Hampton in the Afternoon. Prayers are read at Chadlington upon other certain Solemn Days, for which particular Services are appointed. Catechize in both places in Lent. the Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administred four times a year at both places. At Chadlington abt forty. At Short Hampton seventeen or thereabouts receive it each time.
8. None.
9. None.
10. there is the Anset Lecture<sup>4</sup> at Chadlington, which amounts to about Ten pounds per Annum one Year with another. this estate was given to the town, to pay so much out of it for Lecture-Sermons, which are preach'd every Summer by Mr Arrowsmith and I. they are carefully preserved, (I believe) and applied to their proper uses.
11. By the Minister and Church-Wardens.
12. I dont know of any Other Matter relating to the Parish, of which it may be proper to give You Information.

<sup>1</sup>Sir William Osbaldeston, 4th Bart. (c. 1687-1739), of Chadlington.

<sup>2</sup>John Arrowsmith, R. of Wilcot 1734-61.

<sup>3</sup>Thomas Heywood, V. of Charlbury 1726-47.

<sup>4</sup>Alice Hemming by will dated 1639 devised a property in Orset, Essex, out of which a lecture was to be maintained in the chapel of Chadlington.

## CHALBURY

1. The Extent is about seven miles. Two Villages Finstock and Fawler, it comprehends abt five hundred Houses. there are three Families of Note in it. The Earl of Clarendon,<sup>1</sup> Sir Robt Banks Jenkinson,<sup>2</sup> and John Sutton Esqr.
2. There are two Papists in the Parish, Esqr Sutton's Lady and waiting woman. I do not know of any Person that has lately been perverted to Popery. We have no place in the Parish in which they assemble for Worship—No Popish Priest resides in it, but one resorts to it sometimes, and they call his Name Brookes<sup>3</sup>—No popish School—no Confirmation or Visitation has been held in the Parish.
3. There is but one only Presbyterian Family, and that is a Shoemaker's—There is no meeting—House in the parish.
4. There are about twenty Quakers in the Parish and I think their number to be lessen'd of late years, they have a meeting House<sup>4</sup> in the Parish, and they tell me duly licenc'd, they meet there every Lord's-Day and sometimes oftener, I believe they pay Doctor Heywood his legal Dues very readily for I never heard him complain of them.
5. I have no Person in the Parish, that disregards or commonly absents himself from all publick Worship of God on the Lord's Day.
6. Doctor Heywood, You are sensible My Lord, doth not reside on occasion of his ill State of Health, but I constantly reside in the parish and serve no other Cure, He allows me thirty pounds per annum.
7. Publick service is duly perform'd twice every Lord's Day and one Sermon Preach'd—Prayers Wednesdays, Fridays and all Holy-Days and Holy day eves constantly read—there is no chapel—Catechize allways in Lent the parishioners duly send their Children to be instructed—I expound it to them myself, and Dr Heywood has distributed Several printed Expositions. I do not know of any Person that frequents publick Worship, who is not Baptiz'd. The Sacrament is administred six times in the year, thirty or forty usually receive it each time.
8. Hospital or Alms-House we have none. A Free-School we have founded by one Mrs. Walker<sup>5</sup>—Brazen-Nose College is Trustee The Revenues of it are, forty pounds per annum to be paid by Brazen-nose College, to a Schoolmaster. Mr. Arrowsmith is SchoolMaster at present, the Revenues are carefully preserv'd and employ'd as they ought, and Statutes Ordinances well observ'd.
9. We have no Charity School in the parish.
10. We have no Lands and c given to our Church, there are sixteen Loaves given to sixteen poor Widows every first Sunday in the month for ever by Sir Robert Bankes-Jenkinson's Family and they are carefully applied to those uses.
11. The money given at the Offertory is disposed of by the Minister and the two Church-Wardens to the poor, as they shall think proper.
12. I do not know of anything more of which it may be proper to give You Information.

From Your Lordships most dutiful Son

George Sheppard.

[V. Thomas Heywood 1726-47]

<sup>1</sup>Henry Hyde, fourth Earl of Clarendon (1672-1753), of Cornbury Park.

<sup>2</sup>Sir Robert Banks Jenkinson, 4th Bart. (1687-2 July 1738), of Walcot, Charlbury.

<sup>3</sup>Father Ignatius Brooke S.J. was superior of the Catholic Mission in Oxfordshire 1743-7. Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *A History of the Post-Reformation Catholic Missions in Oxfordshire* (1905) p. 344.

<sup>4</sup>Built in 1681. J. Kibble, *Historical and other Notes on Charlbury* (1927) p. 28.

<sup>5</sup>The Grammar School was founded in or about 1687 by Anne Walker, of London, with an endowment bequeathed for this purpose to the Principal and Fellows of Brazenose College. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I p. 466 f.

#### CHALGRAVE

1. In Chalgrave there are Houses and Cottages about 60. In Berrick (annexed to Chalgrave) about 20. There is one Gentleman's Family at Chalgrave, whose name is Adeane.<sup>1</sup> There is no Family of Note.
2. There is no Papist in my Parish.
3. There is no Presbyterian, Independant, nor Anabaptist in my Parish.
4. There is no Quaker in my parish.
5. There is at Berrick a Family of Sabbatarians<sup>2</sup>, wch. hath been settled there many years. The man is a Farmer; his name is Wise; There are many of that Sect in the neighbouring Villages (as I am informd) who meet at his House; but besides him, there are none in my Parish.
6. Having resided at Chalgrave near 13 years, and from the low situation of the place having contracted a bad habit of body, I was advised by my Physician, and had the leave of the late Bishop, to live in Oxford; 8 miles distant from Chalgrave. My Curate is W. Darby A.M. Fellow of Merton College; not licenced. He constantly resides in my House, and serves no other Cure. I allow him £30 a year.
7. At Chalgrave there is publick Service twice every Lords Day, and a Sermon in the Morning. At the Chappel at Berrick (a mile distant) there is public Service and a Sermon every Lord's Day in the Afternoon. There is Catechizing in the Church every Sunday during Lent at Chalgrave and Berrick alternately. My Curate uses some printed Exposition; what it is, I dont know. I know not of any persons who frequent publick Worship, and are not baptized. The Sacrament is administered 4 times in the year, and there is commonly a large number of Communicants.
8. There is no Free-School, Hospital, nor Almshouse.
9. There is no Charity-School.
10. There are Lands at Chalgrave let at the yearly Rent of £20; wch. were given for the repairs and ornaments of the Church. Upon my coming thither I found that they had been misapplied for many years, and took care that they were afterwards applyd to the use onely for wch. they were given. But in the year 1727 the Tower of the Church falling, the Trustees (all of them Farmers in the Parish) to save an Assessment for rebuilding the Tower, agreed to mortgage the Lands: wch. I complained of to the late Bishop, and was inform'd that it was not in my power to prevent it.
- 10 The money given at the Offertory is distributed in the Church by the Church-wardens among the poor of the Parish who are Communicants.
12. I know not of any other matter, of which I can give Your Lordship Information

G. Villiers.<sup>3</sup> [V. 1723-48]

<sup>1</sup>Simon Whorwood Adeane (d. 1749), ancestor of the Adeanes of Babraham, Cambridgeshire.

<sup>2</sup>Cf. WATLINGTON p. 163.

<sup>3</sup>The Rev. George Villiers (1690-1748) claimed to be recognised as Earl of Buckingham.

CHARLTON ON OTMERE

1. The Parish of Charlton upon Otmere is about Six Miles and a  $\frac{1}{2}$  in Circumference, containing forty five yard Lands wch. taken at a Medium, are worth twenty five pounds a Year : Three of these yard—Lands are Glebe : It consists of three Villages or Hamlets wch. contain ninety five Houses, and about four Hundred and fifty Inhabitants including Children wch. are very numerous : There are no Families of any Note or Consequense in it.
- 2, 3, 4. There is no Papist nor Dissenter of any Denomination whatsoever in the Parish.
5. There are no Persons in the Parish who profess to disregard Religion or who commonly absent themselves from all publick Worship on the Lord's Day except two or Three : And I sincerely believe that this Neglect does not proceed from any Contempt or disregard of ye manner of Worship used in the Church of England but is rather the Effect of Sloth and Idleness. I have often laid before Them the extreme Danger of such a Course of Life, and They now promis'd Me that They will constantly attend the Prayers and Sacramts. of ye Church for the future, wch if They shall hereafter omit to do, They shall Undoubtedly be presented either by my self or the Church-Wardens.
6. I reside constantly as Curate in the Parish, and in the House belonging to the Rector, with a Salary of forty Guineas a Year.
7. Publick Service is perform'd twice evey Lord's Day, and one Sermon preached. I read Prayers on most Holidays and every Day in ye Passion-week. There is no chapel in the Parish. I catechize every Sunday in Lent. My parishioners duly send their children to be instructed, but I never can prevail wth. the Servants to come; who I take for granted suppose themselves to be too old for such Discipline: And as they are yearly moving from one Parish to another, They will always be the most disorderly and ungovernable Part of a Clergy-man's charge. I administer the Sacrament five times a year viz. on Christmas-Day Palm-Sunday, Easter Day, Whitsunday and the Sunday after the Feast of St. Michael. At Easter I have usually about a Hundred and fifty Communicants at the other Seasons commonly about fourscore.
8. There is no Free-School, Hospital, or Alms House in the Parish.
9. There is no Voluntary Charity School in it.
10. There are two Estates in the Parish chargeable wth. each five shillings a Year to be given to the Poor in Bread on Christmas-Day, which is carefully applied to that Purpose, and no other.

Farmer John Kirby had an estate out of wch. £5 a year was to be pd to the poor in bread at Christmass this bread hath not been given of 6 or 7 years : last year it was given. Since Lady-day last Mr Hill hath bought this Estate. No other in bread. This and wt follows from John Harris.

£5 left he thinks by Dr Ayrey Rector<sup>1</sup> dead a good many years left he thinks to the next Rector the Interest of it to be given in money to

the poor: No interest hath been given of this for these 14 years or perhaps longer.

£20 left by Mr Wm Haughton<sup>2</sup> (brother to Dr Haughton<sup>3</sup> he supposes) to employ the poor; this mans father who was a Weaver had it for many years and bought Hemp for poor: he paid it in abt 20 years to Dr Yates<sup>4</sup> then Minister.

£10 left by Dr Lamplugh Rector<sup>5</sup> 10s a year to be given to the poor at Christmass, not given this 14 years.

£5 yearly was pd out of Farmer Levet and £5 out of Mr Thrustons Estate. He remembers its being given to poor. It is now not given.

This Money abt 14 years ago was employd to pay house rent for some poor widows. Abt that time they bought a house and put three widows into it.

With this money they bought a house which they now put 3 poor people to and so save part of their poors rate: whereas this should be employed in relieving and helping to work such as do not receive the Collection money.

June 25, 1739.<sup>6</sup>

11. The Money given at the Offertory is disposed of by the Minister and Church-Wardens to the Poor People who receive the H. Sacrament, the Day on which the offerings are made.
12. There is nothing else that I know of, that is material enough to give Yr Lordship Information of as

Witness my Hand

Benjn. Hill Curate of Charleton upon Otmere.

[John Hill V. 1721-45]

<sup>1</sup>Henry Ayray D.D. R. 1606-15, Provost of the Queen's College 1599, Vice-Chancellor 1606.

<sup>2</sup>William Halton, Vicar of Probus, Cornwall.

<sup>3</sup>Timothy Halton D.D. R. 1685-1704, Archdeacon of Oxford 1675, Provost of the Queen's College 1677, Vice-Chancellor 1679-82.

<sup>4</sup>Thomas Yates R. 1704-21.

<sup>5</sup>Thomas Lamplugh (1615-91) D.D. R. 1659, V. of St. Martins-in-the-Fields 1670, Archdeacon of London 1664, Canon of Worcester 1669, Dean of Rochester 1673, Bishop of Exeter 1676, Archbishop of York 1688. *D.N.B.*

<sup>6</sup>This note is appended in a different hand, possibly Secker's.

#### CHASTLETON

1. The Parish of Chasleton is near two miles in Extent including a little Hamlet call'd Brook-End. It comprehends in the whole about twenty Houses Cottages included. The Families of chief Note here are those of Thomas Greenwood<sup>1</sup> and John Jones<sup>2</sup> Esquires. And I must do these Gentleman the Justice to acknowledge, that it is in a great measure owing to their care and good Example, that this parish is Second to none in the Diocese in point of good order and Uniformity.
2. There are no Papists or any lately perverted to popery within this parish. Here is no place of Worship for any such. No Popish Bishop, priest or School Master doth reside in, or on any Occasion, resort to this parish.
3. There are no Presbyterians Independents or Anabaptists within this parish.

4. No Quakers are in this parish.
5. There are no persons in this parish who profess to disregard Religion, or who commonly absent themselves from all publick Worship of God on the Lords Day.
6. I reside constantly upon my Cure, and in the House belonging to it from Michaelmas to Lady Day. The other part of the year I employ upon another Living about four or five Miles distant from this. I have here a Licenced Curate Residing within half a mile of the parish Church. His name is Walker. He Serves no other Cure within this Diocese, But when I am resident here He removes to my other Living. I allow Him thirty five pounds a year, besides Mortuaries and other Fees.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords Day in this parish and one Sermon preach'd. Prayers are read here on every Holiday and upon every Wednesday and Friday throughout the year. No Chapel in this parish. The usual time of Catechising here hath been on Sundays att Evening Service during the Season of Lent, and sometimes longer in regard to the Number of Catechumens. The Farmers here have been carefull to teach their Children the Catechism, and to bring them to Church to be farther Instructed. Att present here are only a few poor Children under five years of age for whose sake I have lately appointed a person to teach School : and Shall take Care as they advance in years to Qualifie them for Confirmation. No unbaptized persons frequent the publick Worship. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is Administred here six times in the Year to as many Communicants as can be expected in So Small a parish.
8. No Free School, Hospital or Alms-House in this Parish.
9. No Voluntary Charity-School in this parish but that for a few poor Children before mention'd.
10. No Lands, Tenements, Tithes or pensions or Sums of money to be placed out at Interest, have been given att anytime to the Church or poor of this parish.  
P.S. I have receiv'd Information, Since I wrote the Above that there was thirty pounds given formerly, by three Several persons, to the poor of this parish, the Interest of which is now applied to their use.
11. The Money given at the Offertory hath for Several years past been apply'd to the putting out poor Children Apprentices at the Discretion of the Minister and Chief Inhabitants.
12. My Lord,

You have here a true and faithful account of the present State of this parish : and I know not any other Matter, of which it may be proper to give your Lordship Information.

I am Your Lordships

most Dutiful and Obedient Servant

July ye 20th 1738

Jno Ingram.<sup>3</sup> Rector of Chasleton [1735-52]

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Greenwood (d. 1749), of Chasleton.

<sup>2</sup>John Jones (1699-1739), of Chasleton House.

<sup>3</sup>V. of Whichford, Warwickshire, 1722.

#### CHECKINDEN

1. The Parish is about four or five Miles in Length, but very narrow. There are no Villages nor Hamlets in it. It comprehends about Thirty Houses and Cottages. There are no Families of Note in it.



2. As to the Second Article with relation to Popery, we have no thing of that Nature in ye Parish.
3. We have no Dissenters of any kind but Presbyterians, and but one poor Family of them. We have no Meeting-House.
4. We have no Quakers in ye Parish.
5. There are no Persons, that I know of, who profess to disregard Religion, but there are Several that often absent themselves from all publick Worship of God on ye Lord's Day, some at one time some at another, upon different Accounts.
6. Mr Tudor the Rector is disabled, and has been for Some Years, from officiating, by the Gout ; he resides in ye Summer at ye Parsonage House, but withdraws for his Health in ye Winter. I am his Curate, always resident, but not in the Parish, there being no House convenient there, but so near as to attend all ye Duties of ye Parish, as well as if I was resident in it. I serve no other Cure. My Salary is Fourty Pounds a year and the Surplice Fees which are so small that, being oblig'd to rent a House, my Salary is less than Fourty Pounds a Year.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lord's Day in ye Ch, and one Sermon preach'd. I read prayers often on Week-days, and would oftener, could I have a Congregation. There is no Chapel in ye Parish. I Catechize during Lent, but Few come to be Catechiz'd ; and sometimes expound. There are no adult Persons unbaptiz'd that I know of in ye Parish. The Sacramt is administer'd Six times a Year. Sometimes there are pretty many Communicants.
8. There is no Free-School, Hospital or Alms House in ye Parish.
9. There is no Voluntary Charity—School in ye Parish.
10. There are two Small Rent Charges given towards cloathing some of our Poor annually, to ye amount of £19 a Year, regularly applied. There are Coats and Gowns also given to ye Poor annually which are dispos'd of according to ye Wills of ye Benefactors. There is a considerable Estate in Land and Money, held by ye Trustees of Mr Allnutt's Alms-House on Goring-Heath<sup>1</sup> for Some of our Poor for putting out of Apprentices. The Poor have what was given them. But Apprentices are not put out according to ye Directions of ye Will.
11. The Money given at ye Offertory is dispos'd of amongst ye poor Communicants, and some other Objects of Charity in ye Parish.
12. There is no other Matter, that I know of, relating to ye Parish, that I think necessary at present to give your Lordship Information of  
Coventry Lichfield<sup>2</sup> Curate.

[R. William Tudor 1711-46]

<sup>1</sup>Cf. GORING p. 69.

<sup>2</sup>Mr. Lichfield was appointed the first Chaplain of Allnutt's Hospital in 1742.

#### CHESTERTON

1. The Extent of the Parish is about six Miles. One Hamlet not above half a Mile from the Village. The Village contains thirty two Houses the Hamlet (wch. is called Little Town) Eleven. The most noted Family is that of the Berties.<sup>1</sup>
2. Papists we have none.
3. We have two Presbyterians the One an Old Man kept by the Parish,

the other a Farmer at Little Town a married man, His Wife and Children come constantly to Church, Independents or Anabaptists none.

4. There are no Quakers.
5. There are no such in the Parish.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lords Day and one Sermon preached. There are Prayers upon Ash-wednesday, Good Friday, Mun: and Tuesday in Easter Week Mun: and Tues: in Whit. Week and c. I catechize once a Year during the time of Lent and expound. The Parishioners duly send their children. There are no Persons who frequent publick Worship and are not baptize'd. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administred upon the 3 great Festivals, Palm Sunday and the 1st Sunday in every Month unless it falls very near one of the Times above mention'd. I have never had less than fifteen nor above 35 Communicants.
8. There is no Free-School, Hospital or Alms-House in the Parish.
9. There is no voluntary Charity-School in ye Parish.
10. Drusilla Bowell of Bister Spinster has left two 3rds of her Estate Yearly to the Binding of two poor Boys Apprentices of Mean Parents in the County of Oxon and that particular Regard be had to great Chesterton to take one Boy there every other Year if there be fit objects; if not to other charitable Uses, particularly five Pounds a piece to every of my poor Boys as shall be bound Apprentice and shall faithfully serve his Master to help set him up in his Trade. What the Estate is, is unknown to any body at Chesterton; five Pounds have been allow'd as 3rds but the Parish not thinking that sum sufficient have for several Years past neglected it. This is a small Part of her Will which is to be found in your Lordships' Court.
11. We have no Offerings.
12. I know of Nothing worth mentioning to your Lordship

I am My Lord  
Your Lordships' Most dutiful Son and Servant  
Lan: Michell.  
[V. 26 Jan. 1739-56]

My Lord,

I Received the Favour of your Lordships' Letter, and am very sorry I cant as yet return any satisfactory Answer to your Lordship's Enquiries in Relation to Mrs Bowel's Legacy. I have made and shall make it my Business, to get a perfect Account and acquaint your Lordship with it.

As to my Non-Residence, Your Lordship was so kind as to dispence with it upon my procuring, what your Lordship should think a sufficient Supply in my Absence. Mr Bertie<sup>2</sup> who lives upon the Spot, and is seldom from Home, has undertaken the weekly Duty. And in Case he should be absent, Mr Welborn Minister of Wendlebury the adjoining Parish has promised his Assistance.

I am my Lord  
Your Lordship's most dutiful Son and Servant  
Lan: Michell.

<sup>1</sup>See below.

<sup>2</sup>Presumably the Rev. Charles Montagu Bertie, of Uffington, Lincolnshire.

## CHINNOR

1. The Parish of Chinnor is about three Miles in length, a Mile and a half in breadth, has two Villages, Henton and Oakley; about fourscore Houses in it, but no Family of Note.
2. Not any.
3. Not any.
4. Not any.
5. Not any.
6. I reside constantly in ye Parsonage House.
7. All the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church are duly and regularly perform'd. The Sacramt administred five times in the year, at which there are a great number of Communicants.
8. Not any.
9. Not any.
10. One Hundred Pound is out at Interest, which Interest is distributed to the Poor by the Officers of the Parish.
11. The Church-Wardens take the Offerings and divide it amongst the Poor People who attend at the Holy Sacrament.
12. This is all the information that can be given by

My Ld  
Yr Lordships Most obed't Servt  
Cha: Huggins Rector of Chinnor. [1728-50]

## CHIPPING NORTON

1. The Parish of Chipping Norton is extended where longest about three miles in breadth in most places at least two. The Villages contain'd in it Overnorton, the Manour of the Bartlets, with a Few Single Houses, Such as the Priory,<sup>1</sup> Chapel upon the Heath<sup>2</sup> and c. The Number of Houses three hundred and Seventy more or less. In Overnorton resides James Dawkins Esq. member of Parliamt. for the Borough of Woodstock.<sup>3</sup> In Market Towns Seldom any persons of Note
2. There are in my Parish Seven Familys that are Papist, chiefly mechanicks. They came most of them from neighbouring Villages. There hath been for a Short time amongst them a Popish Priest, who goes by the name of Barton. Visitation, or Confirmation there hath been none that I know of. Their Suppos'd Bishp lives near us.<sup>4</sup>
3. The Protestant Dissenters are about twenty five familys. This number of late years considerably decreas'd. they have a meeting House, their Teacher Mr Thorley.<sup>7</sup> And I believe duly licensed.
4. We have of Quakers (tho of late years manifestly decreas'd) near eighteen Familys. Few pay to me any dues, and Compulsion I have never made use of.
5. To this Article I am not able to give a distinct answer.
6. I do constantly reside upon My Cure, and in the House belonging to it.
7. Publick Service is duly and Solemnly performed every Lord's Day, and two Serms. constantly preached. Two Serms besides the occasional ones constantly preached, and the afternoons Lectures adapted to the Exposition of the Catechism.
8. We have a Free-School, Founded by King James the First, with a Small Salary, under the Direction of the Corporation. We have likewise two

or three Almshouses ;<sup>7</sup> in one three or fourpence per Week allowed to Each poor widw. the rest unendow'd. They are under the Care of the Overseers of the Poor.

9. We have no School at all Supported by voluntary Subscriptions.
10. None that I know of are misapplied.
11. By myself and Church wardens and that entirely to the poor inhabitants of the parish.
12. Of this, my Ld, I may probably be capable of giving you a clearer Information hereafter, than now I am able to do.

Richard Eaton

July 20 1738

Vicar of Chippingnorton. [1721-40]

<sup>1</sup>Cold Norton priory.

<sup>2</sup>Cf. G. B. Hill (ed.), *Boswell's Life of Johnson* II (1934) p. 451—"We dined at an excellent inn at Chapel-house, where he expatiated on the felicity of England in its taverns and inns. . ."

<sup>3</sup>James Dawkins (1696-1766), M.P. for Woodstock 1734-47.

<sup>4</sup>James Talbot Stonor (1678-1756), consecrated in 1716 titular Bishop of Thespia. He became Vicar Apostolic of the Midland District of the English Mission. J. Kirk, *Biographies of the English Catholics in the Eighteenth Century* (1909) pp. 220 f.

<sup>5</sup>John Thorley was minister of the Baptist Chapel 1699-1759. Cf. 'Chipping Norton Baptist Church 1694-1944' in *The Baptist Quarterly* XI (1942-5) pp. 282 ff. Thorley was also noted as a bee-keeper. H. E. Salter in *Report of the North Oxfordshire Archaeological Society* (1936) pp. 131 f.

<sup>6</sup>*V.C.H. Oxon.* I pp. 467 f. A royal charter of incorporation was granted in 1667.

<sup>7</sup>Founded by the will of Henry Cornish dated 1649.

#### CHURCHILL

1. The Parish is betwixt three and four miles in length, and about a mile and a half in breadth. There is no other village, only one house in a neighbouring village belonging to it. It contains fourscore and eight houses, but there is no Family of note in it.
4. There is no Papist, Quaker or Dissenter of any sort in the Parish.
5. There are no persons who profess to disregard Religion, or who commonly absent themselves from Church on the Lords Day.
6. I reside at Sarsden but half a mile distant, and supply both places myself.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd every Lords Day, and one Sermon preach'd. And there are usually Prayers on Saints Days. I hear the Children their Catechism in Lent, but have not time to expound it for the reason given under the same Article for Sarsden. There are four Sacraments in a year, and sometimes fifty or sixty persons at a Sacramt.
8. There is a free School founded by Mrs. Anne Walter for Girls of the Parishes of Churchill and Sarsden. The number is left to the discretion of the Governrs who are Gentlemen in the Neighbourhood, and the Revenue in Land is £24 : 10 : 0. The School Mistress teaches them to work, read, and say their Catechism, and they are cloath'd yearly, as far as the mony will hold out.
9. There are ten Boys kept at School by the Lady Dowager Harcourt,<sup>1</sup> they are cloath'd every year, taught to read say their Catechism, and some of them to write. And when they leave the School they have each of

them a Bible, Common Prayer Book, and Whole Duty of man<sup>2</sup> given them. For which she allows ten pounds ten shillings a year.

10. There are an hundred and fifteen pounds plac'd out at Interest, £50 given by Mr Edmund Wansell and £20 by Mr Richard Hacker. (The other Benefactors are not known) The Interest is dispos'd of yearly amongst the Poor of the Parish.
10. The money given at the Offertory is dispos'd of by the Minister and Church-Wardens to the Poor of the Parish, and chiefly to those who were at the Sacrament.
12. I have nothing else to inform your Lordship of at present.

Nat. Sturges Minister of Churchill.

[R. of Sarsden 1720-62]

<sup>1</sup>Elizabeth (d. 1748), third wife of the first Viscount Harcourt, and widow of Sir John Walter, 3rd Bart., of Sarsden.

<sup>2</sup>First published in 1658 and in many subsequent editions. Authorship is attributed to Richard Allestree (1619-81). *D.N.B.*

#### CLANFIELD

1. The Parish of Clanfield is about a Mile long and three Miles in Circumference. One Hamlet. The Number of Houses about fourty. The Inhabitants all Husbandmen and Labourers.
2. No Papist in the Parish nor Popish Priest.
3. Not one Dissenter or meeting House.
4. Not one Quaker or meeting House.
5. There are too many who absent themselves from publick Worship on the Lord's Day and those chiefly Servants, employing themselves in Fishing, Fowling and such like Exercises.
6. I reside at Bampton, one Mile distant, being Master of the Free-School there. Henry Shepheard is my Curate, and resides at Oxford. His Salary is £20 per ann.<sup>1</sup>
7. Service is perform'd twice two Sundays in Three and the third Sunday only once in the Afternoon. There are no Prayers on the Week Days. The Catechism is expounded every third Sunday. The Sacrament is administred four times in the Year, and about Twenty Persons usually receive it at each time.
8. There is no Free-school, Hospital or Alms-house.
9. There is no Charity School in our Parish.
10. There is a gift of five Pounds a Year left by Mr Wilmot<sup>2</sup> of our Parish and charg'd upon his Estate, to be dispos'd of to the Poor, which is accordingly done.
11. The Money at the Offertory is disposed of to the Poor of the Parish by the Minister and Church-wardens.
12. There is no other Matter, I know of, of which it may be proper to give your Lordship Information.

Tho: Middleton<sup>3</sup> Vicr. de Clanfield. [1731-82]

<sup>1</sup>Marginal note in Secker's hand—"No scholars."

<sup>2</sup>Leonard Wilmot by deed dated 1608.

<sup>3</sup>In July 1750 the Vicar of Bampton represented to the Bishop that Mr. Middleton at that time was "the greatest pluralist in these Parts." MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers c. 653 f. 21.

## CORNWELL

1. The length of the parish might be computed att a Mile and half, it contains one Village wherein are twelve Families and there are three Families in ye parish besides. We have George Smith Esqr living in ye seat belonging to ye Family of the Penystons The Heir Being under age.
2. We have a Miller that is a Roman Catholick by education but since he settled with us he comes to prayers and sermon but not to ye Sacramt. neither has he publickly renounc'd ye tenets of Popery.
3. We have no dissenters in the parish.
4. We have no Quakers in the parish nor meeting house.
5. Our church is generally full in ye morning but some are not so forwards in ye afternoon as cd be heartily wish'd But Blessed be God more in ye afternoon yn formerly.
6. I constantly reside upon the Cure and live in ye parsonage house.
7. There is Publick Service twice every lords day and one sermon preached and service on holy days. I catechise generally every Lord's day I make use of a printed exposition but ye authors name is not to it, but I approve of it for ye shortness of its answers. ye Sacramt. of the Lords Supper is administred monthly no sermon on ye Sacramt. Sunday,<sup>1</sup> sometimes we have ten or a dozen sometimes more, sometimes not so many.
8. We have no free School, hospital or Alms house in the parish.
9. We have an English School for as many children as our Sacramt. money will be able to discharge and this is kept by a widdow and they are taught to read and learn ye Catechism
10. I hear there has been twelve pds left for ye use of the poor of our parish but ye persons are dead who had ye money and have not left wherewithal to discharge their debts.
11. The disposal of the Sacramt. money is left to me wch is apply'd for the Schooling of ye Children.

John Tucker. [R. 1730-58]

<sup>1</sup>The Bishop objected to the omission of the sermon on the Sacrament Sundays. MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers c. 651 f. 20.

## COTTESFORD

1. The circuit of ye Parish is abt four Miles: Mrs Lord is ye only Person of Note; There is one Farm House and twelve Cottages.
2. The only Papist is a Farmer's Daughter. I have nothing material to say wth regard to ye other Queries.
3. No Meeting-House nor Dissenter.
4. No Quakers nor Meeting-House.
5. They come to Church as regularly as can well be expected.
6. I constantly supply my Vicarage of Hurley in Berks, wch. is abt 28 miles distant from Cottesford, tho' my Family lives at a small Hospital in Bucks<sup>1</sup> of wch. I am Master. I allow Mr Lord my residing Curate £27=16=6 a Year besides Surplice Fees and Easter Offerings: He serves no other Cure, but is not licens'd.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lord's Day. Prayers on Holy-Days. People neglect to send their Children to be catechiz'd. No unbaptized Persons. A Sacramt. thrice in ye Year and abt ten Communicants.

8. No Free School nor charitable Foundation.
9. No such School.
10. I receive £12 a year upon Acct. of ye Bounty of Q : Anne procur'd by Dr Godolphin late Provost of Eton :<sup>2</sup> The Mony is not yet laid out in a Purchase. No Benefactions to ye Poor.
11. No money given at ye Offertory.
12. There is nothing.

Ja: Smith<sup>3</sup> Rectr. of Cottisford. (1727-68]

<sup>1</sup>Stoke Poges.

<sup>2</sup>In 1723 a grant of £200 was given by the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty to meet a life benefaction from the Dean of St. Pauls. This sum was laid out in 1761 in the purchase of 16 acres of land in Barford St. Michael. J. C. Blomfield, *History of Cottisford* etc. (n.d.) p. 33. The Provost and Fellows of Eton College were the patrons of the living. Henry Godolphin (1648-1733) was Provost of Eton from 1695 and Dean of St. Paul's 1707-26.

<sup>3</sup>V. of Hurley, Berkshire, 1723-68.

COWLEY

1. One Village with about three score Houses.
2. No Papists and c.
3. No Dissenters and c.
4. No Quakers.
5. Some few Persons of low Rank who seldom attend ye Service.
6. A Curacy under ye Dean and Chapter of Xt Church two miles from Oxford where ye Curate resides.
7. Yes. Usually on ye Solemn Festivals. In Lent. No. Sacramts on ye Solemn Festivals and usually three or four times in ye Year besides. The Communicants between thirty and fifty.
8. No Free-School and c.
9. No Charity School.
10. Five Pounds in ye Hands of ye Ch. Wardens for ye Time being and ye Interest thereof paid annually to ye Poor.
11. By ye Minister and Churchwardens to ye Poor.
12. No.

Nath. Sandford.

CROMARSH

1. The parish is but small, as to the extent of it there are eight and twenty houses in it, but no family of any note in it.
2. there are no papists in the parish.
3. there are no Presbyterians Independents or Anabaptists in the parish.
4. there are no Quakers in the parish.
6. I reside constantly in the parsonage house.
7. publick Service is performed twice every Lords day and one Sermon preached, prayers are read on all holy dayes, the children are alwayes catechized in lent, the Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administred five times every year.
8. there is no free School, Hospital or Alms-house in the parish.
9. there is no charity—School in the parish.
10. there are two acres of land belonging to the church, the money is layed out in ornaments.

Robt. Selwood rector.<sup>1</sup> [1690-1750]  
Cromersh Sept 20 1738

May it please your Lorship,

I received your letter, and I have here sent the answers to what your Lordship desires. My curate is one Mr Eaton fellow of Brazen-nose College, where hee resides, and I allow him six pounds ten shillings a quarter. I have usually at Cromersh about twenty Communicants, and at Mungwell about ten, 'tis a very little parish. I have at Cromersh two Absenters, they are poor loose fellows, one of them does promise to come to Church, and I hope hee will ; I am afraide I shall not prevail on the other by fair means, and I am informed that hee should say if the Church Wardens presented him he would goe to a meeting house.

I am my Lord

Your most obedient Servt.

Robt. Selwood

<sup>1</sup>R. of Mongewell 1703-50.

#### CROPREDY

My Lord,

Mr Wardle of Banbury<sup>1</sup> Some time Since came to me and read two or three lines of a Letter, wherein your Ldship desir'd Some account of this Parish. In answer I told him I should be very ready to oblige you with it. On Fryday last he brought me your Ldships Queries, the answers to wch are as follow.

The Parish of Cropredy is Several Miles in circumference and consists of 10 Villages or Hamlets, 367 families and 2 of note.

Families of	{	Papists 1
		Dissenters 11
		Quakers 1

Few absent entirely from publick worship and of those that do, several plead deafness, lameness, old age or some other infirmity. I always reside in the Vicarage House at Cropredy. The Curate Mr Short boards at Cleydon and hath £30 p. an Salary and Surplus fees.

Within the Parish are three Chapels besides the Mother Church, at a mile's distance from each other. Mollington and Cleydon Chapels are supply'd by the Curate, the Mother Church and the Chapel at Wardenton by my self, and at each of them we read prayers and preach every Lords day.

The Children are catechizd in Lent and have in my part of the Parish Lewis's exposition<sup>2</sup> to learn by heart, several dozens of which I gave among them. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is duly administred 4 times in the year at each Church and there are generally about 100 Communicants at Cropredy, but at the Chapels a less number. In Lent and on most Holy days I read prayers at both my Churches ; and the Curate would do the Same at his if he could get a Congregation.

There are two free Schools in the Parish, the one at Williamscot<sup>3</sup> endow'd with a Salary of £15, the other at Great Bourton<sup>4</sup> with £24, and both at present of little use, thro the incapacity of the Masters. The former is a Grammar, the latter an English School. The Several Benefactions left to the Poor are duly paid. One of £100 wch my wife's first Husband gave by Will to the Poor of Great and Little Bourton is in the Annuities, and the interest I distribute every Xtnas. As to the money given at the Offertory 'tis divided by the Church-Wardens or my self amongst the poorer Sort of the Communicants.



The value of the Living is about £160 p ann, but after the Curates Salary, expenses for collecting the Tythes, Tenths, Taxes, Constables Levys and Poor's rates are paid, it Scarce amounts to £120.

	£	s.	d.
At Mollington ye Glebe is lett for	1	3	4
The Chapel yard, House and Orchard	1	15	0
At Cleydon a yard land Glebe.	10	0	0
the Chapel yard House and Garden.	1	6	0
At Wardenton the Glebe and Commons.	17	3	4
House and Chapel yard.	2	0	0
At Cropredy the Glebe with ye Churchyard.	6	10	0

The Vicarage House and Premises were much out of repair when I came upon the Living, and my Predecessor dying poor, no dilapidations could be procur'd. I have expended upon them £150 at the least, and made my house much more commodious for a family than it was. Every year I do something, and intend to do more if God permits.

Thro' close application I have contracted an ill habit of body and begin to find the duty of two great Churches too heavy for me. Every winter I am subject to a severe cold and hoarseness that confine me for 2 months to my house. During that time, I trouble several neighbours to supply for me and cannot return their favour because I have always two Churches on my hands. On this account I am minded to keep another resident Curate, and allow him £30 a year, tho' tis my intention to do part of my duty every Lord's Day and read prayers here at Cropredy every Holy-day. For the benefit of the Parish I propos'd at the last Visitation that the intended Curate should teach the School at Williamscot and the present School-Master agreed before Dr Trimnel,<sup>5</sup> and is still willing to allow him half his Salary: but the proposal has disgusted the Gentleman who has the nomination of a School-master. If your Lordship desires any further information I shall be ready to favour you with it (notwithstanding any insinuations to the contrary by those, who are without reason, my back-friends) being desirous to approve myself at all times

My Lord

Your Ldship's most obedient and humble Servt

Cropredy Aug 2nd 1739

Jno. Rosse [V. 1726-58]

My Lord,

The names of the 10 Villages or Hamlets within this Parish are Cropredy, Wardenton, Coten, Williamscot, Prescot, Great Bourton, Little Bourton, Mollington, Cleydon and Clattercot. This last was bought by Mr Cartwright of Aynho<sup>6</sup> of the Boothby family<sup>7</sup> and was formerly a religious House.<sup>8</sup> The Estate said to be about £300 p. ann is exempt from all manner of Tythes; but £30 is paid yearly out of it to the Dean and Chapter of Xt Church, whether by way of Rent or in lieu of Tythes I know not.

There are but two Gentlemen of any note or figure that live constantly in the Parish viz, Mr George Chamberlayne,<sup>9</sup> Nephew to Mr Justice Denton and Member for Buckingham and Mr Hugh Holbech<sup>10</sup> Brother to Mr William Holbech of Farnborough who is your Ldship's Tenant. Mr Danvers Member for Totness<sup>11</sup> has a good Estate at Prescot, but never resides there.

Whether your Ldship has a right of exercising Episcopal power here I cannot say: I only wish you had for the good of the Parish. But since that is at present doubtfull, I hope your Ldship will excuse me for Sending the

information by way of Letter, being cautious of giving offence to those Who have now the power over me, who am

My Lord,

Your Lordship's Most obedt and humble Sert

Cropredy Aug 16 1739

Jno. Rosse.

<sup>1</sup>John Wardle, V. of Banbury 1739-58.

<sup>2</sup>Cf. BAMPTON p. 14.

<sup>3</sup>*V.C.H. Oxon.* I p. 478.

<sup>4</sup>*ibidem* p. 484.

<sup>5</sup>David Trimnell D.D., Archdeacon of Leicester 1715-56. Cropredy was a peculiar of the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln.

<sup>6</sup>Thomas Cartwright (1671-1748), of Aynhoe Park, Northamptonshire.

<sup>7</sup>Sir William Boothby, 5th Bart. (1721-87), of Broadlow Ash, Derbyshire, was at this time head of the family.

<sup>8</sup>A Gilbertine priory *V.C.H. Oxon.* II. p. 105.

<sup>9</sup>George Chamberlayne, M.P. for Buckingham 1712-47, nephew and heir of Sir Alexander Denton (1679-1739), of Hillesden, Buckinghamshire, Justice of the Comoner Pleas from 1722.

<sup>10</sup>Hugh Holbech (d. 1765), brother of William Holbech (d. 1771), of Farnborough Hall, Warwickshire.

<sup>11</sup>Subsequently Sir Joseph Danvers, 1st Bart. (c. 1697-1753), of Swithland, Leicestershire, M.P. for Totnes 1734-47.

#### CROWELL

1. Crowell is about two mile in circumference beside Woodland comprehending about eight houses and five cottages, has no Village nor family of note.
2. No.
3. None.
4. No.
5. None that I know of.
6. I do.
7. Having the care of a Church belonging to my Patron Lord Wenman<sup>1</sup> we have service here but once a day. We seldom have Prayers on Sts days on some other Holy days as good Fryday &c we have. I catechise in the Lent and give a little explanation collected by one Lewis.<sup>2</sup> We have the sacrament thrice a Year at least, and ye number of Communicants are commonly between five and ten.
8. No.
9. There is none.
10. We have a little parcel of land to the value of forty shillings pr Year given for such poor as receive no weekly collection and is disposed of according to by the Minister and Church-warden for the time being.
11. We dont collect in Church but what is otherwise given I dispose of.
12. Not that I know of.

Thos: Gibbons. [R. 1730-41]

<sup>1</sup>The sixth Viscount Wenman (1719-60), of Thame Park.

<sup>2</sup>Cf. BAMPTON p. 14.

#### CULHAM

1. The extent of ye Parish of Culham in Oxfordshire is about 3 Miles in Circumference and about one Mile and a half in Length and Breadth.

It comprehends but one Village in wch. are about 50 houses, and has no Family of Note at present residing in it.

2. There is but one Popish Family in ye Parish wch. Family resides in ye old Abbey House at Culham belonging to ye Widow Lady Bishop<sup>1</sup> and at wch. there are I believe sometimes assemblys for Worship.<sup>2</sup> But whether or no any Popish Priest resides there I cannot tell. None of ye Parish have been perverted to Popery, neither is there any Popish School kept in ye Parish.

There is a Priest resides there for the most part who goes by the Name of Mr Peter Inglesbee.<sup>3</sup>

3. There are about 5 or 6 Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists, but they have no meeting House in Ye Parish, and their Number has been much ye same for these seventeen years last past.
4. There is not I think one Quaker in all ye Parish.
5. There are none in ye Parish as I know of who profess to dis-regard Religion, or who commonly absent themselves from all publick Worship of God on ye Lds. day Except the Widow Alder who Since the death of her Husband, who dy'd some Years Since, has never been at Church.
6. I do not constantly reside upon ye Cure for ye Reason given to Yr Lordship in Town on Thursday ye 6th Instant. The Revd Mr Woods of Abindon is ye Curate, tho not licenced for ye Reason also wch I then gave Yr Ldship. He does not serve any other Cure except it be reading Prayers on ye week days at St. Nicholas's Church in Abindon. I allow him £20 pr an.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords day in ye Parish Church of Culham and one Sermon preached. There is no Chapel in ye Parish. The Children are catechized and ye Catechism is expounded two or three months in every Year. There are none as I know of who frequent ye publick Worship and are not baptized. The Sacrament of ye Lords' Supper is administred four times in ye year viz: At Xmas, Easter, Whitsuntide and at Michaelmas: about 15 or 16 usually receive it each time.
8. There is no Free-School, Hospital, or Alms-House in ye Parish.
9. There is no Voluntary Charity School in ye Parish of Culham.
10. I am informed by the Parishioners that Several Benefactions gave for the Use of the Poor of Culham, About the Sum of fifty Pounds; Thirty of wch is lost By the Negligence of the Church-Wardens, who were In Trust for the Several Sums: and the remaining twenty pounds, is in such Hands, yt it will be in danger of being lost if not call'd in and putt out, upon better Security.

Thos Woods.<sup>4</sup>

11. No Money ever given at ye Offertory in ye Parish of Culham.
12. There is no other Matter relating to my Parish yt. I can think of at present of wch. it is proper to give yr. Lordship any Information, but if there should, Mr Woods, who will attend Yr Lordship at ye Visitation, upon Ye Enquiry will be able and ready to acquaint You with it.

London July ye 6th 1738

These answers were then drawn up and signed by Yr Lordships'  
Most Dutyful and Obedient Humble Sert.

Wm. Dechair Vicar of Culham. [1721-39]

<sup>1</sup>Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Dunch, of Newington, and widow of Sir Cecil Bishopp, 5th Bart., of Parham, Sussex.

<sup>2</sup>In 1717 Mr. Young, steward to Sir Cecil Bishopp, was a recusant. Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *A History of the Post-Reformation Catholic Missions in Oxfordshire* (1905) p. 244.

<sup>3</sup>The Rev. Peter Inglesby (1691-1741).

<sup>4</sup>This question is answered in another hand.

## CUXHAM

1. The extent of the Parish of Cuxham is about half a mile and contains only one Village consisting of twenty four houses Viz: One Parsonage and four Farm houses and the rest have been filled by day labourers in Husbandry chiefly.
2. There is no papist within ye Parish of Cuxham.
3. Nor any Presbyterian Independent or Anabaptist.
4. Nor any Quaker.
5. There are no such persons.
6. The Rector does yousrally reside in the Parsonage house but being Elderly and infirm is assisted by Is. Griffith Chaplain of Magdalen College in Oxon has no License Serves no other Cure has twenty pounds yearly Salary.
7. Public Service is perform'd twice every Lords day and one Sermon preached. Prayers are read on St Stephens day and on Easter Monday and Whitmonday, Christmas Eve, Good Friday, Easter Eve and Whitsun Eve. There is no Chappel in the Parish. There is catechising in Lent, and at Such times as Notice is given of Confirmations. There have been Sermons or Lectures read on most parts of the catechism. There are no persons unbaptised. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administered thrice every year Viz at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide and there are between twenty and thirty Communicants.
8. There is none.
9. There is none.
10. There is no benefaction of any kind.
11. By the Rector to the poor of the Parish.
12. There is no such matter that I am acquainted with.

I am your Lordships' obedient Son and humble Servant

Isaac Griffith Curate.

[R. William Marten<sup>1</sup> 1718-43]

<sup>1</sup>V. of Ibestone 1709-43.

## DADINGTON

1. My Parish is about two Miles long wth its Villages or Hamlets wch are Clifton and Hampton.  
The Number of ye Houses of Dadington are 210.  
of Clifton 39. of Hampton 27.  
There are no Families of any Note.
2. There are two Families of Papists of ye meaner Rank.
3. There are Presbyterians 18 men and 10 Women Anabaptists one man and one woman, of an inferior Rank.
4. There are Quakers 4 men and 3 women. I have demanded my Dues of them but they refuse to pay them and have used no severity to recover them.
6. I do reside upon my Cure and in the vicaridge House.

7. Publick Service is duly performd. every Lords Day and every other Sunday two Sermons are Preachd. And Prayers are read upon all holy Days and other occasional Days and during the whole time of Lent and then I Catechise ye Children and c and expound it to them. The Sacrament of ye Lds. Supper is administred 4 Times in ye year at wch time I have about 40 or 50 Communicants at Easter and Christmas and fewer at other times.
9. There is a Charity School for 20 Boys supported by ye voluntary Subscription of three Lords of ye Mannor and other neighbouring Gentlemen. They are taught to read write and cast Accompt and are cloath'd once in ye year and are put out Apprentices.
11. The money given at ye offertory is disposed of by my self and Church-Wardens to proper objects of Charity

Richd: Short Vicar. [1700-47]

#### DRAYTON

1. The Parish of Drayton is bounded on ye North Side by Hanwel, Eastward by Banbury, Southward by Broughton and Westward by Wroxton, and contains about 34 Houses in One Village only, ye Inhabitants of all wch. are Farmers or Labourers. What number of acres it contains I dont know.
2. Not one in the Parish.
3. But one Presbyterian and no meeting House.
4. Not one in the Parish.
5. None that I know of.
6. I do reside constantly upon my Cure, and in ye Parsonage House, for which, having no convenient Place to board at, I am obliged by the Rector to pay an Annual Rent of 3: 10: 0 out of a Salary of thirty Pounds a Year, which I hope Your Lordship will take into Consideration.
7. Service is duly performed twice every Lord's Day and Prayers read every Holiday. There is no Chapel in the Parish—I catechize every Lent and Part of Ye Summer Season. The Sacrament of Ye Lords Supper is administred four Times in Ye Year, at which we have usually about thirty Communicants.
8. None.
9. None.
10. There is seventy Pounds given for ye Use of the Poor, Ye Interest of which is annually distributed, according to their Several Necessities on St Thomas's Day by myself, Ye Church Warden, and Overseer of Ye Poor.
11. The Money given at the Offertory is disposed of to poor Widows, and such other Persons as generally frequent ye Publick Service of the Church, and the Holy Communion.
12. None that I know of

I am, My Lord, Your Lordships

Most dutiful, and most obedient humble Servant

Tho. Gill. Curate of Drayton.

[R. John Davies. 1731-42]

## DUCKLINGTON

1. The Parish of Ducklington is about a Mile Long and a Mile and an half over, there are about Sixty Houses in the Said Parish.

The Hamlet of Hardwick is of Small Extent, and in it are twenty two Houses.

There are no families of note either in the Parish of ducklington, or the Hamlet of Hardwick.

2. There is no Papist in the Parish.
3. There is no meeting house in the Parish. There is one dissenter who is an Anabaptist; He frequents the House where one Collet<sup>1</sup> officiates. There is likewise a Woman who comes often to the Church, but I am informed, she goes sometimes to the aforesaid Collets meeting House.
4. There is no Quaker in the Parish.
5. There are Several Persons in the Parish who do often absent themselves from the Publick Worship of God on the Lords day, I know not on what motives or Principles they do so; they are persons in very mean circumstances; I have often reprov'd and admonish'd them; and they have lately promised me that they will for the future more constantly attend at the divine Service in the Church.
6. I do ordinarily reside on my Cure att ducklington; and in my absence, my Family live in the House belonging to it; When I am absent from it, I am att the Parish of Comner of which I am Vicar; which Parish is about four miles distant from ducklington; during my Stay at Comner, a friend of mine from Oxford goes to ducklington on Saturday and stays till monday, and I do most weeks Spend a Day or two there in the Middle of the Week.
7. I read Prayers in the Morning at the Church of ducklington and the Chapel belonging to Hardwick, and Preach one Sunday att the Church and the other at the Chapel: on the Sunday yt I dont preach at the Church, I read a catechetical Lecture in the afternoon there, I catechise the Children in Lent ; the Parishioners are not so carefull as they should be in sending their Children. I read Prayers on the Week days in Lent on Wednesday and Fridays; at other times I do not because I can have no congregation. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administred four times in the Year. We have Seldom more than twenty or thirty communicants.
8. There is no free-School, Hospital or Alms-House in the Parish.
9. There is no Charity-School in the Parish.
10. There are no Benefactions given either to the church or Poor of this Parish.
11. There are no offerings.

Ducklington

Augt 25 1738.

My Lord,

In obedience to Your Commands I have Sent my Answer to the Queries I received in Your Lordship Letter of the 19th Instant.

- 1st The Hamlet of Hardwick is in the Parish of ducklington, the reason of my distinguishing it from the Village of ducklington was because there is a separate Church-Warden belonging to the Chapel thereof.
- 2nd The Tythes of the Hamlet of Hardwick are let for £23 = 6s = 0d a Year.
- 3 The Sacrament is constantly administred four times in the Year in the Chapel of Hardwick.

- 4 I am usually at my Parish of Comner, which is about four Miles distance from Ducklington, two Months or ten Weeks in the Winter, and about a Month or five weeks in the Summer; during my Residence at Comner, I generally Spend a Day or two in the Week at ducklington and somtimes preach there, when I am not the Revd Mr Priaulx of Maudlin College Supplies for me.

I am, My Lord,

Your Lordships most obedient and most Humble Servant

Richard Kent.<sup>2</sup> [R. 1731-46]

<sup>1</sup>Cf. BAMPTON p. 13.

<sup>2</sup>V. of Cumnor, Berkshire, 1729-46.

#### DUNCH-TEW

1. There are No Villages or Hamlets. There are about fifty Families and ye only one of Note is Sr James Chamberlayne's.<sup>1</sup>
2. There are No Papists in ye Parish.
3. There are no Dissenters in ye Parish.
5. There are none who absent yourselves from Church intirely but such as plead inability to come there.
6. There is a licenced Curate who resides in ye Parish. And his Salary is £30:0s:0d pr ann. The Vicar resides upon his other Living in Berkshire.
7. Publick Service is performed in ye Church twice every Lords Day and one Sermon preached. Prayers are read on Holy Days. The children are catechized in Lent and along ye Summer Season. The Sacrament is administred three times in ye Year. And there are about thirty yt. receive it.
8. There is no Free-School, Hospital or Alms-House in ye Parish.
9. There is none in ye Parish.
10. There has been three Charities left to ye poor in money one of fifteen Pounds another of four Pounds ye Interest of wch: is to be distributed yearly, ye other forty Pounds to be lent out in Sums not exceeding five Pounds, and no interest to be paid for ye use of it. Another of six Bushels and three Pecks of corn to be distributed Yearly.
11. It is not Customary to make a Collection here at ye Offertory but I will take care yt. it Shall be done for ye future.
12. I know of nothing else proper to give your Lordship Information of at present.

I am Your Lordships

Most dutifull and obedient Servant

John Blake.

[V. Nathaniel Thompson<sup>2</sup> 1734-46]

<sup>1</sup>Sir James Chamberlayne (d. 1768), 4th Bart., of Dunstew.

<sup>2</sup>R. of Sunningwell, Berkshire, 1730.

#### EASINGTON

1. There are about two hundred acres in my Parish. There is no other Village or Hamlet in my Parish, besides that of Easingdon, from whence the Parish takes its Name. There are besides the Parsonage House, eight Houses in my parish situated very near the Church. There is no Family of Note in It.

2. I do not know that there are any Papists in ye parish.
3. I do not know that there are any Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists in my Parish.
4. I do not know that there are any Quakers in my Parish.
5. There are two persons in my Parish who are prevented by Sickness and Care of their families from commonly attending the Publick Worship of God on the Lords Day.
6. I am absent almost all the year from my parish excepting Sundays, residing the greatest part of the Year at Merton College in Oxford, being oblig'd so to do by ye Rules of the College of which I am a Fellow. It is about 8 Miles distant from my Parish. I am generally the Rest of the Year at Chislehampton 3 miles distant. I have no Curate. I perform myself the Sunday-Duty of my Parish, and that I may be the better enabled to get there on the Sunday in due Time, I seldom fail of being at Chislehampton on Saturday Evening. As to weekly Duty a neighbouring Clergyman undertakes to perform it: tho, he is never call'd upon for that Purpose; there not having been any Person to be baptis'd, buried or other Business that requir'd the Attendance of a Minister in the Week, ever since I have had the Care of the Parish, now almost four years,
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords Day and one Sermon preach'd and on Christmas Day when it happens, in the week. There is no Chappel in my Parish. I have never catechiz'd in my Church; there not having been at any one time in the Parish, since I have been Minister there, above 2 or 3 persons of a proper Age to be catechiz'd. I do not know that there are any Persons who frequent Publick Worship and are not baptiz'd. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administered at Christmas, Easter, and Whitsuntide. Four Persons besides the Minister usually receive it each time.
8. There is no Free-School, Hospital or Alms-House in my Parish.
9. There is no voluntary Charity School in my Parish.
10. The Sum of five Pounds p. ann: was given, some years since, to my parish for the support of poor Widows There, and bringing poor Boys to Trades. The money is apply'd to those uses and to no other.<sup>1</sup>
11. There is no Money given at the Offertory.
12. There is no Matter relating to my Parish, of which it may be proper to give your Lordship Information.

John D'oyly.<sup>2</sup> [1735-44]

<sup>1</sup>By the will of John Hart in 1664.

<sup>2</sup>Subsequently Sir John D'Oyly, 6th and last Bart. (c. 1702-73), of Chislehampton.

ELSFIELD

1. The extent of my Parish is about four miles, there is no Hamlet belonging to it, or family of Note in it, there are in it 22 houses.
2. There is one farmers' wife a papist, but their children are brought up according to the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England.
3. There are none of either sect.
4. There are no Quakers in the Parish.
5. There are no such Persons in the Parish.
6. There is no house belonging to the Cure. My residence is at Oxford 3 miles from it.



7. Publick Service is duly performed and the Sacrament administred 3 times a year, the communicants each time are about 20. I catechize all the Lent and expound it to them my self.
8. There is No Free School, Hospital, or Alms-House in the Parish.
9. There is no Charity School in the Parish.
10. I know of no lands and c at any time given either to Church or poor.
11. There is no money given but by me.
12. No.

I am yr Ldships dutiful and Obedient

Son and Servant

Fran: Seely.

#### EMMINGTON

1. There are about Six Hundred Acres in the Parish of Emmington Itself is the whole Parish. It Comprehends thirteen houses: has no family of Note in it: but is wholly Rented by Four People.
2. There are no Papists.
3. No Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists.
4. We have no Quakers nor am I acquainted with any Facts concerning them.
5. We have no such Persons.
6. I do not reside upon My Cure but at Waterstock Six Miles from it. I perform full duty every Sunday. Sometimes go over on a week day to see if anything be amiss, and if any business should fall out, have ordered a Person of the Parish immediately to make me acquainted with it. The Parishioners being so few in Number and Week Days duty so seldom happining sometimes not above once in a year of any sort, makes me keep no Resident Curate there, but presume to live upon my other Living Waterstock aforesaid, and to do the business of Emmington myself upon account of the Exercise and for the sake of my Health. How Waterstock is taken care of your Lordship will be informed in the Paper relating to that Rectory.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lords Day and one Sermon Preached. Prayers are read there on no other Day besides Good Friday and Christmas Day when there is also a Sermon. The people are generally Poor and will not attend upon other Holy Days. We have no Chapel. I catechize in ye Church commonly about Easter, till all of them can say it perfectly. My Parishioners send their children duly. Servants I believe commonly think themselves too big for it. I expound it to them by a Composition of my own. None frequent publick Worship that are not baptized. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administred four times a year. Communicants are from a dozen to about two and Twenty.
8. There is no Free School Hospital or Alms House in our Parish.
9. There is no voluntary Charity School in our Parish.
10. An acre of land in the Parish of Chinnor has been left for the repairs of our Church, which is when there is occasion for it apply'd to that use, and as it amounts to only one pound a year, I believe taking one year with another it can hardly be applied to any other.

11. There is none given.
12. I know of none.

Edward Lewis.<sup>1</sup> [R. 1725-85]

<sup>1</sup>R. of Waterstock 1726-85.

#### ENSTONE

1. The Parish is about 5 miles long and 4 broad. The Villages in it are Church Enstone, Neat Enstone, Lidstone, Chawford, Cleveley, Gedgingwell and Radford. The Number of houses is about 140. As to Families, there are none of particular note.
2. There are 4 or 5 Families Papists but none of any Importance.
3. There are no Presbyterians and c.
4. There are no Quakers.
5. The Parishioners are in General Religiously disposed and behave orderly at Divine Service.
6. The Vicar of Enstone holds a Living at Lukener at 22 miles Distance from hence, And there is a Resident Licensed Curate. The Curates' Salary is 28*l* pr. Ann.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lds Day and one Sermon preach'd. Prayers are read every holy Day and twice every week in Lent. There is no Chappel in ye Parish. I catechize every Sunday in Lent. Sacramt is administerd 7 times in a year. About 40 constantly receive.
8. No.
9. No.
10. Six Pounds pr Ann is duly distributed in beef at Easter and Christmas by a Legacy of Tho. Martin Esqr Late of this Parish.
11. By the Minister and Church Wardens, to the Poor and most distressed objects of Charity.
12. No.

Tho. Skeeler<sup>1</sup> Vicar of Enstone. [1721-63]

<sup>1</sup>V. of Lewknor 1715-63.

#### EWELME

To the Questions proposed to be answer'd by his Clergy att the Visitation held at Watlington July 27 1738 by Thomas Lord Bishop of Oxford.

The Answer of John Leaves Curate of Ewelme.

Qu: 1st. Ans:

The Extent of the Parish is above a Mile, I mean the Street or inhabited part thereof, there belongs to it but one Hamlet which has two Houses, above three miles off. There live in the Parish one Esquire and four Gentlemen and somewhat above 70 Families.

Qu: 2nd Ans:

Mye Answer hereto is entirely Negative, as also to the third Question.

Qu: 3rd

Qu: 4th Ans:

I think I can say there is but one Quaker in my Parish, the wife of one Swain a poor Man, there is another whose House as I apprehend is not

within the Parish, tho he owns Lands in it and occupies them. I believe he quietly suffers himself to be Tyth'd, of which I am not the Collector.

Qu: 5th Ans:

My Answer is for the most part negative there is one Man an Absenter from Church who tells me He chooses the next Church of Benston.

Qu: 6th Ans:

I am only the Curate and do reside.

Qu: 7th Ans:

Divine Publick Service and Sacraments are perform'd as you require, and Catechizing at Lent, which I sometimes expound myself. Our Communicants commonly amount to Fourty.

Qu: 8th Ans:

There is a Free School and Hospital or Alms-house founded by William Duke of Suffolk under Henry VI.<sup>1</sup> I do not find that the Parishioners know who are the Governors other than the Lord Chancellour, The Physick Professor of Oxford being the Master,<sup>2</sup> and the Schoolmaster put in by the Ld. Chancellour, Which with 13 poor Men are the whole Body, and what are the Statutes or Ordinances appointed to 'em we do not know.<sup>3</sup>

Qu: 9th Ans:

My Answer to this and the 10th is entirely negative Unless I mention a Spot of Ground not consisting of acres (I think) The Rent of which lightens the Church Rate.

Qu: 11th Ans:

There never was any Collection made at the Offertory in my time or in my Predecessors that as I could find.

Qu: 12th Ans:

This is all from Your Lordships most

Dutiful Humble Servant

John Leaves

[R. George Rye<sup>4</sup> 1737-41]

<sup>1</sup>In 1437.

<sup>2</sup>William Woodford, Regius Professor of Medicine 1730-58.

<sup>3</sup>From the attainder of William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, until about 1817 the right of patronage was exercised by the Crown, except with regard to the office of master, which was granted by James I to the University of Oxford for the maintenance of the Regius Professor of Medicine.

<sup>4</sup>George Rye D.D. Archdeacon of Oxford 1724, R. of Islip 1727, Canon of Christ Church and Regius Professor of Divinity 1737-41.

#### EYNHAM

My Lord,

1. The Parish of Eynsham lets for about £2000 p. an: it comprehends 160 houses and 153 Families; of which near twenty are Situate upon a large Heath a mile from the Church. There is no Family of Note in it; no village or Hamlet in it, unless the Houses upon the Heath may be taken for one.
2. There is not one Papist in the Parish of Eynsham nor has anything mentioned in this Question been done in it.
3. There is not one Presbyterian Independent or Anabaptist in the Parish of Eynsham.

4. There is but one Quaker in the Parish of Eynsham ; and He whatever he may call himselfe goes to no place of publick Worship as far as I can inform myselfe. I have heard that ye Quakers have disowned him many years past.
5. There are but two mean fellows and ye Sister of ye Quaker who is a Gentlewoman that absent themselves from all publick worship on the Lords day ; there are some others who come to Church but Seldom, but from what motives and Principles Such their behaviour proceeds I know not except it be from want of Serious and devout inclinations.
6. I reside at Witney for ye most Part three long miles distant from Eynsham, being Master of the Free Grammar School there. I do ye whole duty of my Cure myselfe and generally lie one night in a weeke in ye Vicarage-house and often more.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice in the Church ev'ry Lords' Day and one Sermon preach'd. I read prayers on ye 5th of November, the 30th of January, ye 29th of May,<sup>1</sup> on St. Thomas day and ye Holy days next to Christmas day, on Good Fryday, Easter Monday, Easter Tuesday Whit-Monday and Tuesday, except when there is a Revel calld a Whitsun-Ale. I administer the Sacrament on Christmas day, Palm Sunday, Easter day, and the Lords days nearest Midsummer and Michaelmas days. On Christmas and Easter days I have between 80 and 100 Communicants on Palm Sunday about 30 and on ye other Lords days about 50. I catechise and read lectures upon ye Catechism ev'ry Sunday in Lent, and prepare all that come to me for confirmation, and encourage all to come to me.
8. There is a Free School in ye parish of Eynsham for twelve Boys to be taught to read and write and cast accounts. The Founder was Mr John Bartholomew an Inhabitant.<sup>2</sup> The Governors are the Vicar and three more Inhabitants. The Revenue is near fifteen pounds p. an: and it is employed according to the Founders will. The Statutes I made myselfe, and they are well observ'd on the Masters, and on the Boys part ; as well as I can prevail upon them to observe them.
9. There is no voluntary Charity-School in the Parish of Eynsham.
10. The following Lands in the Parish of Eynsham have been given to ye Use of the Poor.

	£	s.	d.	
Bitteree	5	00	00	p. an.
Spar Acre	5	10	00	
Field Land	5	15	00	
out of The Bowls	0	05	00	Out of which 43 two-penny loaves
at Appleton	10	00	00	are to be given away in the Church but
out of Wasties land	00	05	00	are not rightly dispos'd of, because all
out of ye Parks	6	10	00	ye persons to whom they are assigned
In money	34	00	00	do not come to Church to fetch them.
The interest of which I believe				Ten 3 penny loaves are also given away
is rightly applied.				in Church. And ye remainder is given
				away upon St Thomas day and Good
				Fryday.

11. There is nothing given at ye Offertory but what I give myself. I humbly beg Your Lordship to assist and enable me to procure what is so much wanted.

12. The Church Wardens do not present as they ought to do, and as I have convinced them they are in regard of their oath oblig'd to do. They pretend they Shall gett the illwill of their neighbours by doing their duty in that respect. I am,

My Lord

Your Lordships Most obedient humble Servant

Witney July 17 1738

John Goole [V. 1715-48]

<sup>1</sup>Cf. ASTAL p. II.

<sup>2</sup>The school was founded by the will of John Bartholomew dated 1700. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I pp. 484 f.

#### FIFIELD

1. The Parish is two Miles long, about a mile over. No Villages nor Hamlets.  
It comprehends about 30 Houses.  
No Family of Note but Dr Bray's Widdow and two Daughters.
2. No Papists in ye Parish.
3. None at all.
4. No Quakers nor Meeting House and c.
5. They all frequent the Church tolerably well.
6. The Parish is a laps'd Vicarage The Salary but 13 pounds a year paid by R. M. Bray Esq.<sup>1</sup>  
N.B. The Curate teacheth a Charity School at Borton on ye Water 3 Miles Distant.
7. The Church is regularly supplyd once every Lords Day, No Chappel. No children to be confirm'd this Time, being under Age yet very well Instructed in ye Church Catechism. No unbaptized person in ye Parish. The Sacrament is administred three times in ye year. The Number of Communicants about 40.
8. None of any sort.
9. No Charity School and c.
10. No Lands Tenements nor Tyths. But ye Interest of twenty two pounds yearly being the Town Stock continued time out of mind.
11. No Money ever Collected.
12. Nothing at all.

Thos. Williams Curate.

<sup>1</sup>Reginald Morgan Bray (1705-40), of Shilton.

#### FINMERE

1. We have 53 Yard-lands in our Parish. My Glebe is 2 Yard-lands, and rotunde 50 Acres; and if the rest of the Lordship be estimated according to this Proportion, the Whole will be about 2 square Miles. The Number of Houses is 34, and of Inhabitants 139 including Children who are pretty numerous. The only Person of Note residing here is Mrs James,<sup>1</sup> who has one Third of the Manor and a Right to Present to the Living one Turn in three; the other two Turns and two thirds of the Manor belong to Lord Cobham.<sup>2</sup>

2. There is no Papist in my Parish and no Dissenter of any.
3. Denomination at present, a poor Family of Quakers
4. Having lately removed to a neighbouring Parish; but their legal Settlement being here, it is probable they may soon come to us again.
5. There is a married Gentlewoman lately come into the Parish who very rarely comes to Church, (I think but once in 4 Months) but I believe rather out of Indolence and Sloth than out of any Dislike of the publick Service. I have already talkd with her and shall continue to use the most prudent Methods I can think of to bring her to Reform this Practice: When I despair of the Success of my own Endeavours I will take Care that she be Presented either by myself, or by the Church wardens.

There is another Woman who has been come about three Quarters of a Year into the Parish, who has not in all this time been once at Church; but she assures me that it is not the want of Will but her great Age (She being near fourscore) and Infirmities that keep her away; which I am the more inclined to believe, because I have not heard that She has been any where from home Since she came to this Place.

There is a very old Man likewise in my Parish, who, tho he comes pretty constantly to Church in the forenoon, yet it is always when the Service is half over, nor has he once, that I can recollect, recd the Sacrament, nor does he conform to the Rules and Ceremonies of the Church: And this he does out of Scruple and Prejudice, having been bred up amongst Dissenters. I have taken some pains with him, but to no Purpose; and I believe severer Methods would rather drive him wholly from the Church than bring him to it more seasonably. In other Respects he is a very inoffensive orderly Person.

6. I do constantly reside upon my Cure and in the Parsonage House, nor can I recollect that I have been absent more than four Sundays during the four Years that I have been in Possession of the Living.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lords Day in my Church unless when I am hindred by Sickness or reasonable Absence: or am desired to Supply Some Neighbouring Church in the Absence or Sickness of the Minister thereof which happens but seldom. I read Morning and Evening Prayers upon all Festival and Fasts Days (Except the Rogation and Ember Days) and Morning Prayer every Wednesday and Friday during the Season of Lent, and every day in Passion Week. It is very seldom that I omit Catechizing every Sunday and Holy-day throughout the Year. I make Use of a method of my own in Expounding, adapting myself to the respective Ages and Capacities of my Catechumens. I cannot complain of the Neglect of Parents in sending their Children to me for this purpose: but no Servants come as thinking themselves (I suppose) too old or too big for this Discipline: but these, as they are constantly shifting from Place to Place are likely to be always the most disorderly part of my Parish,—I administer the Sacrament of the Lords Supper on Christmas Day Easter Day and the Sunday following, Whitsunday and some Sunday near to Michaelmas. At the two Sacraments at Easter we have about 40 Communicants, sometimes more: on the other days much fewer.
8. No.
9. There is a small School in my Parish where a few poor Children are taught to Read at my Expense.

10. There is an Estate in the Parish charged with the yearly Payment of 25s to the Poor of this Parish, and of 20s to the Poor of the Parish of Hagborne in Berkshire. As also, a piece of Land called the Poores' Plot consisting of 12 Acres, the Rent of which is to be yearly distributed amongst the Poor of this Parish. This was settled upon the Poor at the Inclosure of the Lordship. And Another Piece of Land which may be about an Acre and half, purchased by one of my Predecessors, and by his Will vested in Trustees who are empowered to apply the Rent (which is now £2=10s p An) partly to the putting out poor Children of the Parish Apprentices as often as a Sufficient Sum can be raised out of the Same, and partly to the Ringing an 8 a'clock Bell from Michs to Lady Day. 8s being allowd for this Purpose. I do not know of any Abuses or Misapplications of any of the aforesaid Charities.
11. We have no Money given at the Offertory.
12. I do not at present know of any, unless I may have leave to mention a thing which is not particular to my own Parish, and that is with Regard to the Church wardens. The common Censure of them is that they are generally guilty of Perjury Pudet haec Opprobria and c. It is pity but some Method could be thought of to prevent this, either by Softening their Oath, or by encouraging them to make such fair and full Presentments as their Oath requires. This latter might possibly be effected in some Measure, if Assurances were given them, that in respect of Things, all reasonable time should be allow'd them for rectifying what they Should Present to be amiss; and in respect of Persons, that none Should be cited by the Court but such as were Presented to be incorrigible Offenders whom there was no hope of Reforming amongst themselves. Something seems necessary to be done which Your Lordship will more readily think of Your Self than it can be suggested to You by another especially by,

My Lord, Your Lordships most dutiful Servant

Thomas Long [R. 1734-71]

<sup>1</sup>Frances James (1659-1739) of Finmere House.

<sup>2</sup>The first Viscount Cobham (1669-1749), of Stowe, Buckinghamshire. *D.N.B.*

#### FORRESTHILL

1. The extent of the Parish is about four miles it contains 20 Houses. There is no Family of Note in it.
2. There are no Papists in the Parish.
3. There are no Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists in the Parish.
4. There are no Quakers in the Parish.
5. There are no Persons in the Parish who profess to disregard Religion, or who commonly absent themselves from all publick Worship of God on the Lords Day.
6. I do not reside upon the Cure, but at Trinity College, which is about four miles distant from the Parish. The reason of my absence is that I am Fellow of the College, and my residence is required there, I serve no other Cure. The Salary I am allowed by Mr Heywood is twenty pounds per annum.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lords Day in the Church and one Sermon preached. Prayers are read on Christmas Day, Good Friday and Ascension Day. There is no Chapel in the Parish. I

catechize every Sunday all the Lent and expound the catechism myself to the Children which are sent very regularly by the Parishioners. There are no Persons who frequent publick worship who have not been baptized. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administred four times a Year the usual number of communicants is about sixteen.

8. There is no Free School, Hospital or Alms House in the Parish.
9. There is no Voluntary Charity School in the Parish.
10. There was some time since the yearly interest of five pounds given to the Poor of Forresthill which is now regularly paid them by Mr Heywood. There has since been a very considerable benefaction left to the parishes of Stanton and Forresthill ; Mr Wheatland<sup>1</sup> is better acquainted with that affair than I am, and will I believe give Your Lordship such an account of it, as will be satisfactory.
11. There is seldom any Money given at the Offertory.
12. There is no other matter, relating to the Parish, of which it is proper to give Your Lordship information

I am, My Lord, Your Lordships

Very Obedient Humble Servant

Ric: Brown.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Stephen Wheatland R. of Stanton St. John 1724-64.

<sup>2</sup>Richard Brown, Lord Almoner's Professor of Arabic 1748-80, Regius Professor of Hebrew 1774-80.

#### FRINGFORD

1. The Parish of Frinkford is in Length a Mile, in Breadth a Mile and half, consisting of thirty four houses four Farm Houses ye rest cottages. No Families of Note in it.
2. Only one Papist a woman wife to a Baker.
3. No Dissenter of any other Denomination.
4. None.
5. Only one Nat: Chester.
6. A Licenced Curate residing in ye Parish but not in ye Parsonage House. He serves no other Church His Name is D. Wardle<sup>1</sup> B.A. His Salary is £35 p. annum.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords Day, and Prayers read upon all Holy Days if a congregation comes. The Sacrament administred four times in a year. The Children catechized during Lent.
8. No.
9. No.
10. No.
11. None given.
12. No.

[R. Joseph Barnes 1726-53]

<sup>1</sup>Daniel Wardle R. 1753-6. He was not at this time in priest's orders and Mr. Warren the curate of Heath, administered the Sacrament. There were about 30 communicants. MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers c. 651 f. 11.

#### FRITWELL

1. The extent of our Parish is a long mile. The number of Houses are sixty-six, no villages nor Hamlets. Sr Baldwin Wake<sup>1</sup> and his Lady are ye only Family of Note.



2. There are five Papists, a Farmer and his wife, a day Laborer and his wife, and a widdow woman. There are no persons been perverted to Popery, in my Time. There is no Popish Priest that resides in our Parish, nor no Popish School in ye Parish.
3. There is not one Presbyterian nor Independent, nor Anabaptist in our Parish, only one old woman which is 85 years of age.
4. We have no quakers in our Parish.
5. No.
6. I do reside most at Fritwell and sometimes att north Aston. I am att Both Places Sundays and Holy days. The distance is not two Miles.
7. We have no chapel. I catechise in both Parishes. I do pay a School Dame for teaching ye Poorer Sort of Children. Att North Aston<sup>2</sup> And att Fritwell I have every Wensday and Saturday at five a clock in ye evening Instructed ye Children for a considerable time. The Sacrament of ye Lords Supper is administred four Times a year.
8. We have no Free School, Hospital or Alms-House in our Parish.
9. There is noe voluntary Charity-School in our Parish.
10. Mr William Hiccock Left fortie shillings for ever, to be paid yearly out of his estate to ye Poor of Fritwell Parish, widelicet, Twentie Shillings to be Paid att Ester, And Twentie shillings to be distributed at Xismas.<sup>3</sup> The Town Stock money is Twentie Pound. Interest due ye 1st of May. Sir Baldwin Wake has Ten Pounds of ye Stock money. Interest due ye 28th day of April. Vincent Ring of Ardley has Ten Pounds of ye Stock money.
11. When I receive any money at ye Alter I give it to ye Poor.

[V. William Vaughan 1729-40]

<sup>1</sup>Sir Baldwin Wake, 5th Bart. (1665-1747). For the curious story of how he killed his son in a quarrel cf. J. C. Blomfield, *History of Fritwell and Souldern* (1893) p. 13.

<sup>2</sup>V. of North Aston 1711-40.

<sup>3</sup>*ibidem* p. 32.

#### GARSINGTON

1. The Parish is about two miles in Length, one in Breadth:  
Number of Houses about fourscore:  
No Village or Hamlet but Garsington.  
Famyls of note, Mrs Wickams: and Mr Sadler's.
2. Onely one Papist an old Woman supported by Charity: Not Concern'd in other Queries under this Article.
3. No Dissenters.
4. No Quakers.
5. No Contemnners of Religion, nor Absenters, Except, it maybe, here and there a poor Day Labourer.
6. My Residence is at Oxford; (such as has always been indulg'd to the Rectors of Garsington since the Foundation of Trinity College) from whence I am always ready to attend every call of Parish Duty either by my self or some of the Senior Fellows of the College; but I have no settled Curate.
7. To the first Query I answer in the Affirmative. To the 3rd: On all the great Festivals and State Holy days; We have no Chapel. Catechizing is perform'd all Lent and frequently at other times during ye

Summer: and is well attended: We have no unbaptized Persons. The Sacrament is administred four times in ye year. The Number usually about forty, or upwards.

8. No School Hospital or Alms House.
9. No Charity School.
10. No publick Benefaction to the Church or Poor.
11. It has been long Usage not to give at ye Offertory.
12. There is nothing farther that I know of proper to trouble Your Lordship withall.

Geo: Huddesford<sup>1</sup>

[R. 1731-76]

<sup>1</sup>George Huddesford D.D., President of Trinity College 1731-76, Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum 1730-55, Vice-Chancellor 1753-6.

#### GLYMPTON

1. Glympton is One Small Village, consisting of fifteen Houses and as many Families: All which Village and Houses belong solely to the Patron Sr. Thos. Wheate Bart.,<sup>1</sup> whose Family is the Only Family of Note.
2. There are None.
3. There are None.
4. There are None.
5. There are None.
6. I Reside upon this Rectory as much as my Vicarage of Meriden<sup>2</sup> near Coventry will possibly admit of; and the Other part of the Time it is, and has for these Seven years last past been Constantly Supplied by ye Revd. Mr Richard Hutchins Batchelor of Divinity and Fellow of C.C.C. in Oxon, to the Satisfaction both of my Patron and the Parish: the Salary which I allow him is £28 per ann.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords' Day in ye Church. and One Sermon preach'd. The Children and Servants, when qualified are Catechis'd. There are no Persons who frequent Publick Worship and are not Baptiz'd. The Sacrament is Administred thrice Every Year and there are as many Com̄unicants as can be Expected in so small a Parish.
8. There is None.
9. There is None.
10. There is a Charity of Six Shillings and Eight pence payable out of a Farm call'd Ludwell-Farm, wch. is duly distributed by ye Rector to the Poor. Ten Pounds given to ye Poor by Mr Tesdale,<sup>3</sup> In the hands of Sr Tho: Wheate Bart.
11. By ye Rector or Curate to the poor Com̄unicants.
12. The Church and Chancell have both been lately Rebuilt, the Former at ye Sole Expende of my much honored and Generous Patron above mention'd: and ye Latter at the Cost of

My Lord

Your Lordship's Most Dutyfull Son and Servant

Sam: Jones Rector<sup>4</sup> [1732-41]

<sup>1</sup>Sir Thomas Wheate, 2nd Bart. (1693-1746), of Glympton.

<sup>2</sup>The living of Meriden, Warwickshire, was also in the gift of Sir Thomas Wheate.

<sup>3</sup>Thomas Tesdale (1547-1610), the tenant of Glympton from 1585 to his death. He was one of the founders of Pembroke College, Oxford, and his monument is in the church at Glympton. H. Barnett, *Glympton. The History of an Oxfordshire Manor* (O.R.S. V, 1923) pp. 11, 24, 37.

<sup>4</sup>V. of Meriden, Warwickshire 1724.

## GODINGTON

1. My Lord,  
We have no Villages or Hamlets,  
Houses in number sixteen.
2. We have in number five families who are Papists all common People.  
They assemble for Worship at Mr Davis's most Sabbath-days and ye Priest resides there, and his name is Whitcraft.
3. No.
4. No.
5. There are none that commonly absent themselves from publick Worship.
6. My name who am a licenc'd Curate is Steph: Richardson and ye Salary allow'd me by Dr Tilly Rector is thirty five pounds a Year. I reside in ye Parish.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords-day, excepting on an extraordinary Occasion, and one Sermon preach'd. The Sacrament of ye Lord's Supper is administred three times a Year at least. There are no Children capable of being catechiz'd at present, excepting those wch are to be confirm'd.
9. No.
10. No.
11. We have none given.
12. No.

I am yr Lordships most obedient humble Servant  
Steph: Richardson. Curate.  
[R. William Tilly<sup>2</sup> 1714-40]

<sup>1</sup>The manor belonged to the Fermors of Tusmore, and Godington was a "most favourable resort of Catholic priests during the hottest time of persecution." Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *A History of the Post-Reformation Catholic Missions in Oxfordshire* (1905) pp. 106 ff. Dr. Tilly wrote to the Bishop from Albury on October 12 1739 as follows:—"I shall with some impatience wait for my Lord Arch. Bps. advice and yours what course I am to take in my popish parish of Godington. I hope it will not be too lenient for the distemper grows and requires a pretty rough remedy. The ulcer of Popery spreads there and if not cut and lanced to ye quick I am afraid will fester into a gangrene and draw ye sincerer part into some corruption. I have courage enough to undertake it, nor did I know that ye laws are dormant or asleep tho' I believe some of ye Law Guerdians are, if not, under a coma or rather lethergy. But I hope they will awake and apprehend these dangers in time lest they fall before they fear. If France or Spain know ye state of Popery in England they would venture 1000 men if they could upon our English shore and would quickly have 10000 to join them at a short warning from ye Beck of their Popish spiritual superiors that might give a terrible shock, if not an overthrow to our constitution." .MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers c. 651 f. 18.

<sup>2</sup>R. of Albury 1712-40.

## GORING

1. The Extent of my Parish from East to West is near Four Miles ; from North to South near Three Miles. There belongs to it One Hamlet,

called Gatehampton. The whole Parish, including the Hamlet, comprehends about one hundred and twenty seven Houses. The only Family of Note in it is Mr Whistler's, who lives at Gatehampton.

2. There is not a Papist in my Parish.
3. There is not a Presbyterian, Independent, or Anabaptist in my Parish.
4. There is not a Quaker in my Parish.
5. There are none who profess a Disregard for Religion, tho' there are some who often absent themselves from ye Publick Worship of God on ye Lord's Day. I can't understand that they do this on any Principles ; but only from ye Motives of Negligence and Want of due Regard and lively Sense of their Duty. The Number of them is but small and they are Persons of the Lowest Rank.
6. I do not reside upon my Cure but at Reading, where I have the Care of a large Gramar School. The weekly Duty of my Parish is done by Mr Hughes of South Stoke,<sup>1</sup> which is contiguous to my Parish, and for his Service I allow him Ten Pounds a year out of Thirty, which is all the Endowment to the Minister who officiates.
7. Publick Service is duly performed every Lord's Day and one Sermon preached. Prayers are read every Holy day, which was never done before I had the Cure. There is no Chappel in my Parish. I generally catechize in my Church sometime in the Summer, and my Parishioners send several of their Children to be instructed. My way is, to explain to them ye Nature of their Baptismal Vow, ye Articles of Faith, ye Extent of each Commandment and ye Sense, Necessity and Efficacy of ye Sacraments, as I go along. There are none who frequent Publick Worship who are not baptiz'd. The Sacrament of ye Lord's Supper is administred, four Times in the year at each of which about thirty or forty recieve.
8. There is an Alms House on Goring Heath for twelve Men erected and endowed by Mr Alnut<sup>2</sup>, The Governors are Mr Andrewson and Read of Abingdon, The Alms-men are allowd two Rooms each, Four Shillings a Week, with Cloaths, Firing, and Garden. There are also Twenty four Boys taught English and Accompts, and cloath'd; who have Ten Pounds each, to put them out apprentices. The Master, who is a Lay-Man, reads Prayers twice a day, and a Sermon on Saturdays in the Afternoon, and Sundays in ye Morning; His Salary is Thirty Pounds a year, a House, Firing and c. A sufficient Estate to support it.

There is also an Alms-House in ye Church yard, erected by ye late Mr Lybbe, for Four Poor Men;<sup>3</sup> for ye Maintenance of whom, he left an Estate of Forty one Pounds a year : the nett Profits of which are applied to ye use intended, by the Minister and Church-Wardens of Goring, ye Minr: of Chackenden, and ye Two nearest Justices of the Peace, who are by his Will constituted Governors.

9. There is no voluntary Charity School in my Parish.
10. Mrs. Eleanor Whistler<sup>4</sup> by Will bearing date May 22nd, 1630, gave to ye Church-Wardens and Overseers Twenty Pounds ; The Interest to be distributed to ye Poor on St Thomas Day yearly. And Mrs. Margaret Whistler gave twenty Nobles to ye same Use. These Charities are properly applied. As is the Interest of Twenty five Pounds given by Letice Wild, to be distributed, Ten shillings for a Sermon, and ye Remainder to ye Poor, on the Twenty sixth Day of March yearly for ever. Mr: Wm: Tew by Will dated Octr: 12th, 1710, charged his Estate with ye Payment of Twenty five shill. yearly, to be distributed to ye Poor on

ye 5th of Novr: for ever. This Estate was purchased by ye Dutchess Dowager of Marlborough;<sup>5</sup> and ye Payment has been intermitted for three Years last past.

11. There has not been any money given at the Offertory Time out of Mind, if ever till lately; And with what is now collected I purchase The Whole Duty of Man,<sup>6</sup> and other Religious Books for ye Use of my Poorer Parishioners.
12. Whenever any Matter shall occur, relating to my Parish, of which it may be proper to give your Lordship Information; you shall receive Notice of it from

Yr Lordship's most obedient Son and Servant  
Haviland John Hiley.

<sup>1</sup>Robert Hughes V. of South Stoke 1721-43.

<sup>2</sup>Founded by Henry Allnutt in his will dated 1724. E. A. Reade, *Allnutt's Charity* (1877).

<sup>3</sup>Richard Lybbe by will dated 1714 left lands for the upkeep of an alms house.

<sup>4</sup>Eleanor Whistler died in 1630. For her charity cf. *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal* xli (1937) pp. 58 ff.

<sup>5</sup>Sarah (1660-1744), widow of the first Duke of Marlborough.

<sup>6</sup>Cf. CHURCHILL p. 46.

#### HANBOROUGH

1. The extent of the Parish is in Breadth about three miles, and about the same in Width; it consists of two Villages; the one called Church Hanborough containing twenty houses, the other called Long Hanborough, about one hundred and ten Houses—Only one family of Note, that of the Bouchiers.
2. None.
3. Dissenters very few Meeting Houses none.
4. None.
5. Those who absent themselves from ye public Worship of the Church are very many—Motives and Principles unknown.
6. The Rector, as president of St. John's College in Oxford, is dispensed with as to Residence, by act of Parliament. He allows his Curate £40 p. annm. whose name is T. Kemp, He serves no other Cure and is resident at the Parsonage House generally half the week.
7. public Service is duly performed and the Sacrament of the Lds. Supper duly administred four Times a Year.
8. None.
9. There is a small School in the Parish for teaching Children to read and write; supported by Contribution.
10. The Money given to the Poor is properly applied.
11. It is disposed of according to Rubric.
12. None.

Thom. Kemp Curate of Hanborough.  
[R. William Holmes<sup>1</sup> 1729-48]

My Lord,

I received last week the favour of your Commands, and write this to assure you that I will pay Obedience to them all, as far as it shall be in my Power. I will endeavour to make the Church-Wardens sensible of their Duty in point of Presentments and if they shall be negligent, I will conform myself to the

Canons made in that respect. At Easter the Sacrament is administred three times ; and on Whitsunday, about Michs. and on Christmas Day once ; The Number of Communicants at Easter is generally between Eighty and Ninety, and at the other times about twenty each. The Children are taught the Church Catechism by the Schoolmaster (mentioned in my Answers) and I can say he does his Duty ; for upon examining the Children on the Lent Sundays I find they answer very well : at those and other times I endeavour to explain some parts of the Catechism to them, particularly in Lent I give them Lectures in the afternoon. From whence it proceeded, that so small a Number offered themselves for Confirmation, I cannot particularly say. I believe the Six Children who did appear were all that were unconfirmed, and above the age of fourteen, excepting one whom I rejected as not sufficiently learned in his Catechism, and two more who before had joined themselves to some other Parish at the Confirmation at Witney. To acquit myself of any Suspicion of Neglect in this matter, I must beg leave to add, that according to your Lordship's Commands, I did give my Parish due Notice of the Confirmation by fixing at the Church Door a paper which I wrote myself in order to inform them of the times and places it was to be administred ; I did also on the Sunday before the Sermon explain the Nature of it in the best manner I was able

I am My Lord, with great respect,

Your Lordships most obedt. Humb. Servant

St. Johns Augst 29 1738.

Thom. Kemp.

<sup>1</sup>William Holmes, D.D. (1689-1748), President of St. John's College 1728-48, Vice-Chancellor 1732-5, Regius Professor of Modern History 1736-42, Prebendary and Dean of Exeter 1742-48. *D.N.B.*

#### HANWELL

1. This parish is about one Quarter of a mile in length and consisteth of one Village only, comprehending Sixty Houses without any family of note. The Circumference is about four miles.
2. There are no Papists in this parish.
3. There are no Presbyterians nor Independents and but one Anabaptist of the lower rank.  
There are no meeting Houses nor Teachers.
5. There are Two Persons of the lower Rank who commonly absent themselves from all public Worship of God and are understood so to do from Want of all Principles. Their Number is not encreased of late.
6. I reside constantly upon one of my Cures and in the house belonging to it and intend to live at Hanwell at Michaelmas next.
7. Public Service is duly performed twice every Lord's Day in ye Church, one Sermon preach'd and Prayers read on Holy Days. There is no Chapel belonging to this Place, Children repeat the Church Catechism every Lent, wch is expounded to them by the Curate. I know of no unbaptized Person who frequents public Worship. The Lords Supper is administered four Times in Every Year. There are usually thirty Communicants at Easter and Xmas, at other times about half that number.
8. There is no Free School. Hospital nor Alms-house.
9. Here is no Voluntary Charity School.
10. Here is the Sum of Thirteen pounds given to be put out at Interest by the Minister and Church-Wardens for the use of the Poor, and is carefully preserved and applied to that Use and to no other.

11. The money given at the offertory is disposed of by the Church-Wardens with the consent of the Minister to the use of the poor.
12. I know of no other matter relating to this Parish, of which it is needful for me to inform your Lordship. I am, My Lord,

Your Most Dutifull Humble Servant,  
Fitzherb: Potter<sup>1</sup> [R. 1725-50]

1V. of Bishop's Itchington, Warwickshire, 1735.

#### HAMPTON POYLE

1. Hampton Poyle is a Small Parish consisting of one Village its Inhabitants few and not one Family of Note.
4. Not one Papist or Dissenter in the Parish.
5. Not any that profess a disregard to Religion in the Parish.
6. Hampton Poyle being about four miles from Oxford is generally Serv'd by (Mr Benn)<sup>1</sup> a resident Fellow of Queens College.<sup>2</sup> The Rector lives in another Part of your Lordships Diocese. The Benefice is small and the allowance for the Curate is twenty Pounds.
7. Service is perform'd every Lord's Day twice and one Sermon preach'd. No Chapel in the Parish. The Children are catichised in Lent constantly and the Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administred four times in the Year.
8. No Free School, Hospital or Alms House in the Place.
9. No Voluntary Free School.
10. No lands or Tenements given to the Church at any time but what are in the Possession of the Rector. There was Five or Ten Pounds given to the Poor of the Parish some years ago the Interest of which was distributed among them yearly, but the Person in whose hands it was lodged d'y'd insolvent and it has never since been made good.
11. No money ever given at the offertory.
12. I know of nothing more to acquaint your Lordship with

Witness my Hand

Robt Benn.

Curate of Hampton Poyle.

[R. John Hunter<sup>3</sup> 1728-51]

<sup>1</sup>Secker's handwriting.

<sup>2</sup>Robert Benn, R. of Charlton-on-Otmoor 1745-53.

<sup>3</sup>R. of South Weston 1727-51.

#### HARDWICK

1. The extent of our Parish is a mile, no Villages or Hamlets. Two Houses and three cottages, No families of note.
2. Yes Mr Short and his wife, Farmer Day.<sup>1</sup> Davis. and Ralf Collet. No Person has been Perverted of late. There is no popish Pryst recides in ye Parish. No Popish Schole in ye Parish.
3. No.
4. We have no Quakers in the Parish.
5. No.
6. There is no Parsonage House in ye Parish. The Salary that Mr Clackson<sup>2</sup> allows to his curat Mr Vaughan is Three Pound a year.

7. only once in ye month and that is the first Sunday in each month.
8. There is no Free Schoole, Hospital or Alms-House.
9. No.
10. No.
11. To the poor.

[R. Thomas Clarkson<sup>4</sup> 1703-29 March 1738]

<sup>1</sup>Robert Day (d. 1747) may have lived in the manor house. The property belonged to the Fermors, of Tusmore. Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *A History of the Post-Reformation Catholic Missions in Oxfordshire* (1905) pp. 80 ff.

<sup>2</sup>Possibly William Vaughan, son of the Vicar of Fritwell and North Aston.

<sup>3</sup>The Bishop took this up with the new Rector, Mr. Sheppard. "I wrote him a sharp letter and he hath been with me and promised to have service every Sunday." MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers c. 651 f. 40.

<sup>4</sup>R. of Chipping, Lancashire 1721, and of Heysham 1735.

#### HARPSDEN

1. I take ye Extent of ye Parish of Harpsden cum Bowlney to be about eight measur'd miles ; we have no Hamlet belong to us ; I believe it contains about thirty families and there are two Familys of Note in it.  
Tho: Leigh Rector.
2. We have no Papists in our Parish.  
Tho: Leigh Rector.
3. We have no Independents or Anabaptists but about three familys of Presbyterians whereof one is ye Lord of ye Mannour ; we have no Meeting House or Teacher ; and to ye best information I can get, their number is of late years lessen'd.  
Tho : Leigh Rector.
4. We have no Quakers in ye Parish.  
Tho: Leigh Rector.
5. I know of none.  
Tho: Leigh Rector.
6. I am constantly resident and employ no Curate.  
Tho: Leigh Rector.
7. Public Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords Day, and one Sermon preach'd. Upon all great Solemn Days prayers are read, but not on others, for want of a congregation ; Severall houses being two miles, and almost all one mile from ye Church. We have no private Chapell. I catechise every Sunday in Lent, and administer ye Sacrement four times a year. Sometimes about twenty Receivers.  
Tho: Leigh Rector.
8. We have no Free School, Hospital or Almshouse in our Parish.  
Tho: Leigh Rector.
9. We have no Voluntary Charity School in our Parish.  
Tho: Leigh Rector.
10. We have a Charity of ten pounds left us wch is put out to interest, wch summ once in two years, is given as designed, to ye Poor of this Parish, on Easter Munday by ye Minister and Parishioners.  
Tho: Leigh Rector.
11. Wt. money is given when ye holy Sacrament is receivd, is given by ye Receivers, to ye Clerk of the Parish, being one of ye Poorest.  
Tho: Leigh Rector.



12. None other yt I know of,

Tho. Leigh: Rector. [1731-64]

Harden Sept. ye 4th 1738.

My Lord,

I receiv'd ye favour of Your Lordships letter ; and in answer to it, I must acquaint your Lordship that my Parish is call'd Harpsden cum Bowlney in my Institution ; Bowlney was formerly a Separate Parish, but has been annex'd to Harden from ye best information, I can get, above two hundred years, w<sup>n</sup> Oxford was part of ye Diocese of Lincoln. There was formerly a Chappell belonging to it, but it is now a Tenement ; but how long ye property has been chang'd, I can get no information of.

The names of ye two Gentlemen of Note in my Parish are Nathaniel Warner and \*Henry Hall Esqrs. This latter is a Presbyterian, and has an estate in this Parish and contiguous to it, about 700<sup>l</sup> per annum.

\*Lord of ye Mannour.<sup>1</sup>

In my answer to your Lordships 10th Qu. I meant we have a charity of ten pounds only, ye interest of wch amounting to but ten shillings a year, is ye reason why we dispose not of it, but once in two years. I now return Your Lordship thanks for your letter, your Blessing, and your kind advice in it, wch I shall strive to follow to ye best of my power.

I remain, Your Lordships most Obedient humble Servant

Tho: Leigh.

<sup>1</sup>In Secker's hand.

#### HASELY

1. The Parish is in circumference about 9 miles, and comprehends

4 Villages : viz:

1 Great Hasely has 59 Houses.

2 Little Hasely 28 Houses.

3 Latchford 9 Houses.

4 Rycote 5 Houses.

The Familes of Note are :

The Right Honble. The Earl of Abingdon.<sup>1</sup>

Richard Carters Esqr.<sup>2</sup>

Thomas Blackall Esq<sup>3</sup> lives in the same family.

2. There is no Papist in the Parish.

3. There are two Anabaptists of low Circumstance.

4. There are no Quakers in the Parish.

5. The Parishioners are generally present at the Publick Worship of God on the Lord's Day.

6. Dr Booth the Rector of this Parish (being Dean of His Majestys free Chapel in the Castle of Windsor) is excused from Residence by an Act of Parliament,<sup>4</sup> but his Curate resides constantly in the Parsonage House, and has a Salary of Sixty pounds pr annm. allowed Him by Act of Parliament.

7. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administred on Christmas Day, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Day, Whitsunday and Sunday after St Michael.

Public Service is duly performed twice every Lord's Day in the Church

and one Sermon preachd. Prayers are read on Holidays, and the children and Servants are catechised on every Sunday in the afternoon during the Holy Season, of Lent, and a Lecture is read on the Catechism at the same time.

8. There are ten Pounds pr Annm Settled on the Schoolmaster, and the School is free to all the Poor of the Parish, of which Luke Tayler was the Founder.<sup>5</sup> The Governours are His Grace the Arch Bishop of Canterbury,<sup>6</sup> the Right Honble. the Earl of Abingdon. The Right Honble the Earl of Macclesfield,<sup>7</sup> Sr John Doiley Bartt.<sup>8</sup>

Francis Knollys <sup>9</sup>	}	Esqrs.
James Herbert <sup>10</sup>		
John Clark		
John Mason		
William Wickham		
9. There is no Voluntary Charity School in the Parish.
10. An hundred and twenty eight Pounds pr Annm have been given to the Poor of the Parish in Lands of the Parish of Drayton, and in the villages of Berket<sup>11</sup> and Rawford, and are applied to the uses, for which they were given.  
Three Pounds more have been given to cloath four poor Persons yearly, and one Pound Six Shillings and eight pence to be distributed to the Poor yearly.<sup>12</sup>
11. The Money given at the offertory is disposed of by the Curate to poor sick Families who receive no Charity from the Parish.
12. There is no other Matter relating to the Parish of Hasely of which it may be proper to give your Lordship information, by,

My Good Lord,

Your Lordships Most dutiful and most obedient Servant

Edward Thornborough

Curate of Hasely.

[R. Peniston Booth<sup>13</sup> 1729-65]

<sup>1</sup>The second Earl of Abingdon (d. 1743), of Rycote.

<sup>2</sup>Richard Carter (1673-1755), Chief Justice of Glamorgan, Brecon and Radnor.

<sup>3</sup>Thomas Blackall (1702-86), of Haseley Court.

<sup>4</sup>By the private act 7 Anne c. 38 the Rectory or Parsonage of Hasely in the County of Oxon was annexed to the Deanery of Windsor. This continued until the Deanery and the Rectory were separated under the general provisions of 3 and 4 Victoria c 86 "An Act for Better Enforcing Church Discipline." [Information kindly supplied by Mr. M. F. Bond].

<sup>5</sup>A bequest to the poor by Luke Tayler in 1647 was applied in 1680 to the maintenance of a schoolmaster. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I p. 485.

<sup>6</sup>John Potter, Archbishop of Canterbury 1737-47.

<sup>7</sup>The second Earl of Macclesfield (c. 1697-1764), of Shirburn Castle.

<sup>8</sup>Sir John D'Oyly, 2nd Bart. (c. 1670-1746), of Chislehampton.

<sup>9</sup>Francis Knollys (d. 1757), of Thame, M.P. for Oxford 1722-34.

<sup>10</sup>James Herbert, of Tythorpe, M.P. for Oxford 1739-54.

<sup>11</sup>i.e. Burcot.

<sup>12</sup>Bequeathed by Luke Tayler.

<sup>13</sup>Dean of Windsor 1729-65. *D.N.B.* He founded a school at Little Hasely in 1756.

## HEADINGTON

My Lord,

I yesterday undertook in ye absence of Mr Bush to perform ye usual Services in ye Church of Headington wch with your Lordship's Permission I will faithfully discharge till his Return, or another Curate be appointed. But being an entire Stranger to ye Parish, and not having a convenient Time for making ye Enquiries proposed by your Lordship, I humbly beg to be Excus'd returning any answer, or yt your Lordship would defer it till I can Give you a satisfactory one. Wch I shall not neglect to do after proper Notice, or any thing also which may convince you yt I am Yr Lordships most dutiful Son and Servt

T. Fellows Chapn: of W:C.<sup>1</sup>

1. The extent of ye Parish of Headington is fro. East to West about sixteen furlongs, fro. North to South about fourteen furlongs ; has two hamlets belonging to it, called Barton and Quarry: there are in ye Parish about seventy five families.
2. There are no Papists in ye Parish.
3. There are no Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists in ye Parish.
4. There are no Quakers in ye Parish.
5. There are no Persons in ye Parish who profess to disregard religion, or that commonly absent themselves frō church.
6. I do not reside, but was excused from it by the late Bishop, because ye vicaridge is not, of itself, good enough to support its Vicar. I take care to have it regularly served, and do allow my curate two thirds of ye income; he is not licensed nor did ye late Bishop ever insist upon his taking out a license because ye vicaridge is too smal to bear any burthens, especially as Colleges are such flux bodies, which obliges me to change my curate often ; he serves no other Cure.
7. Service is duly performed every Sunday and one Sermon preach'd. Prayers have been read on the 5th of November, ye 30th of January and ye 29th of May.<sup>2</sup> Children are catechized in Lent and Parents send their children, the catechize has been no otherwise expounded than by preaching. The Sacrament is administred three times in ye year, and usually about twenty receive it.
8. There is neither Free School nor Alms-house in ye Parish.
9. There is no Charity School in ye Parish.
10. No lands or money given to the Church or poor.
11. No money given at ye Sacrament.
12. Nor is there any other matter relating to ye Parish (that I know of) of which it may be proper to give your Lordship information

witness my hand

George Bowditch.<sup>3</sup> [V. 1727-44]

<sup>1</sup>Wadham College.

<sup>2</sup>Cf. ASTAL p. 11.

<sup>3</sup>V. of Southrop, Gloucestershire, 1735-41, R. of Winterslow, Wiltshire, 1741-5.

## HEATH

1. The Greatest length is not above a tolerable mile, ye greatest Breadth not half a mile, in some parts not a quarter: no house out of town: there are in ye town about fourty-nine houses—inhabited and uninhabited: No one Family of any note ; there are a few farmers of small Tenements, the Rest Day Labourers and some Handycrafts.

2. The Papists in the Parish are a Weavers Widow, a Day Labourers Wife, (who hath three sons, the two youngest of which go with the Mother) and two other women lodgers here, ye one, Wife to the Coachman of Mr Fermor<sup>1</sup> of Tusmore, with three Children who came to this place about two months since, the other wife to Mr Fermor's Butler, who hath lived here almost two years, and hath been brought to bed in this Parish twice, and ye Children were baptised of a Popish Priest. There is one man formerly a Protestant, but perverted : but as he doth not belong to our Parish, but is only a Lodger, it cannot be presumed, yt I should know his perverter : but the means may easily be guessed at viz, ye hopes of Advantage as he is employed by Mr Fermor's Gardener, who lives at Hardwick his Name . I know not of anything more relating to this article but yt a Popish Priest comes sometimes to see ye Aforesaid people, and goes by ye name of Constable as I am informed.
3. There are about four Presbyterians, shoemakers, and their wives ; But one of them and his Wife often come to Church : I do n't know of any Meeting house in ye Parish, nor of any Increase but by ye wives being brought into ye Parish or decrease but by death.
4. I have no Quakers at all yt I know of.
5. I do not know of any one who professeth a Disregard to Religion, but there are two or three whom my Curate, who hath been resident on ye Place for twelve years last past, tells me he never saw at Church but at a Funeral : and two or three whom he hath indeed seen at Church but yt very seldom, my Curate tells me he cannot tell their Motives, but he believes poorness of Dress and Laziness to be the Chief, except those who have been above mentioned under Art 2, who are understood to absent themselves as Papists.
6. I do not reside upon my Cure but in Oxford on my headship in Exeter College, about twelve or fourteen miles distance, and the Reason is because all Heads of Colleges are excepted out of ye Statute of Residence enacted 28 Hen : 8. I have a Curate residing in the said Parish, and who, as he was Incumbent before me, had Upon taking Institution to the Living a Licence from the late Bp of Oxford. At least I presumed so in as much as such an Article was charged to me among the fees of Institution, and I received an Instrument of License afterwards. My Curate's name is John Warren ;<sup>2</sup> he doth not serve any other Cure. And I allow the use of the parsonage House with ye homestall and Churchyard and twenty pounds p. annum.
7. Public Service is duly performed twice every Lords Day, and one Sermon Preached, unless when, on Account of Sickness or any other like cause, a neighbouring Minister wants assistance. There are very few Holidays which will produce a Congregation. Catechising is used from Ash Wednesday to Easterday inclusively and ye Children come tolerably well, but no Servants. No Exposition is used. There are no persons, yt I know of, who frequent Publick Worship and are not baptised. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administred on Christmas Day, Palm sunday, Easterday and Whitsunday ; about 20 Communicants each day except Palmsunday when not above 10.
8. There is no Free School, Hospital or Alms House in the Parish.
9. There is no Voluntary Charity School in the Parish.
10. There have none such been ever given that I have heard of.

11. The Money given at the Offertory is disposed of by the Minister and Churchwardens to the Poor of the Parish.
12. There is a dilapidated Wall, on the West side of the Churchyard, and one of the Mounds of the Churchyard, and which hath been in this Condition for more than six years. When I came to be incumbent Here I found it in this Condition and there having been a Dispute between my Predecessor and ye Parish about ye Repairing ye said Wall it was agreed between myself and the then Churchwardens yt the matter should be presented ; three Presentations have since been made at ye Arch-deacon's Visitation in whose Court the Cause is at present<sup>3</sup>

James Edgecumbe<sup>4</sup> Rector  
of the Parish Church of Heath.

[1732-49]

<sup>1</sup>Henry Fermor (1714-46), of Tusmore.

<sup>2</sup>R. of Heath 1723-32.

<sup>3</sup>"The Ch. yard wall at Heath is agreed to be repaired by the Minr. and Parish-ioners together, tho' the Rector of Exeter is a little dissatisfied with doing any share." 2 May 1745. MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers c. 652 f. 73.

<sup>4</sup>Rector of Exeter College and V. of Kidlington 1737-50.

[HENLEY]

W. Stockwood Rector of Henley.<sup>1</sup> [1737-84]

1. The Parish is about a mile Square. There are about 500 houses. There is no Family of Note in it. The Lord of the Mannour is Mr Cooper a Banker in the Strand who marry'd into the Family of the Whitlocks and comes down here in the Summer and resides in the old house here belonging to that Family.<sup>2</sup>
2. There are 2 women that are Papists but they are marryd to Protestants.
3. There is a Presbyterian Meeting house the Teacher is Mr Sills<sup>3</sup> the Number of Dissenters is about the third of the Parish and of late years they are lessened considerably.
4. The Quakers have a Meeting house in my Parish and there are about 10 Familys of them. I believe they pay all other Dues but the Easter Offerings with compulsion and as to those I dont find they have ever been troubled for ym. being very small.
5. I know of no such persons here.
6. I do reside in my Parsonage house at Henley a good part of the year.
7. There are two Sermons Preacht in my Church of Henley every Sunday and there are Prayers every Wednesday Friday and holyday. The Children are Catechisd in Lent and the Sacrament of the Lords Supper is Administred Every first Sunday in the month and on the 3 great Festivals.
8. There is a Free school for the Children of the Inhabitants of Henley, it was founded as I am informed by king James the first,<sup>4</sup> the upper Master's house and Salary is worth 50£ p. ann. the Under-Masters Salary is about 20£ the chief of the Governes of it are Lord Macclesfield<sup>5</sup> Sr Jno Doyley<sup>6</sup> Lrd Archibald Hamilton<sup>7</sup> Mr Freeman<sup>8</sup> of Fawley Court in the County of Bucks Sir Wm Stapleton<sup>9</sup> and others of less Note how far the Statutes and Ordinances are observed I dont pretend to know for I never saw them. There are 22 Almshouses 14 of wch are founded by one person and 8 by another.<sup>10</sup>

9. There is no such school in my Parish.
10. There have been great Abuses of the several Charitys to my Parish wch are many in number, but our present Town-Clerk Mr Blandy<sup>11</sup> has searchd the Book of Wills relating to them and has caused an Abstract of them to be set up on several Tables in the Church and what could be recoverd of them is now Faithfully I believe applyd to the uses they were given for.
11. The offertory mony is given by the Church wardens to poor Inhabitants of this parish.

<sup>1</sup>R. of Ockley, Surrey, 1725-84 and died in 1784 in his hundredth year.

<sup>2</sup>Gislingham Cooper (d. 1768), of Phillis Court, married Ann, youngest daughter of William Whitelock.

<sup>3</sup>John Sills was Congregational minister from 1718 to 1739 or 1740. W. H. Summers, *History of the Congregational Churches in the Berks, South Oxon and South Bucks Association* (1905) pp. 117, 285.

<sup>4</sup>It was refounded by royal charter in 1604. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I p. 470.

<sup>5</sup>The second Earl of Macclesfield (c. 1697-1764), of Shirburn Castle.

<sup>6</sup>Sir John D'Oyly 2nd Bart. (c. 1670-1746), of Chislehampton.

<sup>7</sup>Lord Archibald Hamilton (1673-1754), seventh son of Anne, Duchess of Hamilton.

<sup>8</sup>John Freeman (1689-1752), of Fawley Court, Buckinghamshire.

<sup>9</sup>Sir William Stapleton, 4th Bart. M.P. (1698-1740), of Greys Court.

<sup>10</sup>It is said that 12 were founded by Bishop Longland (1504-7), 10 by Humphrey Newberry (1664) and 4 by Ann Messenger (1669). J. S. Burn, *A History of Henley-on-Thames* (1861) pp. 91 f.

<sup>11</sup>Francis Blandy, Town Clerk 1736-47. He was murdered by his daughter in 1752. *ibid.* p. 146. There is an extensive contemporary literature concerning "the most horrid parricide committed on the body of Mr. Blandy."

#### HEYFORD AT BRIDGE

1. The Parish from East to West i.e. from Middleton Gate to Heyford

	Mil	fur	Perch	
Bridge, is 2		3	16	from North to South measuring along

	Mil	Fur	Perch
the Oxford way, is 1		2	12

#### Houses

In Heyford are	—	—	—	41
In Caldecot are	—	—	—	12
				The number of Inhabitants are
				— about 240.

53

The Name of the Church is St Marrie's, it was consecrated by Wulfwin the last Bishop of Dorchester, who was buried at Dorchester in the Second Year of William the Conqueror. The Parish was formerly divided into two Moieties, which had distinct Incumbents and distinct Patrons ; but, by reason of the Poverty and Paucity of the Inhabitants and the Barreness of the Soil, They were consolidated by John Chadworth Bishop of Lincoln, with the consent of the Dean and Chapter, July 24 1453.

The Patronage was then made alternate, first to Thomas Delamare, then to the Abby of Eynsham, but now it is united and is in the President and Scholars of Corpus Christi College in Oxford.

There is not one Family of any Note in the Parish.

2. There is One, who is a poor widow.
3. There is one, who frequents the Presbyterian Meeting Houses but I believe that He is not regularly united to any of Them. He refuses to take an Oath, but never goes to the meetings of the Quakers.

He has a Copy-hold Estate of about £30 a Year, which He occupies Himself.

We have no Meeting House of any Sort in the Parish.

4. I have only one poor Woman and She is very few removes from an Idiot.
5. There are none that I know of, who profess a disregard to Religion ; but too many Shew but very little respect to it ; They very seldom attending upon the Public Worship but I hope, and believe, that the number of them is not increased since the Care of the Parish has been committed to me.
6. I constantly reside in the Parsonage House.
7. Public Service, I hope, is duly perform'd. I generally catechize in my Church eight Times every Year ; I use an Exposition chiefly of my own Composure, which in eight Lectures, of about half an hour Each, runs through the whole Catechism. None, that I know of, frequent public Worship and are not baptiz'd. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administer'd three times in every year. The number of Communicants is generally upwards of 20. The lowest Number that I remember was 14 the highest 31.

There was formerly a Chappel at Caldecot (about a mile and a half from lower Heyford) but a grant was made by Queen Elisabeth to Sir John Perrot of the Chappel the Chappel-Yard, and all the Lands belonging to it ;<sup>1</sup> I presume that it was pull'd down by Him and it not since been rebuilt.

8. There are none.
9. There are none.
10. There are ten pounds, which were left by one Mrs. Bruce,<sup>2</sup> and are now in the hands of Mr John Macock of This Parish, who pays annually ten Shillings for the Interest.

One Mrs Malpas<sup>3</sup> also left Twenty Shillings a Year for ever to be taken out of the Rents of Some Houses in 3 leg-Court in white-Cross Street near Cripplegate London.

Both these Sums are constantly distributed to the Poor according to the Wills of the Testators.

11. I dispose of the whole to poor Communicants.
12. The Ten Commandments, with Moses and Aaron and other Ornaments painted upon Canvas, are fix'd up between the Church and the Chancel, where formerly the Rood loft Stood.

It looks ill, darkens the Church, and in its present Situation is not legible : I would desire your Lordship's leave either entirely to remove, it, or at least to place it lower and against a Side Wall, where it may be read.

The Church wants whitewashing.

The Pavement of it is very bad.

There is no Paten for the Bread at the Communion.

There is never a lock to the Church Chest.

The Register wants to be new bound and fresh leaves added to it.

The Gates of the Church-Yard wont keep out the Hogs.

The Church Ways are intolerable.

My Lord,

On Saturday last I receiv'd your Lordship's Queries and beg leave by This Way to transmit my Answer to them : for I am apprehensive, if I deliver them at Burcester my Parishioners may be suspicious that I have given some Information against them : This I would willingly prevent being sensible it will lessen that Influence, which I wish and pray, I may always have over them.

I have acquainted my Parish with all the Things which I complain of to your Lordship, and beg'd of Them, that They might be reform'd: but all my Intreaties, and even Threats to acquaint the Ordinary with it, have been to no Purpose. I believe, my Lord, it is not a disregard to Decency, but Poverty is the occasion of These Things, every Penny comes with extream Difficulty from them, and I truly think, that there are very few poorer Parishes in Your Lordships Diocese. I hope your Lordship will excuse the Trouble I now give you, and that you would believe me to be with all due respect

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most dutyfull Son and very obedient humble Servant

Tho: Leigh.<sup>4</sup>

Lower Heyford June ye 27 1738.

[R. 1728-44]

<sup>1</sup>According to the Corpus Christi Bursary Transcripts the chapel of Caulcott was confiscated as a charity in 1575 and sold for £106 6s. 8d. to John Parrott. [Information supplied by Mrs. M. D. Lobel].

<sup>2</sup>Susanna Bruce (d. 1706). J. C. Blomfield, *History of Lower and Upper Heyford* (1892) p. 36.

<sup>3</sup>Abigail Malpas (b. 1594) *ibid.* p. 36.

<sup>4</sup>He appears to have been an exemplary Rector. *ibid.* p. 64.

#### HEYFORD WARREN

My Lord,

1. In answer to your Lordships 1st Article The Parish of Heyford Warren according to the best Calculation is about four miles in Circumference. No Villages or Hamletts. 32 Houses No Family of Note.
2. In this Parish I have no Papists Presbyterians Independents Anabaptists or Quakers.
4. There are no Quakers in the Parish.
5. The Parish in general well behaved. Some Persons do not so regularly attend the Public Worship of God as might be wished. The Motives and Principles are I suppose their not having a right Sense of their Duty. The Number is not increas'd.
6. I constantly Serve My Cure unless Sickness or absolute Necessity Keeps me from it. Not strictly resident.
7. Public Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords Day, and one Sermon preached. There is no Chapel in the Parish. I Catechize constantly in Lent. The Parishioners regularly Send their Children. There is no unbaptised Person who frequents publick Worship. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is ordain'd four Times in the year, generally a proportionate Number of Communicants.
8. There is no Free School, Hospital or Alms House in ye Parish.
9. There is no voluntary Charity School in the Parish.
10. One Mr Richard Dalby Brother to ye Revd Mr Wilm Dalby formerly

£ s d

Rector of this Parish left the sum of 7 2 8 which is disposed of in the



following Manner. The Interest of £5=16=0 being 0=6=6 is given for the Use of the Poor. And the Interest of one pound six Shillings and eight Pence being 0—1—6 For the Carriage of four Loads of Stones for the Repair of the Church Ways.

11. There is no Money given at the Offertory.
12. I know of nothing material to acquaint your Lordship with  
I am My Lord

Your Lordships most Dutiful Son and Servant

Lancelot Michell.

[R. Shuckburgh Cotton<sup>2</sup> 1731-62]

<sup>1</sup>R. 1557-86.

<sup>2</sup>R. of Newton Purcell 1734-62.

#### HEYTHROP

1. about 7 Ld. Shrewsbury's,<sup>1</sup> Mr Stoner<sup>2</sup>, Mr Young.
2. Ld Shrewsbury is now under age abroad, and said to be educating a Papist.<sup>3</sup> Mr Stoner is reputed a Papist. When I have any Evidence of his being, or harbouring any Priest, or place of Mass, or actual popish worship ; yr Ldsp Shall know. Mr Baskervill, Ld. Shrewsbury's under Steward, is said to be a Papist.
3. Joseph Davies is Said to be a Presbyterian, Mr Young an Anabaptist, neither of them or of the children of the latter, come to Church.
6. There never having been, in the memory of man, any House or Glebe belonging to the Rector at Heathrop, I reside within two miles of it, at Chipping Norton, as all my predecessors have done.
7. The Sacramt. is administred here 4 times a Year to about 4 or 5, all we can get ; we can't make up a tolerable Congregation without the Assistance of Straglers from neighbouring Parishes, who will not come till the Afternoon : for wch. reason, tho a Sermon is constantly preachd here once every Sunday ; public Service was never perform'd here twice in one Lds. Day.<sup>4</sup> The Labourers here will not leave their work, In or Out of the Field, for Service in the Church on common Holy days.
6. We have no Money given at the Offertory here or Easter Offerings . they are either poor ; or not Church-goers.
12. Mr Young and Mr Baskervill, Seem each desirous to be chose the Churchwarden : but I don't think it proper to admit those into the offices of the Church, who will not come near It or its Worship.

[R. James Martin<sup>5</sup> 1724-70]

<sup>1</sup>The thirteenth Earl of Shrewsbury (1673-1743), of Heythrop Park. He was a Jesuit priest, and never assumed the title.

<sup>2</sup>Cf. CHIPPING NORTON p. 45.

<sup>3</sup>He may be alluding to the fourteenth Earl of Shrewsbury (1719-87).

<sup>4</sup>The Bishop required a Sunday morning service and on 24 August 1738 the Rector replied as follows :—"The people of Little Rollright respect me for my service ; and have lately adorned ye pulpit for me in a handsome manner. But to be torn away from Them, and sent on a Sunday-morning to Heathrop, to read to the Church-walls ; (wch. I am sure would be the case, the Clerk only excepted :) this, my Lord, is to me a melancholy consideration. Out of the whole of 7 houses of fixed inhabitants those yt are called Church-goers, only two men ; the Clerk one, who is forced to be Churchwarden ; and two old women, who are very infirm, one of whom comes not above once a month, the other once a Qr. and never all together. Nor will reading to the walls be the worst of the case. I am already forced to be oblig'd to the Papist at Heathrop for a Stable. If I am sent thither in a morning ; I must either fast (wch. will put me into a fever) or be obliged to him likewise for a

dinner ; (for no one will dine me :) That will draw me on something of an acquaintance; and that acquaintance will draw upon me a fresh censure of *countenancing Popery*. . . .” MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers c. 651 f. 4-7.

<sup>5</sup>Curate of Little Rollright.

#### HOLTON

1. The Parish of Holton is of small Extent it comprehends Thirty Houses only one Family of Note in it, viz Thomas Whorwoods<sup>1</sup> Esqr the Patron of my Living.
2. There is one Family of Papists in my Parish ; a Gardiner and his Wife and three Children.
3. There are no Presbyterians in my Parish.
4. There are no Quakers in my Parish.
5. None.
6. I reside constantly upon my Cure, and in the House belonging to it.
7. Public Service is duly performed twice every Lord's Day in my Church and one Sermon Preached. Prayers are read on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, the Holy-days after Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide, and on the State Holy-days. I catechize every Sunday between Easter and Whitsuntide, and the Children come regularly. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administred five times every year from ten to Thirty Persons are the usual numbers that receive it.
8. Dr Rogers<sup>2</sup> left two hundred pounds to buy Land for the payment of a School-Master at Holton to teach twenty five or at least twenty poor Children ; to be appointed by the Rector and His Executors. The Legacy is preserved and employed as directed.
9. None.
10. The sum of one hundred pounds was left by Mrs Diana Masters,<sup>3</sup> the interest of which (being five pounds p Ann) is to apprentice poor Boys of the Parish. The money is carefully preserved and applied to this and no other use.
11. The money given at the Offertory is disposed of among the Poor of my Parish by me.
12. None.

Tho: Finch Rector.<sup>4</sup> [1735-51]  
John Coxe Rector. [1758-68]

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Whorwood (b. 1694), of Holton Park.

<sup>2</sup>Edward Rogers D.D. R. 1665-84 left £200 which is said to have been used in the purchase of land at Brill for the endowment of the school. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I p. 485.

<sup>3</sup>Died in 1701.

<sup>4</sup>These words have been struck out, and those beneath added in another handwriting. For a similar amendment by John Coxe cf. MARSTON p. 101.

#### HOOK-NORTON

1. Ye Extent of ye Parish One Mile. 160 Houses and upwards. No Families of Note.
2. No Papists, no Popish Assembly, nor Popish School.
3. No Presbyterians, No Independents. Eighteen Families of Anabaptists ; of mean Rank : Two meeting Houses, One in which They meet every Lords Day and in ye Other (Commonly called ye Vicaridge House sold by ye late Ld: Bishop of Durham<sup>1</sup> to an Anabaptist and Licensed for a



4. No Quaker in ye Parish.
5. No such Person yt I have any knowledge of.
6. No house belonging to ye Minister ; ye cure being supplied by a Fellow of Magdalen College according to ye appointment of ye Founder in his Statutes.
7. Publick Service perform'd twice every Lord's day. Prayers on other days as usual—No Chapel—children Catechiz'd during Lent. No Unbaptiz'd Persons. Sacrament administer'd four times in ye Year. Number of Communicants from twenty to thirty, and at Easter more.
8. No endowments of ys sort.
9. Only a few poor children taught at ye Sole Expense of ye minister.
10. Only two small annual Benefactions which are duly applied to ye use of ye poor.
11. The Parish consisting mostly of poor persons there is no Collection at ye Offertory.

Tho Jenner Curate.

#### IBESTON

1. A small parish · about 30 houses. Only one Village. No family of Note.
2. None.
3. None.
4. None.
5. None.
6. Rector resides at Cuxham. Curate here, Mr Cuthbert, Vicar of Tourville in Buckinghamshire half a mile distant. Salary 18. 0. 0.
7. Sermon once and prayers twice for the most part. Tourville almost as near many of the parishioners as Ipston. Prayers on Christmas day and Good Fr. Children catechized when they will come. 3 Sacraments. 20 or 25 Communicants.
8. None.
9. None.
10. None.
11. By the Rector to the Poor.
12. None.

[V. William Marten<sup>1</sup> 1709-43]

These answers were taken from Mr Martins' mouth<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>R. of Cuxham 1718-43.

<sup>2</sup>Note in Secker's hand.

#### IDBURY

1. The Parish of Idbury is two miles long, and one in breadth ; has three Villages, and upwards of twenty Houses in it. All its constant Inhabitants are Farmers, (and Tennants of Mr Fortescue<sup>1</sup> mentioned in the next Question) except a few poor people.
2. There is One Family of Papists in it, the Master of which is a Shoemaker. A Gentleman suspected to be a papist Priest is sometimes seen in ye Parish, and thought to officiate a few times in ye year as such, to a small Congregation in a Chappell at ye Manour House inhabited by a Protestant, but belonging to a Papist, one—Fortescue Esq who lives in it twice a year about a week at a time, to receive his Rents.

3. There are no Presbyterians, nor and c in it.
4. No Quakers.
5. There are no such Persons as are mentioned in this Question in the Parish.
6. I serve Idbury constantly from Westcott ;<sup>2</sup> to which Cure it hath been long annex'd, and hath no Parsonage House belonging to it. I wait on the Lord Bishop of Gloucester (as commanded by him) at his Visitation at Stow, to be licens'd Curate to Mr Davis the Rector of Westcott, who is not to officiate himself, by his Lordship's order. The Salary at Idbury is about thirteen pounds p. annum.
7. Publick Service (both Prayers and Sermon) is constantly perform'd at it every Sunday : In the morning many of this Parish attend divine Service at Westcott. I propose to Catechise each year from Midsummer till Michaelmas, every Lords' day ; in the Church Catechism, and Bp Williams's Exposition of it.<sup>3</sup> I cannot charge any of the Parishioners with neglecting to send yr Children and Servants to be catechiz'd. They are all baptiz'd who frequent publick Worshp. The Sacramt is administred four times a year, and receiv'd each time by a considerable number.
8. There is no Free—School and c in the Parish.
9. Nor Charity School.
10. None.
11. The Church Wardens distribute it among the Poor of the Parish.
12. I dont know of any.

I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordps. most dutiful Son and Servt.

John Middleton.

<sup>1</sup>Francis Fortescue, of Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire. Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *A History of the Post-Reformation Catholic Missions in Oxfordshire* (1905) p. 160.

<sup>2</sup>Westcote, Gloucestershire.

<sup>3</sup>John Williams (Bishop of Chichester), *A brief exposition of the Church-Catechism* (1689).

#### YEFTLEY [IFFLEY]

1. The Parish of Iffley contains Iffley and a Hamlet called Hackmore Street, and a part of the Hamlet of Littlemore, and has fifty two Houses.
3. There is one Presbyterian.
7. Public Service is duly performed twice every Lords Day and one Sermon preach'd. The Children are catechiz'd during the Summer Season, and have the whole Catechism briefly expounded by the Oxon Exposition<sup>1</sup> and some parts more fully explain'd by a Lecture. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administered six times a Year to about fifty Communicants.
10. There are Lands to the value of fifty Pounds pr ann given for the apprenticing Children and settling them in Trade, And they are carefully preserv'd and applied to that Use, and to no other.
11. The Money given at the Offertory is dispos'd of by the Church Wardens to poor Widows and Housekeepers.

<sup>1</sup>This may have been [Thomas Marshall, Rector of Lincoln College], *The Catechism set forth in the Book of Common-Prayer, briefly explained by short notes grounded upon Holy Scripture* (Oxford, at the Theater, 1679).

## IPSDEN

1. In Length about 3 miles in breadth about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile 1 Hamlet called Haly Houses about 60.
2. No Papists.
3. Presbyterians 4, no Independents or Anabaptists, their Number is not increased of late years.
4. No Quakers.
5. I know of none who openly profess to disregard Religion or who commonly absent themselves upon that Principle from all Public Worship on ye Lords Day.

There are some who absent themselves too often ; but it shall be my endeavour to lessen ye number of them.

6. I do, and shall constantly reside upon my Cure in the House belong to it. See Article ye 6th in ye paper directed to Newnham.
7. Public Service is duly performed twice every Lord's day in my Church, and one Sermon preach'd.  
Prayers are read on St days, State Holydays and the 3 great Festival weeks.

Children are catechized in Lent and at other time.

The Sacrament of ye Lords Supper is administred 4 times in the Year.

The Communicants are usually between 10 and 20 in number.

8. There is no Free School, Hospital, or Almshouse in this Parish.
9. There is no Charity-School in this Parish.
10. There is three pounds p ann: left in land by Emery, to ye Poorest Inhabitants of ys Parish. This money is yearly distributed according to ye will and a Hundred pounds was left by ye Revrd Mr Headlam,<sup>1</sup> to buy Coats for such Poor People as frequent ye Church and Sacrament, and receive no collection ; I have made a purchase in land of 3 : 0 : 0 p ann: and shall lay out ye remainder as soon as opportunity offers. This money is yearly distributed according to ye will.
11. I dispose of the Money given at ye Offertory to the Poor Communicants.
12. None at present.

William Thomas

Vicar of North-Stoke [1736-67]

<sup>1</sup>Richard Headlam, V. of North Stoke 1698-1730.

## ISLIP

1. The extent of ye Parish of Islip is near two Miles, there are about a 100 families in it, and none of any Note ; likewise part of Noke belongs to ye Parish of Islip.
2. There are no Papists in ye Parish.
3. There are no Dissenters of any Sort in the Parish.
4. There are no Quakers in ye Parish.
5. There are no Persons in the parish but wt behave decently and observe the Lds Day.
6. The Rector at present does not reside, but there will be a resident Curate at or before Michaelmas next.
7. Public Service is duly performed twice every Lds Day in ye Church and one Sermon preach'd, Prayers are read on most Holy days in ye Year, there is no Chapel in ye Parish. The children are catechiz'd constantly

in Lent and frequently on the Times of ye year, and for ye better instruction of children besides the Church Catechism Marshal's<sup>1</sup> is made use of, there are none backward in sending their children to be instructed, none likewise but wt are baptized. The Sacrament is administred six times every year and Great Numbers receive it each Time.

8. There is no Hospital nor Alms-House in the Parish, but there is a Free-School founded by Dr South<sup>2</sup> for twenty one Boys, the Governors are the Bishop of Oxford, the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and particularly the Senior Prebendary and the Rector of the Parish, the Revenues are 50 pounds and upwards, and every thing thereto belonging is rightly and duly observed.
9. There is no other Charity-School, beside the afore mention'd in the Parish.
10. William Dugur gave the Sum of Forty Pounds, the produce of which is for the use of the Poor of the parish, to w<sup>m</sup> it is duly paid.
11. There is no money given at the offertory.
12. There is no other Matter, as far as I know, proper to inform Your Lordship of.

Witness my hand this 20th day of July 1738

G. Rye.<sup>3</sup> [R. 1717-41]

<sup>1</sup>Cf. YEFTLEY [IFFLEY] p. 86.

<sup>2</sup>Robert South D.D., R. 1678-1716. *D.N.B.* He founded the school in 1712. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I p. 486.

<sup>3</sup>George Rye D.D., Archdeacon of Oxford 1724, Canon of Christ Church and Regius Professor of Divinity 1737-41.

#### KIDDINGTON

1. The Extent of the Parish of Kiddington is, in length, about two Miles, in breadth, about one mile, containing two Hamlets, viz Upper Kiddington in Chadlington Hundred, and Lower Kiddington in Wooton Hundred : and comprehends about one and forty Houses. The only Family of Note is George Browne's Esqr.<sup>1</sup>
2. There are in our Parish (including Children) about Sixty-three Papists.<sup>2</sup> And all, except George Browne Esqr, an Innkeeper, and a few ordinary trades people and one mean Farmer of the Rank of Day-labourers. I have both privately and publickly endeavour'd to stop the groth of Popery, and not one in our Parish has been lately perverted to it that I know of, except those whose Parent or Parents or those who were very nearly related to them were of that Religion. The Place of their Worship, is, I believe, at the said George Brownes, who, 'tis supposed and believ'd, keeps a Popish Priest resident at his House, but I do not know by what name he goes, neither do I know that any Confirmation or Visitation hath been lately held in our Parish by any Popish Bishop. There is no Popish School kept in our Parish of any Consequence.
3. There are neither Presbyterians, Independents, nor Anabaptists in our Parish, that I know of.
4. Here are not any Quakers in our Parish.
5. There are not any who profess to disregard Religion, neither are there any in our Parish, who commonly absent themselves from the Publick Worship of God, on the Lord's Day, that I know of, who are of the Church of England, except a lame man or two, who say they are not able to come to Church.

6. I constantly reside upon my Cure and in the House belonging to it, and serve it myself.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lord's Day in our Church and one Sermon preached. And Prayers are read there on Several Holy-days, but, not on all, for want of a Congregation. I catechise in our Church during the Time of Lent and at other times, and a considerable number of my Parishioners duly send their children (I wish more did so) to be instructed by me in their Catechism, which I expound to them myself having due regard to the Principles of the Church of England. Persons who are not baptized, do not frequent our publick worship. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administred in our Church three times a year but I cannot remember the exact number of those who receive it. Sometimes I believe there are about twenty Communicants.
8. Here is not any Free School, Hospital or Almshouse in our Parish.
9. Here is no such Charity School in our Parish.
10. None that I know of.
11. The money given at the Offertory is dispos'd of, by the Minister with the Consent of the Church-wardens, for the Use of the Poor.
12. Here is not any other Matter relating to our Parish, that I know of, of which it is proper to give your Lordship Information ; when there shall be any, Your Lordship may depend upon an exact account of it from Your Lordships most dutifull Servant

Robert Buswell. [R. 1730-60]

<sup>1</sup>Subsequently Sir George Browne, 3rd Bart. (c. 1694-1754), of Kiddington.

<sup>2</sup>Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *A History of the Post-Reformation Catholic Missions in Oxfordshire* (1905) pp. 123 ff.

#### KIDDLINGTON

1. The Parish of Kiddlington contains in Length about two miles and a half in breadth about one mile and half it contains in all four villages or Hamlets, viz, Kiddlington consisting of about 120 houses, Thrup comprehending about Eight, Gooseford comprehending three, and Water Eaton—containing about 18 Houses. There are but two families of Note, Francis Man Esqr,<sup>1</sup> and Mrs Pudsey.<sup>2</sup> There are several Substantial Farmers in the parish who are men of Estates and married men. There are some other Tracts of hand separated from ye Above mentioned particulars by parts of other parishes, and there are four or five Estates intermixed as I am informed which do not belong to this or any other parish yt we know of.
2. There are two Popish housekeepers in ye Parish father and son, ye first whereof keeps an Alehouse at Gooseford, and hath a Wife and two daughters living wth him who are Papists likewise. The Son is a maker of Malt in Kiddlington hath a Wife who is a protestant, and two daughters to be educated in ye protestant Religion and one Son to be bred up a Papist. All ye other Articles are to be answered in ye Negative, excepting yt it is said yt there is a popish priest called Inglesbye<sup>3</sup> who comes once a month to Gooseford and officiates there in a little Room in yt Ale house.
3. We have no Dissenters of any of the Denominations mentioned in this Article.
4. There are no Quakers in the Parish.
5. I don't know of any persons in the Parish who profess to disregard



Religion. As Several of ye Parish live remote from the Parish Church there must be always many who will absent themselves on Acct of Sick-ness, Old Age, Laziness, or the like. Of those who live near ye Church I cannot directly charge any one but Francis Man Esqr, whom I dont remember to have ever seen at Church during ye time I served the Cure or since my putting in a Curate hath he been known to have been there. He is indeed a good part of the Year absent from ye Parish and when he hath been wth us he hath been generally excepting ye last Year labouring under a bad State of Health. Whether he hath any motives or Principles upon wch he absents himself I don't know.

6. I do not reside on my Cure, but in Exeter College in the University of Oxford, about 4 miles distance from ye Parish Church and the reason is because I am excepted as head of a College out of ye Statute of Residence made 28 Hen 8<sup>4</sup>. My Curate is not licensed nor doth he reside in the Parish but in Exeter College. This hath been the usual Method of supplying ye Parish and I never found that ye Parishioners ever complained of their being ill served. My Curates' name is James Cosserat He serves no other Cure and the Salary he hath is twenty pounds p. ann. besides Surplice fees, and provision for himself and horse wth a bed upon Occasion whenever he goes thither.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lords day in my Church and one Sermon preached : Prayers are read on all ye Holidays yt follow the grand Festivals and on certain other Days mentioned hereafter under article 10th. There is a Chapel abt a mile and half distance from ye Church but belonging to a private family ;<sup>5</sup> it was used sometime since as a place of Publick Worship for the people who live at Water Eaton and yt for 3 years together or more but ye use of it hath since been denied ym. My Curate catechizes in Lent, and expounds himself. The Parishioners never send Children and Servants to be instructed. There are no persons yt I know of who frequent publick Worship and are not baptized. The Sacrament of ye Lds Supper is administred Six times in the Year abt 30 ordinarily, on Easter Day 40, sometimes I have known near 60.
8. There is one Alms House in the Parish erected for Six persons three whereof to be widow men and three Widow Women. The founder of this Alms House was Judge Morton<sup>6</sup> in the Reign of K. Charles ye Second. The Governours of it are the Overseers of ye Poor for time being, the Revenues of it thirteen Pounds Six Shillgs and eighpence p ann: and I dont find but yt they are carefully preserved, and employed as they ought, and the Statutes and Ordinances made concerning it well observed.
9. There is no Voluntary Charity School in the Parish. There is an house called ye School-House of which I shall give some Account under the last Article.
10. There are lands tyed to ye payment of certain Annual Sums to our Church and Poor and certain Sums of Money ye Principal or Interest of Which is allotted for certain uses, as viz, three pds ten shillgs arising out of certain Estates now or lately in ye Possession of Francis Man Esqr and—Painton Esqr<sup>7</sup> to be paid yearly to ye Minister of ye said parish for preaching four Sermons on four several Days ,viz, on ye 27th and 30 days of March ye 24th day of April and ye ( ) day of August<sup>8</sup> 20 pds principal money, current in ye Church Wardens hands, which by ye Will ought to be placed out to Interest and ye Interest arising from

thence ought to go to pay ye Schooling of 4 poor Children. The Will is I believe so far Answered yt ye Yearly Interest is constantly paid, but ye Inconvenience of its being left there lieth in this yt it hath been and always will be liable to be lost. The Jointure of Mrs Pudsey is likewise charged wth fifty shillings yearly to put Children to School wch I am informed is constantly paid there are moreover Sums of money annually to be expended out of ye Vicarage three quarters of an Ox for a Breakfast on Christmas Day in ye Morn: at 3 or 4 o' th' Clock, and out of ye Parsonage and other Estate certain Quantities of Wheat and Malt to be made into Bread and Beer and which are usually distributed on Xmas Day in ye Morn:<sup>9</sup> Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Day and ye Days of ye Gift Sermons. As I know not where to search at present for ye particular Instruments by wch they were given to ye Parish I cannot say how strictly they are applied to ye proper Uses, but I conceive ym to be wrongly applied from ye Account I shall give of yr Distribution under the Last Article.

11. By the Minister and Church Wardens to the poor of the Parish.
12. In the First place the Church-Wardens do not give up to the Minister and Parishioners at the End of every Year yr annual Accounts or show how ye money Assessed by them hath been expended, that they have been several times called upon by me since the Year 1731 and have constantly refused to do it, yt there is good Reason of complaint at this time not only as ye thing itself is iregular but also because I have been informed large Sums are collected every Year, and there have not appeared any Signs of large expenses during all yt time.

In the next place I would beg leave to represent to your Lordship the several Cases mentioned under Article 10th. The Christmas Breakfast gives Occasion to a great many Irregularities. It was introduced at first as some of ye Parishioners tell me to refresh those who came One or two miles to celebrate High Mass at midnight, but at present ye practise stands thus, they get up at 12 o' th' Clock, run about ye Parish in a tumultuous manner till four or five, then go to ye Vicarage House take their Breakfast not in ye most decent manner, and by the time Divine Service begins more yn half ye Parish are unfit to attend ye Publick Worship of Almighty God. The Parishioners themselves (the more serious part of them at least) are truly sensible of the Irregularity of this Practise. I have talked to some of them in a private manner and to all of them at a Vestry. I have preached agt it and have proposed an alteration of ye practise in a way more serviceable to ye Parishioners, and not inconsistent, I think with any designs of ye person who gave it. But I have not been able to succeed. If your Lordship could think of any method of altering it to a better purpose, it will be a thing of great Benefit to the Parish.

The Several Benefactions of Bread given by certain persons are indeed Small things and are generally given away at Church upon Certain Days and ordered, as I am informed, to be given to those who attend ye public on those Days. So far then as this is actually Done the letter of ye Will is answered but I can never think yt ye Several Donors would intend yt it should be done to all indiscriminatly and yt ye Rich or better souls should be admitted to an equal Share with ye poorer, and yet this is constantly ye practise, nay it hath been known yt persons far from being in want shall send their Wives and even yr little Children and shall

receive a portion for every one of them. This I can never conceive to be agreeable to ye Donor's Intention, and besides it makes it of no service to any one for being distributed in the way the Share each person hath is inconsiderable, whereas if distributed only to poor housekeepers it might be pretty little Benefit to ym now and then. The Beer mentioned Art 10 is expended I think wholly on Xmas day in ye morn. and it is of no service but to make half ye parish Drunk before Church time. There is another thing occasioned by this Custom, and yt is, that we never have ye Sacrament of ye Lords Supper administred on Xmas Day and yt ye Reason given to me w<sup>n</sup> I came first to ye Parish was yt ye Xmas Breakfast made ye people unfit for it.

I will only trouble your Lordship with one thing more at present, and it is this, We have in ye Parish and Hamlet of Kidlington an house situate near about ye middle of ye Village, and built by itself on ye common. It is and always was known by ye name of ye School house, is generally believed to have been built for that purpose, and was actually employed in yt way till within twenty years past, or thereabouts, within which time it hath been seized by ye Parish and converted to a town or parish house, and is intended to be pulled down if Mr Man can bring ye parish into it.<sup>10</sup> I need not observe to your Lordship ye great Importance of such a Schoolhouse in a town where there are no less than 120 families each of wch hath one or more children in it, and who (at least ye greatest part of ym) will be brought up in Ignorance in all probability If there is not some Encouragement for ym being taught something, besides It will be of great use in a Country Village to have a place to leave yr Children at when those of ye family who can work are obliged to be abroad in ye fields, and if a proper Master was put into ye House and a careful man, it would be Encouragement to ye neighbouring hamlets (and a great many such lye round within half a mile) to send their children all wch would make a Sufficient Income (considering yt he hath an house for nothing) for many an Industrious man who is in low circumstances. I have mentioned this thing formerly to your Lordships' Predecessor. The difficulties wch then Occured were ye long possession ye Parish have had of ye house and my not being able to prove any Endowment. The first still remains, and as to ye second I have this Quare to leave with your Lordship, viz, whether ye Interest of ye twenty pounds mentioned Art 10th and ye fifty shillings given out of Mrs Pudsey's Estate to put ye poor Children of Kidlington to school (and there is no School publickly known in ye place but this school) ought not be construed as given or settled on this House and to be paid to a Master.

[V. James Edgcumbe<sup>11</sup> 1737-50]

<sup>1</sup>Francis Martin May Man, who married Harriet, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Thomas Tyrell, 2nd Bart., of Hanslope, Buckinghamshire.

<sup>2</sup>Ann 1696-1757), widow of William Pudsey (d. 1729).

<sup>3</sup>Cf. CULHAM p. 52.

<sup>4</sup>From 1566 onwards the vicarage of Kidlington was attached to the Office of Rector of Exeter College.

<sup>5</sup>Water Eaton belonged to Anne, Baroness Wentworth (c. 1665-1745). Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *Three Oxfordshire Parishes* (O.R.S. 1893) p. 113.

<sup>6</sup>Endowed by the will of Sir William Morton (d. 1672). *D.N.B.* Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *op. cit.* pp. 93 ff.

<sup>7</sup>Sergeant Painton. *ibid.* p. 163.

<sup>8</sup>Mrs. Conant left a benefaction in 1717. March 27 was the day of her own death, March 30 that of her first husband Henry Streete, and August 23 that of Mr. Conant. The sermon on April 24 was founded by John Tustian in 1677. *ibid.* pp. 139 f. 137.

<sup>9</sup>"Given and allowed out of the Vicaridge 3 quarters of beef,  $\frac{1}{2}$  a quarter or 4 bushels of Wheate, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  a quarter of Mault out of the Parsonage for the providing of a breakfast on Christmas Day in the morning, to be dressed and disposed of and spent att the Vicaridge House yeerely amongst the Parishioners of Kidlington." Terrier (c. 1680). MS. Oxford Archdeaconry Papers c. 41 f. 15.

At Heyford Bridge the Rector had provided a feast of bread, cheese and beer to follow the afternoon service on Christmas Day. The custom is said to have fallen into abeyance during the Commonwealth. J. C. Blomfield, *History of Upper and Lower Heyford* (1892) pp. 18 f. In 1671 the Rector of Heyford Warren was refusing to continue the Christmas entertainment to his Parishioners. MS. Oxford Archdeaconry Papers c. 32 f. 120. At Kencott it had been the custom for the Rector to provide a dinner on St. Stephens day—"a Loin and Rib, two Rumps and two Udders of Beef, two Legs of Mutton, with Bread and convenient Garden-stuffs, four Plumb Puddings and a Barrell of Ale." MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers c. 652 f. 114.

<sup>10</sup>In 1735 the Vestry determined to convert the old school house into a workhouse. Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *op. cit.* pp. 162 f.

<sup>11</sup>Rector of Exeter College 1737-50, R. of Heath 1732-49.

## KINGCOTT

1. Length abt. one Mile Breadth abt  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile About 25 Houses No Families of Note.
  2. No Papists.
  3. No Dissenters.
  4. No Quakers.
  5. No such Persons that I know of.
  6. My Patron resides upon his Living in ye Diocese of Sarum. Hinton: seldom comes to Kencott wch is 5 or 6 miles from it. Kencott is 13 miles from Oxford. Curate resides there all the Vacation time, but in Term time comes to Oxford on Wednesday and returns Friday or Saturday. Mr Eyton of Bradwell who lodges in the same house ready to do occasional duties. Salary £30 and Surplice fees which are small. Kencott at present not above 90.<sup>1</sup>
  7. Public Service is performd twice every Sunday and One Sermon preached. No Chapel in ye Parish. Sacrament administred four times a Year<sup>2</sup> abt 15 Communicants. Easter more. Catechizing in Lent.<sup>2</sup>
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| £ | s |
|---|---|
8. There is a Rent-Charge of 2 : 10 : 0 pr. Annum charged upon Land in ye Parish to be pd. quarterly to a Person to teach Poor children to read and write. This was given by Goddard Carter of Alvescot Esqr. The Nomination of ye Master and Children to belong to ye Possessor of the Estate so charged.
  9. No Charity School.
  10. None. £20 lent upon bond and lost.<sup>3</sup>
  11. It has been usual for the Minister Curate to distribute such Money among ye Poor acc. to his Discretion.
  12. None that I know of.

Hum Owen Curate.

<sup>1</sup>The words "Hinton. . .above 90" are in Secker's hand.

<sup>2</sup>"abt 15. . .Lent" in Secker's hand.

<sup>3</sup>"£20. . .lost" in Secker's hand.

<sup>4</sup>R. of Hinton Waldrish, Berkshire, 1717.

## KINGHAM

2. There are no Papists in our Parish nor any Persons have been lately perverted to Popery, nor any place in wch. Papists assemble for Worship consequently to the remaining Quarries I answer in the Negative.
3. There are no Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists in our Parish.
4. There is one only family that are Quakers. Their number much ye same ; pay their legal dues without Compulsion.
5. There are no Persons in our Parish who profess to disregard Religion but there are some who commonly absent themselves from Church, thro: no Principle but negligence, their number few, nor of late increased of common Rank, except I think one who is a Gentleman.
6. I reside upon my Cure, and in the Parsonage house. Seldom absent. Perhaps my private affairs or Visits to my friends may detain me abroad a fortnight or two in a year.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd unless I am absent twice every Lords day and one Sermon preached. Prayers are usually read on Holydays and on Wednesdays and Frydays in Lent. No Chapel. I catechise in Lent, and the Parishioners send their Small Children but I could never get 'em to send their Servants. I expound it to them myself, No persons frequent Publick Worship who are not baptiz'd. The Sacrament of ye Lord's Supper is administred four times in ye year and usually a good number of Communicants.
8. We have no free-school, Hospital or Alms-house.
9. There is none.
10. No lands, Tenements, or Tithes or Pensions have been given to our Church or Poor. Only some Sums of Mony in all amounting to one hundred and sixty three pounds have been given to the Poor. The Interest of wch. to be disposed of to them part at Xmas and part at Easter. They are carefully preserved and applied to the uses intended, and no other.
11. We have no money given at the offertory.

Wm. Dowdeswell [1712-50]

## KIRTLINGTON

1. The Parish is said to be about ten miles in Compass. The Hamlet of North Brooks in which lives Sr James Dashwood Bart.<sup>1</sup> contains seven Houses, and is one mile distant from the Village of Kirtlington, which contains ninety and two Houses.
2. One Papist, a Maid-Servant, and no other Dissenters.
5. One poor conceited and disorderly Person who absents Himself entirely from all publick Worship.
6. John Burn Ll B. and a Master in Merchant-Taylors School is Vicar. He leaves the Nomination of His Curate to St John's College.<sup>2</sup> The present Curate comes over on Saturdays and returns usually to the College on Sunday in the evening. He serves no Cure besides This for wch He is allowed the Profits of the Living. He is not Licenced.
7. Publick Service is performed twice every Lds Day and one Sermon preached. No Chapel. The Children who have learned their Catechism, repeat it in the Church in Lent, and hear it expounded by the Curate. No unbaptised Person. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper administred five times in the Year. The Number of Communicants at a Medium

about forty. Prayers usually read in Easter and Whitsun-Week and the Holydays of Xmas ; seldom at other times for Want of a Congregation.

8. A Free-School<sup>3</sup> in which 30 poor Children are taught to read. The Revenues arising from Houses usually about six or seven pounds per Ann: Founded in the Reign of Queen Elisabeth. The writings being lost, I cannot give satisfactory Answers to the other Questions. One Alms-House contains four poor Families ; has no Revenues. No Writings relating to it, with wch I am acquainted.
9. None.
10. Lands to the Yearly Value of Four Pounds per Annum applied to the Service of the Poor.
11. By the Curate with Consent of the Church-Wardens to the Poor, Regard being chiefly had to those who communicate at that time, and who attend the Church constantly and live good Lives.
12. I am not acquainted with any such matter.

Thos. Smyth Curate.

[V. John Burn 1734-58]

<sup>1</sup>Sir James Dashwood, 2nd Bart. (d. 1779), of Northbrook.

<sup>2</sup>The President and Fellows of St. John's College, Oxford, were the patrons of the living.

<sup>3</sup>*V.C.H. Oxon.* I p. 487.

#### LAUNTON

1. 1. Abt 6 miles round ; near 2 miles Diameter.
2. No Village, nor Hamlet ; except at ye utmost extent Eastward, a Farm called Hoar-lays—the Number of Houses, Cottages, and c 70 odd.
3. None, the Mannor belonging to the Church of Westmr ; and leased out to Richard Oakely of Oakely Esqr in the County of Salop: not a Freeholder within the Parish, but the Recr. The rest, i.e. the Parishioners consisting of Farmers, many of them Copy holders some Tenants, Day Labourers and Alms People. But there are in the Parish the Sites of two Freeholds, the one in the tenure of Richard Oakely Senr,<sup>1</sup> Esq, of Oakely in the County of Salop ; The other possessed by Master William Olivers of Twyford, Bucks.
2. None.
3. None.
4. None.
5. None.
6. 1. Yes for six alternate Months for
2. The other six Months the Duty of the Royal Hospital has been charged upon me ever since 1705 by his Royal Highness George Prince of Denmark, then Lord High Admiral of England : was encouraged by Queen Anne with an Accession ; and was intended in due time to have been made more optionable, by the Royal Word of Queen Caroline, upon the very place ; wn she honoured it with a Visit :
3. Yes : Mr Lancelot Jackson (B.D. Fellow of Queens' Oxon, who Serves no other Cure: resides in my Parsonage ; and is allowed by me for the alternate supply - - - at the full rate of 40*£* p. An :
7. 1. Yes
2. Feasts and Fasts, none on Wednesdays and Fridays time out of mind for Want of a congregation Who must earn their daily bread, 'tis sd.

3. From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday inclusive.
4. Yes a very good appearance, who hear me expound the Catechism for the most part ; but sometimes for the sake of yr Memorys, making use of Lewis's exposition.<sup>4</sup>
5. I know of none, nor have I heard of any ;
8. No Free Schole, Hospital, or Alms-House endowed ;
9. There is none within this Parish, but one established, as far as uncertain Subscriptions can provide for 30 children to be taught and clothed in the Parish of Bistr for the Benefit of that Parish as well as Launton, Ambrosden, Bucknill, Chesterton, Wendlebury—towards the settling of wc, I brought 5£ along with me and a Subscription Roll by way of Encouragemt ; by wh, it has been supported now almost Twenty years, notwithstanding the decrease of many good Subscribers, and hope it will not be suffr'd to fail, or even decline for want of charitable Successors : Launton has sent 2 Boys from the first opening of it, on the Rectors Subscribing 40s p an :
10. At my Induction in ye year 1719, I observed in a Strong Table 2 foot long, and almost one broad the following Inscription on the Church Wall in perpetuam dei Memoriam for certain near the South-Door or Porch.  

“ H. Rowlande Lorde B. of Bangor,<sup>5</sup> Sum Time Parson of Launton gave to this Church IX. 6s. 8d. 1619. Getting no Light into this Legacy for some time ; I repaired to ye Commons and found the last Testament of Henry Rowland Bishop of Bangor in the Regry of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury made July 1616 and proved Sept: 12th ye same year from wch, I extracted the following clause.

“ Item whereas John Cottesford<sup>6</sup> oweth me upon his Bond XL£ wch I lent him lately, I do hereby remit and forgive him of the said Sum and XX nobles also of ye said Sum I give and bequeath to his Sister Gracie, wch I pray him to pay honestly to Her or Her children : and the XX marks that remains I give and bequeath of it XLs to my old Servant Wm Minne, XXs to Good Wife Newall if she be alive and Xs to every Godson that I have in the Parish of Launton ; and ye rest for a Stock to ye Church, or use of ye poor, at ye direction of ye Minr and Church-Wardens there ; and I pray God my Son John Cottesford do pay the same, and his Bond shall be dd to his Bro: David Owen or to his Sister.”

This can be traced no nearer than the first Donation thro the Iniquity of Times and Persons unknown.
11. The Mony given at the offertory, has since my Incumbency from the year 1719, been disposed of to the poorest and fittest obts of the Parish by myself and 2 Church-Wardens each distributing a 3d pt but none without the consent of all 3. according to the intention of ye 9th Rubrick in the Post Communion Service.
12. In the year 1715 The Parsonage was suddenly burnt down to ye Ground ; insomuch that neither the Church-Register, nor any of the Parish writings could be found ; by wch The deficiencies in the Answers to these Questions might have been solved ; But must be still involved in silence ; unless it maybe thought worth while to Issue a Commission for Charitable uses for this and other Parishes in this Deanery, should such an one be found wanting ; wch may possibly speak out loud some Discoverys of

Losses, Abuses, or Misapplications of Gifts and Legacies to Church and Poor more or less.

I beg leave to subscribe myself  
in all Duty and respect,  
Yr Lordship's, most humble and obedient

Launton, July 24 1738

Ph: Stubbs

[R. 1719-13 Sept. 1738]

<sup>1</sup>Richard Oakeley (d. 1738).

<sup>2</sup>He was "Chaplain of H.M.'s Navy in Ordinary and of her Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich," and also Archdeacon of St. Albans from 1715 to his death.

<sup>3</sup>R. 1744-50 and of Bletchington 1743-50.

<sup>4</sup>Cf. BAMPTON p. 12.

<sup>5</sup>Henry Rowlands R. 1581-1600, Bishop of Bangor 1598-1616. *D.N.B.*

<sup>6</sup>Dr. Rowlands married the widow of "one Cottesford" when he was Rector of Launton.

#### LEWKNOR

1. The Parish of Lewknor is near ten miles in length ; but the Up-Hill part of it is only a long Slip of land which is sometimes interrupted, and quite cutt off by lands lying in other parishes ; for wch. reason the Inhabitants of that part of it are but few. The Villages are Lewknor, Postcomb Studderidge, and the Moore. The number of houses is eighty eight or thereabouts. There are no Families of any great Note, that live in ye Parish. Paul Jodrell<sup>1</sup> of Iron-Hill Middlesex Esqr is of the Mannor and John Scrope<sup>2</sup> Esqr of the Temple Treasury has a country house—but is seldom there.
2. There is no Papist in the Parish of Lewknor.
3. There is only one Dissenter in my Parish, and yt an Anabaptist, a Farmer's Wife now at the point of death. Since I wrote this She is dead.
4. There are none.
5. There are two or three persons in my Parish, who tho they do not profess to disregard Religion, yet never come to ye Publick worship of the Church. When I admonish them of it, they acknowledge their fault, and promise amendment. I have several times sent ye Churchwardens to ym and threatened ym with a presentment, but to no purpose. They are of the lowest rank.
6. I keep constant Residence upon my Cure and live in the Vicarage house.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lord's Day, and one Sermon preached, excepting my Chapel-days, when there are no prayers in ye afternoon. My Chapel is Six miles from my Church, and has only afternoon's Service once a fortnight in ye Summer, and once a month in ye Winter. I read Prayers on Holydays: I Catechise in Lent and expound according to Bp Beveridge's method.<sup>3</sup> The Sacrament is administered four times in the year, ye Communicants usually 60 or more.
8. No.
9. No.
10. There are two Gifts, or Annuities, ye one of five pounds, ye other of three pounds pp annum, charged upon certain lands, and given to ye use of the Poor of this Parish ; as is also a Sum of twenty pounds, placed out at interest. All which are carefully preserved and applied to the uses for which they were designed, and no other.



11. The money given at ye offertory I always distributed among Communicants.  
 12. No.

Witness my Hand

Tho. Skeeler Vicar<sup>4</sup> [1715-63]

<sup>1</sup>Paul Jodrell (1680-1744), of Lewknor manor, and of Duffield, Derbyshire.

<sup>2</sup>John Scrope, M.P. (c. 1662-1752). *D.N.B.*

<sup>3</sup>BURCESTER p. 32.

<sup>4</sup>V. of Enstone 1721-63.

#### LILLINGSTONE LOVELL

1. (a) The extent of it is (according to the computation of the Parishioners) abt. 1 m. in length, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. in breadth ; more particularly I cannot at present answer. (b) None. (c) Abt. 22 more or less. (d) Only one viz. John Wentworth Creswell Esqr.<sup>1</sup>  
 Tho: Hind
  2. No Papists.
  3. No Dissenters of any Denomination Wt soever.  
 Tho: Hind
  4. No Quakers in the Parish.  
 Tho: Hind
  5. None who openly profess to disregard R. or so commonly absent themselves from P. Worship as to come within the reach of the Canon.
  6. Constantly and in the Parsonage House, excepting only when I am at Sibbertoft Northton shire twice in the year, when my health will permit, wch. in Autumn is very uncertain, by reason of a Chronical Distemper.  
 Tho: Hind
  7. Every Sunday a morning Sermon, and prayers in the Afternoon. Few or no children that are capable of being catechis'd being not able to read, for want of a School in the P. or at Some distance from it. The Sacramt. is administer'd at the three great Festivals. The Parish being small not many Communicants.
  8. No Free School, Hospital or Alms-house in the Parish.  
 Tho: Hind
  9. No Charity School of any Sort.
  10. Lands have been given for use of the poor, value 6ll pp ann and 9ll p an for the putting out Apprentice the one by Sr Peter Wentworth Kt. of the Bath,<sup>2</sup> the other by Paul Wentworth Esqr his Brother ; both which charities are duly applied to the uses intended by the Donrs. To the Church none.  
 Tho: Hind
  11. It has not been the custom of the Place long before my time, to make any offertory ; All the inhabitants of the place being Tenants at hard rack rents and the remainder labouring men.
  12. Nothing that I can at present recollect.  
 Tho: Hind R. of L. L. [1716-48]
- P.S. Of those few Houses that we have many are inhabited by persons between 70 or 80 years old and upwards just dropping into their graves. If there

be any other matter of enquiry that your Lordship desires, I shall upon notice endeavour to give you the best accts I can of it.

<sup>1</sup>John Wentworth Creswell (d. 1759), son of John Creswell, of Purston, Northamptonshire, who inherited the estates of the Wentworths of Lillingstone Lovell.

<sup>2</sup>Sir Peter Wentworth M.P. (1592-1675), of Lillingstone Lovell. *D.N.B.*

#### MAPLEDURHAM

1. The parish of Mapledurham extends in length from West to East abt. 3 miles : in breadth from North to South above two miles ; All along on ye West bounded by Whitchurch, on ye North West point by Goring, on ye North and the East all along by Caversham : on the South by the Thames, it contains about 70 houses of which 23 are cottages. Mich Blount<sup>1</sup> Esqr the Ld. of the Mannour has his seat here : ye only gentleman of note in ye Parish. I find ye number of inhabitants now in ye Parish to be abt. 430 in ye year 1729 ye number taken by my Predecessour was 363. no village or Hamlet in this Parish.
2. The Ld of the Mannour is a Papist : by means of his Servts. marrying and settlg. in ye Parish ye number of Roman Catholicks has been encreas'd. I find it a common bargain made on Such occasns. that ye Daughters of ye R. Cath-Woman follow ye condition of ye Mother and the Sons follow ye Protestant father. I know of no Converts ever made in this place lately. The Mannour-house is at prest. let out to a Roman Cath family, which is just settled here : ye family or families joind together consist of 26 persons all Rom Cath but two Servts. three of ye gentlmn. good neighbours and inoffensive men ; are supposed to be priests and ye place of worship to which the Rom Caths resort is in ye great house, ye whole number of ym. is about 47 persons—they have no School here, nor for many years past have had a confirmation or visitation by their Bps. as far as I can learn.

Mr Blount is remov'd to Winchester ; Miss Arundel<sup>2</sup> who is to be married to ye eldest Son of Ld Arundel of Warder is at prest. mistress of ye house ; with her is her Aunt, Lady Jernegan<sup>3</sup> and Sister, Lady Gifford<sup>4</sup> and Mr Arundel her maritus designatus and upon each of these a Priest is Supposed to attend.

3. In my parish there are but three Presbyterians.
4. Not one Quaker in the Parish.
5. There are many that in fact disregard Relign. and do commonly absent themselves from ye worship of God on the Lords Day : Several have been admonished and have been reform'd ; and others applied to on this occasn. have promis'd reformation. the people for ye most part, that absent themselves, are ye poorer women who have a number of small children, and plead ye necessity of attendance at home on yt Acct. Some of ye farmers are too remiss, but I think one enclin'd to hearken to my exhortatns.
6. I do reside here ὡς ἐπὶ τὸ πολὺ—I am only occasionally absent when my presence is required at Eton College on acct. of my private duty there or ye Coll. affrs.<sup>5</sup> In my absence Mr Nichols fellow of C.C.C. Oxford : resides in my house and assists me on all occasions.
7. Pub. Serv. is always performed twice and one Serm. preach'd. I did use to read prayers in Ch. also on all holy days Wednesdays and Fridays whenever a few people wd. attend ye Ch but for want of a Congregatn.

I have been oblig'd to omit it having often none to attend but wt I cd. bring from my own faml. Most Sundays in ye Summer I catechise and expound : the Parishioners are not careful enough to send their child and Servts. to this discipline, tho I have always some. Ye Sacr of Ye Lds Supper is administred According to ye custom of the Parish 5 times yearly between 20 and 30 Communicants. each time.

8. There is an Alms house in ye Parish founded by Charles Lyster Esq 1613—on his tomb is an inscriptn. settg. forth yt he bequeathed 600 ll for this end. I find a Licence granted to his Executor Sir Richd. Blount by K. James ye first in ye same year to erect ye Sd. hospital or Alms-house for 6 poor people and Sevl. Governors were nominated and empowered to make regulatns. and elect other Governors upon case of cessn. or demise.<sup>6</sup> But this has been omitted : and ye Blount family is in possessn. of ye Sole power of administratn. I never heard of any ordinances ever made : Mr Blount allows each Alms man or Almswoman 1/6 p week and 2 load of beech billets in ye year and withal keeps the edifice in repair.
9. None.
10. William Small al Smallwood gave 20£ to ye poor of this Parish to be plac'd at Interest by ye Minister and Ch wdens, and ye yearly produce to be distributed every Easter Munday<sup>7</sup> Mr Blount has recd. this money and pays yearly interest which is accordingly distributed. There is likewise 5 ll given to ye poor by one—Benwell and also 2£ by an old man whose name I can't learn, for this Mr Blount pays yearly interest 7s—and this is likewise punctually given to the poor.
11. By the Minister and churchwardens to the Sick and poor.
12. If our Diocesan wd. (as Bp. Burnet did) take occasion to visit ye respective parishes of his Diocese, the Clergy then wd. be better able to give more satisfactory informatn. in many particulars which might become fit matter of enquiry, and receive ye more immediate benefit of his direction

John Burton<sup>8</sup> [V. 1734-66]

<sup>1</sup>Michael Blount (1693-1739) of Mapledurham.

<sup>2</sup>Mary (1716-69) daughter and heiress of Richard Bellings-Arundell, son of Sir Richard Bellings by his wife Frances, daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Arundell, of Lanherne, Cornwall, married on 27 January 1739 Henry, subsequently seventh Lord Arundell of Wardour (1717-56).

<sup>3</sup>Margaret (d. 1756), widow of Sir John Jerningham 4th Bart., and daughter of Sir Henry Bedingfield 2nd Bart., by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Arundell.

<sup>4</sup>Presumably Frances, widow of Sir John Gifford, 2nd Bart.

<sup>5</sup>He was a Fellow of Eton College from 1733, and Vice-Provost from 1752.

<sup>6</sup>A. H. Cooke, *The Early History of Mapledurham* (O.R.S. vii, 1925) pp. 152 f.

<sup>7</sup>Bequeathed by Thomas Smallwood in 1684. *ibid.* p. 153.

<sup>8</sup>John Burton D.D. (1696-1771), *D.N.B.* ; A. H. Cooke, *op. cit.* pp. 172-4.

#### MARSTON

1. The extent of the Parish is two Miles, the number of houses forty four, and no families of Note in the place ; nor any Hamlets or Villages belonging thereto.
2. There are no Papists in the Parish.
3. There are no Presbyterians, Independents nor Anabaptists.
4. There are no Quakers.
5. There are no Persons who profess to disregard Religion, that I know of.

6. I constantly reside upon my cure, having taken a house near the church for that purpose.<sup>1</sup> The Revd Mr Price of All Souls College in Oxford is my Curate, and he serves no other Cure.<sup>2</sup>
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lords Day and one Sermon Preached ; Prayers are read in the Church on Frydays and all Holy Days throughout the year<sup>3</sup> The Children are catechis'd every Sunday in the afternoon during the Holy season of Lent. They have ye catechism explained to them. I know of no Persons who frequent publick worship that are not baptis'd. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administ'red five times in ye year and usually thirty Communicants present.
8. There is no Free School Hospital or Alms House in ye Parish.
9. There is No Voluntary Charity School.
10. No lands or Tenements that I know of have been given at any time to Church or poor.
11. The Money collected at ye Sacrament is dispos'd of by me to such of the poor who constantly attend Divine Service and receive the Holy Communion.
12. I know of no other matter relating to the Parish which it is proper to inform yr Lordship of, besides what these answers contain

John Warner Curate<sup>4</sup>

John Coxé Vicar<sup>5</sup>

[V. Thomas Berdmore 1735-8]

<sup>1</sup>These words are struck out.

<sup>2</sup>These words are added in another handwriting.

<sup>3</sup>The words " on Frydays. . . " are struck out.

<sup>4</sup>These words are crossed through.

<sup>5</sup>These words are added in another handwriting. John Coxé was instituted Vicar in 1758. For a similar amendment by John Coxé cf. HOLTON p. 83.

#### MERTON

1. This Parish is about a mile an half in length and a mile in Breadth. No Villages or Hamlets besides ye houses about the Church, about fifty-two Families, only two of any note Sr James Harington Bart.<sup>1</sup> and Mr Bartlett.
2. There are no Papists in ye Parish.
3. There are no Dissenters of any Denomination.
4. There are no Quakers.
5. There are no persons in the Parish who profess to Disregard Religion. Mr Bartlett and — Bull who keeps an alehouse in the Parish do commonly absent themselves for the Parish Church on ye Lords Day, and as far as I know or believe from all publick Worship of God. But from wt motives I know not, only wth relation to Mr Bartlett I have been informed that he is very much inflicted with ye Gout.
6. The Vicarage of Merton is so very small that no one thinks it worth his while to take out the seals for it. It is at present supplied by one of the fellows of Exeter College annually appointed by the Society, and paid by ye Society. But the Society are under no obligation to do this any farther yn as Sr Wm Petre, who gave them the Impropriation obliged them to take care yt some Sermons should be preached there in every Year.<sup>2</sup> And As ye Curacy is only an Annual thing, and there are no

Conveniences in the parish for a Curate's residing there, the common practice hath been and still is to serve it from Oxford, which is at about Seven miles distance, nor doth ye Parish suffer any Inconvenience as to Weekly Duty, since ye Minister of Charlton is always ready and willing to attend on such Occasions. The Vicarage tithes are about 8 pds p. ann. The College take ym to themselves and make up with ym out of yr treasury thirty pounds p. ann.

7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lords day in the Church and one Sermon preached unless now and then in a Winter when ye floods render ye River impassable which scarce happens above once or twice in a year and hath not of late happened for two or three Years. No prayers on any other Days but Xmas Day. The usual time for catechising is in Lent. I did not Catechise ye last Lent because I was called into Devon at yt time by ye Death of my Father. I know of no persons who frequent publick Worship and are not baptised. Sacrament of ye Lds Supper administred 4 times in a Year Ordinarily about 15 Communicants.
8. There is no Free School Hospital or Alms House in ye parish.
9. There is no Voluntary Charity School.
10. There are no Lands or Tenements or Tithes or Sums of Money wch have been given at any time to ye Church or Poor as far as I can learn.
11. There is no money given at the Offertory at any time.
12. I know not of any other matter relating to the Parish of which It is necessary to give your Lordship any Information.

Edmund Granger  
Minister of Merton.

<sup>1</sup>Sir James Harrington, 6th Bart. (1706-82), of Merton.

<sup>2</sup>The rectory of Merton was given to Exeter College by Sir William Petre (c. 1505-72). *D.N.B.*

#### MIDDLETON

1. The Parish is about a Mile and Half in length ; and Half as much in Breadth. There are no Out-Villages or Hamlets in the Parish ; there are about forty Houses in the Town ; The Right Honble the Earl of Jersey<sup>1</sup> has a Seat in the Parish.
2. There is no Papist &c in the Parish.
3. There is no Dissenter Nor Meeting-House in the Parish.
4. No Quaker—Nor Quaker's Meeting House.
5. We have no professed despisers of Religion, but several who do too often absent themselves from the pub-Worship of God on ye Lords Day out of an irreligious Neglect—But they are of ye meaner sort and I hope not obstinate, but such as on proper Admonition may be persuaded to reform in ys respect.
6. I reside in my other Parish of Blaydon ; I have a Curate residing in my Parsonage House Here : He has no Licence, being to Serve only 'till Michaelmas next. He serves no other Cure. I allow him in Money, House, Glebe &c betwixt thirty and forty Pounds p. an.
7. Publick Service is Duly performed every Lord's Day and one Sermon preach'd, and on most Holy-days Prayers are or wou'd be read in ye Church if the People wou'd or cou'd attend. I used to Catechise and expound most part of the Summer ; But the people were always backward

to send their Children and Servts—'tho I have ever used all ye Means in my Power to induce ym to do yr Duty in This Part.

8. No Free School &c.
9. No Such Charity-School.
10. There are three pounds formerly given to the Church-Wardens, who used to receive it of one another from Time to Time paying Legal Interest for it, wch Interest is usually given to 3 or more poor Widows at Easter.
11. This money is usually distributed by ye Minister to ye Poor then Receiving.
12. There is no other Matter in particular relating to This Parish of wch Yr Lordsp needs to be inform'd. I am yr Lordsp's

Most Dutifull &c

B. Holloway Rector<sup>2</sup> [1724-59]

<sup>1</sup>The third Earl of Jersey (d. 1769), of Middleton Park.

<sup>2</sup>V. of Bladon 1736-9.

#### MINSTER-LOVEL

#### COM OXON

1. A very small parish old and ruinous about 25 houses gives title to ye present noble Lord, ye Lord Lovel.<sup>1</sup>
2. Nothing of this nature.
3. Nor any of these Sorts in my parish.
4. Not one of ye people called Quakers.
5. I know nothing culpable in this Article.
6. Being a Native of Witny and a Single man I live with my brother who is a tradesman in ye town and where I am engaged as Second Master to ye Free Grammar School of Witny, at ye distance of no more than about a good mile from Witny ; ye Vicaridge house is possessed with two tenants and there is not a house in ye town fit to entertain a Clergyman in, every foot life land to Lord Lovel.
7. I Serve a little Chappell with Minster-lovel preach twice a Day, read prayers three times in ye Summer time, as it has been usually Served.
8. Nothing at all of this Nature.
9. Nothing of this nature.
10. Nor anything relating to this Article.
11. When Any is given I commonly dispose of it myself.
12. I have informed yr Lordship of every thing I think material.

Will Arundell

Curt of Minster-lovel

[V. James Harrison<sup>2</sup> 1718-62]

My Lord,

If I have omitted any thing by way of answer to ye Enquiries I beg it may be imputed to hast or meer oversight, or some such cause. Be pleased to peruse ye following account ; I am a Licensed Curate, Salary 25<sup>l</sup> per an,

Value of ye Vicaridge 50<sup>l</sup> p. an. Queens bounty lately added. Patron Eaton Coll. A little chappell (called ye Field town) I serve with Minster built by Sr Henry Umpton<sup>3</sup> in ye reign of Queen Eliz. endowment ten pounds a year vested in ye hands of 13 feofees, who give it to ye Curate of Minster, because both towns joyn together and is ye nearest Church they can have.

Out of these two little places I presented 18 at yr Ldship's Confirmation. I have at Easter at Minster about 7 to communicate with, last Whitsuntide I bid a Sacramt and then I had not one, about 5 or 6 I may have at Christmas. At my Chappel always ye Sunday after Easter where I have ye like number as above.

Mr Harison resides at Buscott upon his Rectory near Lechlade on ye river Thames but 7 miles from Witny or Minster at which places he is here amongst his acquaintance and on business sometimes 6 or 7 days together ; he has said He would move to Minster for some time and send me to Buscott, but as I am Second Master to ye Grammar School in Witny I cannot be absent ; ye Founder allows his ushers to be absent but 14 days upon penal statute, If yr Ldsp has any thing to say to Mr Harrison, send ye letter to me and I will take care afterwards

Yr Lps dutifull Son Will Arundell

<sup>1</sup>Sir Thomas Coke (1697-1759), of Holkham, Norfolk, subsequently Earl of Leicester, was created Baron Lovel of Minster Lovel in 1728.

<sup>2</sup>R. of Buscot, Berkshire.

<sup>3</sup>Sir Henry Unton (c. 1553-1596), of Wadley Manor, Faringdon. *D.N.B.* He built a chapel at Field Town, the modern Leafield, in 1590. J. Bacon, *Liber Regis* (1786) p. 794.

#### MIXBURY

1. The extent of This Parish in ye longest part is three miles, in ye broadest two ; it consists of a small Village in which are near fourty Houses ; and two Innships Fullwell and Willison ; in each of these are Two Houses ; Mr Bathurst<sup>1</sup> Lord of the Mannor hath an House at Fulwell but doth not usually live in it.
2. There is no Popish ffamily in This Parish ; The Wife of John Wescar of Willison is a Roman Catholick, but not perverted from Protestantism to Poperie ; She was born of Papist Parents and brought up in that Religion ; No Popish Priest resorts to this Parish to the best of my knowledge and belief.
3. There is neither Presbyterian, Independent or Anabaptist in this Parish.
4. There is no Quaker in This Parish.
5. No Person in this Parish doth profess to disregard Religion ; and the publick Worship of God on The Lords Day is duly attended.
6. I reside on This Cure in the Rectorial House, and am as little absent in each Year as the necessary Affairs of my Station will permit ; I am a Prebendary of the Church of Westminster, wch sometimes calls me to That Place ; but my stay there is usually very short.
7. Publick Service is performed twice every Lords day and One Sermon Preached in This Church : The Youth of The Parish is Catechised ; The Sacrament is administred on The Three Great ffestivals ; and the Number of Communicants is generally about Thirty.
8. There is neither Free-School, Hospital or Almshouse in this Parish.
9. There is no Charity School in This Parish.
10. There is land commonly called The Church Land in This Parish, given towards the Repairs of The Church : The Rent of wch is three pounds p Ann is paid to The Church-Wardens, and accounted for by them at Easter. There are likewise several small summs given to the use of The Poor in the whole about £43 This Money is placed out at interest,

with Mr Bathurst Lord of the Mannor and Proprietor of the whole Town, who duly pays the Interest, and the same is laid out in Bread, and distributed on New Years Day by The Parish Officers amongst The Poor ; i.e. the Interest of £33 in Bread and the Interest of £10 amongst poor Widdows in money.

11. The Money given at The Offertory is disposed of by the Rector, who usually gives the same to such poor as have received The Sacrament : And this is done in the presence of The Communicants.
12. There is no other Matter which occurs to me, that I conceive necessary and proper for the Information of My Diocesan.

Lawrence Brodrick Rector [1713-44]

<sup>1</sup>Benjamin Bathurst (1693-1767), of Mixbury, and of Lydney, Gloucestershire. J. C. Blomfield, *History of Mixbury* (1891) p. 16.

MUNGEWELL

1. The parish is small, there are but seaven houses in it, one Gentlewoman of note whose name is Saunders.
2. There are no papists in the parish.
3. there are no presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists in the parish.
4. there are no Quakers in the parish.
5. there are none of those in the parish.
6. I have another parsonage house about half a mile distant from this, but I doe the duty here my self and I have a curate who supplies at my other church.
7. public service is duly performed twice every Lords day and one sermon preached, prayers are read on all holy dayes, the children are catechised in Lent, the Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administred three times every year
8. there is no free-school hospital or Alms-house in the parish.
9. there is no charity school in the parish
10. there has been nothing given to the church or poor.

Robt. Selwood<sup>1</sup> Rector [1703-50]

<sup>1</sup>R. of Crowmarsh 1690-1750.

NEWNHAM COURTNEY

1. There is Fifty Houses and the Circumference of the Parish is about seven Miles. All the Inhabitants are Farmers and inferior sort of People.
2. None.
3. There is only one Presbyterian, but never a Meeting House ; neither hath there been above two or three Presbyterians here at one time for these many Years.
4. There are no Quakers here now, nor ever as I heard off.
5. In general the whole Parish seem to be very well disposed and to attend pretty well on the Publick worship of the Church.
6. 'Tis now upwards of a Year since I had the Cure, part of which time I resided in the Parish, part of it in Oxon, sometime in Bath, and sometime with my Friends by London. In my Absence I employed for the most Part Mr Bradley Fellow of Corpus Christi College Oxon to take care of my Parish, but did not take out a Licence for him, for I did not think I should have been absent long, but was detained from time to time by necessary business.



7. Public Service is performed twice every Sunday and one Sermon preached in the Morning. Prayers are read every Day in the Passion Week, and on the Monday and Tuesday in Easter Week. There is no Chapel here. I have at several times asked Children their Catechise at School and I have catechiz'd them twice at Church after I found them pretty expert in it, where I made use of the Bishop of Man's Exposition.<sup>1</sup> There is no unbaptized Person who frequents Publick Worship as I know off. The Lord's Supper is administred four times in a Year where there are generally about Forty or Fifty Communicants.
8. None
9. There is Seven Boys and nine Girls who are put to School : The Boys are taught to read and the Girls to sew and read, but after they leave School, their Parents dispose of them as they think most proper.
10. None.
11. There is none ever collected.
12. None

James Newton [R. 1736-86]

<sup>1</sup>Cf. BURFORD p. 34.

#### NEWNHAM-MURWIN

1. In length 5 miles, in Breadth  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile. Houses about 30.
2. No Papists
3. No Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists
4. No Quakers.
5. No Persons who profess to disregard Religion, or who commonly absent themselves from all public worship of God on the Lords Day
6. My Curate was strictly resident 'till November last at which Time being elected Fellow of Brazen-Nose Coll: Oxon, Residence there for the most Part has, and will be requir'd 'till November next. Whenever he cou'd be dispenc'd with, he has constantly liv'd at his Cure, and promises to do the same at or before the End of his Probation year. In his absence all weekly duties have been duly attended by a neighbouring Clergyman. His name is Cawley, he serves no other Cure, and I allow him £30 p ann
7. Public Service perform'd in this Church and Norstoke every Lords Day, and a Sermon preach'd in each, they both belonging to the same Cure. Prayers read on St days, State Holy-days, and the 3 great Festival weeks. Children duly Catechiz'd in Lent. Sacraments administ'red 4 Times a year at each Church. The Number of Communicants generally betwixt 10 and 20 at each Church.
8. No Free-School, Hospital, or Alms-House in this Parish.
9. No Charity School in this parish
10. one small cottage and 5 acres and a half of land left to the Poor of this Parish for ever. The yearly Issues and profits of both which are regularly distributed to the Poor on every Whitsunday according to the Intent of the Donor, and to no other use applied.
11. No Money given at the Offertory.
12. None at present.

William Thomas  
Vicar of North-Stoke. [1736-67]

NEWTON PURCELL

1. The Lands belonging to Newton and Shelswell being so much intermix'd I have joyn'd ym together. The extent of both parishes is about a Mile and half in Length, and ye same in Breadth.  
In Newton there are twelve Houses ; No family of Note. In Shelswell four houses one family of Note.<sup>1</sup>
2. There's No papist in either of ye parishes ; no one has been perverted to popery. No popish priest resorts to either of ym ; No popish School in either of ym, Neither has any Confirmation or Visitation been held in ym.
3. No presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists in either of ym, nor Meeting Houses.
4. There is one family of Quakers in ye parish of Shelswell, yr Number Neither lessen'd nor increas'd of late years to my knowledge ; There's No Meeting House in ye parish. The Landlord pays ye Dues.
5. There are none who profess to disregard Religion or absent themselves, from all publick worship on ye Lords day.
6. I constantly reside in ye parsonage House. I have been absent twelve Sundays during ye time I have had ye Living, wch is about four years. I was absent four Sundays in ye two first years on account of my Children and the Death of my Brother at Edenburgh last year occasioned my absence ye eight last.
7. Publick Service has been duly perform'd twice every Lords Day and one Sermon preach'd ever since I have enjoyd ye Living. I read prayers on all Festivals and Fasts and on Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent, and every day in passion week unless something extraordinary prevents me, or now and yn for want of a Congregation wch very rarely happens. There is a Chapel belonging to Shelswell yt is now dilapidated ; its about half a mile from ye Church ; there has been no service perform'd in it in ye Memory of man, as far as I can learn. I generally catechise in Lent, ye parishioners send yr Children, but yr Servants are remiss tho' often admonish'd. I read Lectures upon ye Catechism and make up of Lewis's exposition<sup>2</sup> requiring those yt are able to learn it to repeat it publickly in ye Church, and ye rest to read it, having given ym books for yt purpose. I wd have Catechiz'd oftener but observing ye Servants and poor people to absent ymselves more particularly from Church during ye time of Catechism, is ye Sole reason why I have not done it. If yr Lordship will be pleas'd to give me orders wt ye would have done in ys affair or in any other I shall very readily and willingly obey ym. I administer ye Sacrament on Christmas Day, Easter Day, Whitsunday, and about Michaelmas, we have usually about fourteen Communicants wch receive it at each time on ye three first days but not so many on ye last yt being ye time ye Servants leave yr Masters. The Non-Communicants are chiefly Servants, but generally Speaking we have as many Communicants as can be expected in So Small a parish.
7. We have no Free-School, Hospital or Alms-House in either of ye parishes.
9. No Charity School in either of ye parishes.
10. No Lands Tenements &c yt have been given at any time to ye Church or poor in either of ye aforesaid parishes.
11. The Money given at ye offertory is generally dispos'd of by me to poor House-Keepers and ye poor of ye Parish.

12. The last Terrier yt has been laid up in yr Lordships Registry was in 1634 from a copy of which, I find yt Several of my predecessours have been defraud'd of yr Tithes under ye pretence of a Modus, which I am now endeavouring to Set aside

Shuckburgh Cotton<sup>3</sup> [R. 1734-62]

<sup>1</sup>Edward Trotman (1688-1743), of Shelswell Park.

<sup>2</sup>Cf. BAMPTON p. 14.

<sup>3</sup>R. of Heyford Warren 1731-62.

#### NOKE

1. Ans. The Parish of Noke contains one small Village of about twenty Houses. There is no Family of Note in it.
2. Ans. There are no Papists in ye Parish.
3. Ans. There are no Presbyterians, Independents nor Anabaptists in ye Parish.
4. Ans. There are no Quakers in ye Parish.
5. Ans. There are no such persons yt I know of.
6. Ans. This Church has for ye most part been serv'd from Oxford, from wch it is four miles distant but sometimes ye Curate resides in ye parish.
7. Ans. Public Service is duly perform'd twice every Lord's Day and one Sermon preached. Children and Servants are Catechiz'd.
8. Ans. There is no Free-School, Hospital nor Almshouse in ye Parish.
9. Ans. There is no voluntary Charity School in ye Parish.
10. Ans. There have been no Lands, or Tenements or Tithes, or Pensions, or summs of money given to ye Church or Poor.
11. Ans. There is no money given at ye Offertory.
12. Ans. Nothing else yt I know of.

Given under my hand

Will: Barton

July 17th 1738

Curate of Noke.

[R. Charles Hall 1732-9]

#### NORTH ASTON

1. one mile, one village, number of Houses 34.
2. one family of papists number three, No.
3. Noe.
4. Noe.
5. Noe.
6. He does not recied constantly, but is every Sunday most Holy Days in ye year, and if occasion requires.
8. Noe
9. Noe
10. Money in dispute at present.
11. To ye Poor.
12. No.

[V. William Vaughan<sup>1</sup> 1711-40]

<sup>1</sup>V. of Fritwell 1729-40.

#### NORTHLEIGH

1. The Parish of Northleigh is by Computation about nine Mile in Circumference. It has no Villages or Hamlets belonging to it. It comprehends about 90 Familys of which those of chief note are, Mr Perrots,<sup>1</sup> Mr Martin's and Mr Coxiters.

2. There are two Papists in the Parish, but of the Lowest rank. Both these being bred up in Popery at Kidington and removing to this Parish about 20 Years agoe, have continued in that Persuasion ; but their Familys all resort to Church. There is no Place in the Parish where they assemble for Worship ; No Popish Priest resides in ye Parish, nor hath any to my knowledge lately resorted to it. No Popish School is kept in the Parish ; nor hath any Confirmation or Visitation to my knowledge ever been held in the Parish.
3. There is neither Presbyterian, Independent or Anabaptist in the Parish. Nor is there any Meeting house or Teacher.
4. There are two Familys, but of a low Rank who are Quakers. They increase by an accession of Children whom they bring up in their own way, but no otherwise. There is no Meeting house in the Parish. The Papists pay their legal dues without any Compulsion. I know of no Facts which may help to set their Behaviour towards ye Clergy, or that of the Clergy towards them in a true light.
5. There are some persons in the Parish but of the lowest Rank who commonly absent themselves from publick Worship, but promise for the future to attend it more constantly. The number of them is four or five. I cd never learn that they absented themselves from any Motives or Principles.
6. I am upon my Cure and in the house belonging to it constantly every Sunday, a Month at Xmas, a fortnight at Easter, Whitsuntide and the long vacation at Oxford ; but at other times reside in Oxford where being Fellow of Jesus College, having therein an Office of Trust, and besides, as Tutor, the Care of several young Persons (and in further Consideration of the Smallness of the Vicaridge, it being of the clear yearly Value only of 30 Pounds per Annum) hope to be indulged from a more constant Residence upon my Cure.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords Day in ye Church, and one Sermon preach'd. Prayers are likewise read on the Holy days about Xmas, Easter and Whitsuntide. There is no Chapel in the Parish. I catechise the Children upon the Sundays in Lent. Parishioners do not send their Children and Servants who have not leard their Catechism to be instructed. I have not hitherto made use of any printed Exposition. No Persons to my knowledge frequent publick Worship who are not baptiz'd. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administred upon the three great Festivals and besides upon the first Sunday in every Month. The number of Communicants upon the great Festivals is from 25 to 30 Upon other times from 10 to 15.
8. There is no free School Hospital, or Alms-House in the Parish.
9. There is no voluntary Charity School in the Parish.
10. Mrs Susanna Hart about ye Year 1663 gave 50 Pounds, John Whitley and Thomas Smith forty Shillings each, to the Poor of Northleigh with which Money some Lands were purchas'd of ye Yearly rent of £2=05s. The Profits of which are directed to be applyd for ye Benefit of ye Poor and for ye Encouragement of poor People to attent Publick Service.—Mr John Hart gave Rent Charge of £5 per annum for binding 2 honest godly Boys to good Trades.—James Perrot Esqr. the Elder charged his Estate with a yearly Rent of £40 Part to be distributed in Money and part to be laid out in wearing Apparel for 3 honest poor People that that frequent Divine Service : chargd his Estate further with the Sum

of ten shillings to be laid out in Bread and distributed to the Poor on Xmas and Easter Day.—James Perrot Esqr. the Son of the above nam'd Gentleman<sup>2</sup> charg'd some Lands with a Rent of £6 per Annum, three pounds of which are to be laid out in Bread, and distributed the 1st Sunday in every month to such Poor as frequent Divine Service, or us'd to do it when able ; and the remaining 3 Pounds to be laid out in buying Cloathing for 3 such honest Housekeepers, their Child or children (under ye age of 12 Years) as frequent Divine Service, or us'd to do it when able. Mrs Ann Perrot Widow of the last nam'd James Perrot gave a Rent Charge of 50 shillings, for ever for keeping at School, and buying books for, such and so many Poor children as her Heirs and Assigns shall think fit.<sup>3</sup> Mrs. Amey and Mrs Perrot Daughters of the above named James and Ann Perrot gave £50 each to the Poor of Northleigh : The Interest of which money to be distributed amongst ten poor People on the 24th of December yearly.—Mr Edward Perrot Merchant gave £40 to the Poor of Northleigh ; the Interest whereof being 2 Pounds is directed to be distributed in the manner following—ten Shillings to be distributed in Bread (the 16th of October if Sunday, if not ye 1st Sunday after the 16th) among such above the Age of 10 Years as shall come to Morning Service and Sermon, and continue orderly and soberly the whole Time ; the Remainder to be laid out in putting the Children of the Poorest People Apprentices in Husbandry, Housewifery or some other honest Trades. Mrs Ursula Perrot gave to the Poor £100 ; the Interest of which for 2 Years is to be applyed to bind poor Children to trades, and every 3rd Year to be amongst poor Keepers, especially such as receive no Collection, —Mr Charles Perrot Fellow of Oriel College gave £50 to ye Parish of Northleigh : The Interest whereof being fifty shillings to be employd in placing the Children of the Poorest People Apprentices in Husbandry, Housewifery or some honest Trades in other Parishes. Thomas Werge charged a Close with a Rent of five shillings Yearly to be laid out in Bread and given to 60 Poor People on the Feast of Pentecost. I believe the above Charitys, are carefully preserved, and applyd to those Uses and no other.<sup>2</sup>

11. The Money given at the Offertory is dispos'd of by the Minister and Churchwardens to the poorest of the Parish, with Respect had to such as frequent divine Service.
12. No other matter

David Price Vicar of Northleigh [1731-83]

<sup>1</sup>Henry Perrot (1689-1740), M.P. for Oxfordshire 1721-40, of Northleigh manor.

<sup>2</sup>*V.C.H. Oxon.* I p. 467.

<sup>3</sup>The charities prior to 1686 are listed in detail in a terrier of that year. MS. Oxford Archdeaconry Papers b. 41 f. 53. Edward Perrot "late of Porto in the kingdome of Portugall merchant," whose will was dated 1667, was third son of Edward Perrot (1594-1685), of "the Hill," Northleigh. (*Oxoniensia* xi (1946) pp. 134 f.). His brother Charles (1628-77) was a Fellow of Oriel and Ursula was his sister. James Perrot (d. 1687) and his son James, with the latter's wife Anne (1652-1729) were of Northleigh manor. E. L. Barnwell, *Perrot Notes* (1867) pp. 103 f.

#### NORTHMOOR

1. The Parish of Northmoor is about two Miles long and a Mile broad, it hath only one Hamlet, Morton and contains in all but about fifty Houses.

2. there are no Papists at Northmoor neither doth any Popish Priest resort thither as I know of.
3. Neither are there any Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists.
4. Nor Quakers.
5. there are no such that I have observ'd or that I can hear of.
6. Northmoor is a College Curacy, the great and small tythes both belong to St John's College, I do not reside at Northmoor but at College being Vice Prest. I am allowd thirty pounds per ann.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lord's day, and one Sermon preached. Prayers have been usually read there only on the Holydayes in Easter Whitsun and Christmas Week ; there is no Chapel in the Parish, the children are always Catechizd ev'ry Sunday in Lent : the parishioners do duly send their Children to be catechized by me, I expound myself, no persons with us unbaptis'd frequent Publick Worship, the Sacrament of ye Lords Supper is administer'd Six times a year to about twenty or thirty Communicants each time.
8. There is no Free School, Hospital or Alms House in my Parish.
9. None.
10. there is given to the Poor, Land lying in ye Parish of Northmoor worth five and twenty shillings per ann : and there is Land given to the Poor lying in ye Parish of Standlake worth twenty Shillings per ann : there are two little Cottages with about two acres of Ground let upon lives, which bring about twelve Shillings and sixpence per ann : there is thirty Shillings per ann : paid out of a piece of Ground call'd Northhurst and forty Shillings per ann : paid by St: John Baptist College, all which Sums are faithfully dispos'd of to the poor, all but ye twelve shillings and sixpence for ye two little cottages and two acres of Ground which are laid out upon the repairs of ye Church,—And we have an hundred pounds left to us by Mr White of Fyefield lately deceas'd due at Christmas.
11. it is disposed of by the Churchwardens to the Poor.
12. I know of nothing else at present.

## NORTHSTOKE

1. In Length about 2 Miles, in Breadth about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Mile. Houses 21.
2. Papists 3 of ordinary Rank. No residing Priest, Place of Worship, or popish School neither any Confirmation or visitation, by any popish Bishop.
3. No Presbyterian, Independent, or Anabaptist.
4. No Quakers.
5. No Persons who profess to disregard Religion or who commonly absent themselves from all publick Worship of God on the Lords Day.
6. See Article the 6th in the Paper directed to Newnham.
7. See Article the 7th in the Paper directed to Newnham.
8. No Free-School Hospital or Alms-house in the Parish.
9. no Charity School in this Parish.
11. No Money given at the Offertory.
12. None at present.

William Thomas<sup>1</sup>  
Vicar of Northstoke [1736-67]

<sup>1</sup>The signature is in a different hand from that of the answers.

## NUFFIELD

1. My Lord  
The Circumference of my Parish is about 9 Miles ; No Villages or Hamlets: 20 Houses in it. No Familys of Note.
  2. None.
  3. None.
  4. None.
  5. None profess a disregard for Religion, or wholly absent themselves from publick worship : Some absent oftener than is consistent with the peace of my Mind, and I believe their own too. I judge from no motive but Laziness and Carelessness because they promise amendment upon private admonition. Their Number not increased. They are few and of yr Lowest Rank.
  6. I reside constantly upon my Cure and in ye Parsonage House.
  7. Publick Service is duly performed every Lds Day and one Sermon preached. I read prayers upon Sts Days and when I can raise a congregation and every day in Passion Week. My parishioners send their Children as they are qualified, to be further instructed in ye Catechism. I recollect few if any Servts amongst 'em. I expound to 'em myself according to their capacitys. They usually come at ye beginning of Lent and attend till about Whitsuntide, some Years not so long. I know no persons who frequent publick Worship in my Church, that are not baptiz'd. I administer ye Sacramt 4 times in ye year on Palm Sunday, and the 3 Solemn Seasons about 30 receive at Easter, at other times not more than half yt Number.
  8. There is neither Free School Hospital or Alms-house—.
  9. There is no charity School in my parish.
- s d
10. There was 50 or 60 years ago the Sum of £6=13=4 given by one of ye family of ye Warcopps <sup>1</sup> to this parish, The Interest of wch was to be paid every Easter to poor familys, yt recd no weekly Support from ye parish. It is yearly so applied. The Widow Spier<sup>2</sup> Relict of John Spier Esqr formerly of this parish and patron of ye Church about 30 Years since left £5 per An for ye Apprenticing poor children wch money is likewise applied to ye Intended use.
  11. There is little money given at ye offertory except what I give myself. I always dispose off it to ye poor Communicants.
  12. I know of nothing more of moment to communicate to yr Lordship : but beg leave to subscribe myself.

My Lord

Yr Lordships Most Dutifull Obedient Servant

Anth Gyfford [R. 1724-59]

<sup>1</sup>Cuthbert Warcopp died in 1673. P. M. Briers, *The History of Nuffield* (1939) p. 130.

<sup>2</sup>Mary Spyer died at the end of the seventeenth century *ibid.* p. 145.

## ODINGTON

1. The extent or Circumference of the Parish I guess to be about three Miles only one little Village five and twenty Houses the Parsonage House ten Farm Houses fourteen Cottages Houses for labourers and other poor People We have no Family of Note in it.

2. There is no Papist in it.
3. There is no Prebyterian Independent or Anabaptist in it.
4. There is no Quaker in it.
5. There are not in my Parish who profess to disregard Religion tho' there are some few who commonly absent themselves from Church on the Lord's Day in one or two I understand it to proceed from pure sloth and indolence in two others tis pretended to be young children they are but few in number and of the very poorest sort.
6. I do not constantly reside upon my Cure. I have a tenant in part of the Parsonage House who rents the Tithe and Glebe the other part of ye Parsonage House I keep to my own use where I frequently come as there is occasion. I live at Islip a mile distant upon an Estate one moiety whereof is mine in right of my late Wife the other moiety is her Brother's a Lunatic the care of whom is committed to me by the Court of Chancery and it has been judg'd not safe to have him remov'd from Islip.
7. Public Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords Day in the Church and one Sermon preach'd Prayers are read on most Holy Days in the year There's no Chapel in the Parish The Children are constantly catechis'd in Lent and there are scarce any backward in sending their Children to be instructed in the Church Catechism wch I expound to them There are none but what are baptiz'd The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administer'd four times every year and a pretty many receive it each time.
8. There is no Free School Hospital or Alms-House in the Parish.
9. There is no voluntary Charity School in the Parish.
10. There have been no Lands or Tenements or Tithes or Pensions or sums of money to be placed out at Interest been given at any time to the Church or Poor so far as I know.
11. There is no money given at the Offertory.
12. There is no other matter that I know of proper to give Your Lordship information of

Witness my hand this 22nd day of July 1738

Tho. Dickinson. [R. 1699-1746]

#### HOLY WELL OXFORD

1. The Parish of Holywell consists of little more than one Street, in which are 120 Houses.
2. There are no Papists in my Parish ; nor has any thing above-mentioned been done, as far as I can hear of.
3. There are no such Persons that I know of, in my Parish.
4. There are none of this Sect in my Parish.
5. I know of no such Persons.
6. Holywell is looked on as a Chapell of Ease to the Vicarage of St. Peters, in the Patronage of Merton College. The Curate of each Church is appointed by the College, and is alwaies one of the resident Fellows.
7. Publick Service is duely performed at Holywell twice every Lord's Day, and one Sermon is preached. Prayers are read every Wednesday and Friday, and on every Holy Day throughout the year. Children and Servants are catechised every Sunday in Lent. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administred once every month.
8. There is no Free-School &c in the Parish of Holywell.



9. There is no Charity School in the Parish of Holywell.
10. Several small sums of Money, amounting in the whole to no more than 60 Pounds, have been left to the Poor of Holywell and are rightly applied.
11. Its given by the Communicants, and distributed by the Churchwardens to the Poor of the Parish.
12. There is no other matter, that I know of

R. Meadowcourt.

ST. ALDATES OXON

1. We have no Terrier, nor have had any for many years. No Villages, two or three Hamblets on the other side of the Folly Bridge. about 150 Houses no Families of great Note.
2. There is no Papist in the Parish as I know of. No Place for Popish Worship no Papist Priest nor School nor confirmation or Visitation held here.
3. Nor any Presbyterians Independents or any of any other Sect.
4. No Quakers as I know of.
5. If any such there be, I suppose the chwardens will present them.
6. I reside constantly upon my cure, Supply it my self, and dwell in the House belong to it.
7. I preach once every Sunday, and read Prayers twice. I catechise in my ch every Year the whole Lent : I usually have 30 or more children to be catechised. I read a Lecture of my own Composition. I believe all that frequent publick worship have been baptized ; I administer the Sacrament of the Lds Supper 15 times in the year and have near 30 Communicants Sometimes more.
6. There is no Free School in my Parish but one wch belongs to the city. There is the Alms House of Henry the 8th Foundation, for the maintenance of veteran disabled Soldiers.<sup>1</sup>
9. There is no voluntary charity School in my Parish.
10. The Houses that adjoin to the North and east Side of the chyard are given for repairing and beautifying St Aldates ch.
11. The chwardens usually dispose of the money given at the Offertory to the Poor of the Parish.
12. I know of no other Matter relating to my Parish proper at present to inform Yr Lordship of

[R. John Wilder 1724-42]

<sup>1</sup>Wolsey's Hospital, acquired by Pembroke College in 1888.

ST CLEMENTS OXON

1. Ans. St. Clements is about three miles round. It is one Village containing about four score Houses, there are no Families of remarkable Note in it but Several Tradesmen and Housekeepers who live in a creditable manner.
2. Ans. There are two Papists in ye Parish, who are Persons in years and of low Rank, but their is no Danger of ye spreading of Popery among us.
3. Ans. There are none of either of these Sects.
4. Ans. There is but one Quaker, who is an old Woman, not in a capacity to make any Disturbance, or to gain Converts.

5. Ans. I know of no one who *professes* a Disregard to Religion, but some few who do not duely attend ye Publick Worship tho 'tis not I apprehend out of any Settled Principle but that of Thoughtlessness or Laziness and partly perhaps for want of decent apparell to appear in amongst their neighbours.
6. Ans. I discharge ye Duty of my Parish myself, but reside in Exeter College where I am a Fellow.
7. Ans. There is Publick Service performed twice and a Sermon preached every Sunday. Prayers on all Saints Days on every Friday, and on Wednesdays also in Lent. I catechize every Sunday in Lent ye children are regularly Sent to me, and I constantly expound during yt Season. Ye Lords Supper is administred at least Seven times a year, twice at each of ye three Festivals and once about Michaelmas at wch times there is commonly a considerable Number of Communicants especially on ye great Festival Days when there are upwards of forty fifty and sometimes sixty Persons which is a great Part of ye Congregation.
8. Ans. There is an Hospital or Alms-House standing in ye Parish, but not belonging to it, erected by Mr Stone sometime since Principal of New Inn Hall<sup>1</sup> for ye Support of Such a Number of Poor or distressed People as ye Governors shall think fit to place in it, ye Revenues amount to somewhat more than a hundred Pds pr an : ye number of those who reap the benefit of it seldom reaches to more, if as many as twelve, and ye Trustees or Governours are ye following Gentlemen for ye time being viz : ye Vice Chancellour ye two Professors of Divinity, ye Provost of Queens College, President of Magdalen and Master of University.
9. Ans. None.
10. Ans. The Church is endow'd with Lands wch brings in £3=13s=4d pr an : Rent, and about fourscore Pounds Fine once in Seven years upon Renewing ye Lease. ye money is disposed of by the Feoffees (who are twelve when ye Number is full), with ye consent of ye Rector of ye Parish.
11. Ans. The Money at ye Offertory is given to ye Poor of ye Parish as they want it at ye discretion of the Churchwardens.
12. I know of no other Matter at present relating to my Parish, with which I need your Lordship any further Trouble,  
I am my Lord

Yr Lordships most Dutifull and obedit Servant,  
Francis Webber<sup>2</sup> Rector of St Clements. [1734-51]

<sup>1</sup>Built in 1700 by the executors of the Rev. William Stone, Principal of New Inn Hall (1663-84). R.C.H.M. *City of Oxford* (1939) p. 183.

<sup>2</sup>Dean of Hereford 1756-71.

#### ST EBBE OXON

1. The Parish contains about one Hundred and twenty Houses ; There is no Village or Hamlet, all ye Houses are within ye City, and ye extent of the Parish which consists of Meadows and Gardens besides ye part within ye City is about one Mile and an half. There is no Family of Note in ye Parish.
2. There is no Papist in the Parish.
3. There is one Family of Presbyterians lately come into ye Parish in which are three persons besides ye Presbyterian Teacher whose name is—Sparkes and who boards with them. There is no meeting in ye Parish.

4. There is no Quaker in the Parish.
5. None according to the best of my knowledge.
6. I reside constantly in my Parish, but not in ye Parsonage House, no Minister that I have heard ever resided in it. I live within a few Yards of ye Church and keep no Curate.
7. There is publick Service in ye Church twice every Lords Day and one Sermon preached. Prayers are constantly read every Wednesday and Friday and Saturday in ye afternoon, and twice every Holiday. I publicly catechise ye Children every Sunday in Lent and read a Catechetical Lecture of own composing at Evening Prayer ; and ye Children come regularly to be instructed. I administer ye Sacrament ye first Sunday in every month and at ye three great Festivals of Xmas Easter and Whitsuntide ; The Number of Communicants is generally fifty. There is no chapel in ye Parish.
8. There is no Free-School, Hospital or Alms-House in ye Parish.
9. There is none.
10. There are some Tenements vested in ye Minister Churchwardens and other Feoffees for ye Repair of ye Church about ye Value of twelve pounds p. Annum, they are constantly applied to that use and if any thing remains it is given to ye Poor.
11. The Money is disposed of to ye Poor especially to those who frequent ye Sacrament by ye Minister and Church-Wardens.
12. There has been for some time in ye Parish a meeting of about thirty People every Lords Day in ye evening who are called Methodists. The Persons who frequent it are constant at ye Public Prayers of the Church and at ye Sacrament. Sometimes a Person in Priests Orders and Sometimes a Lay man of ye University meets them and reads a Sermon or some part of ye Scripture to them and concludes with a Psalm and Collect out of ye Common Prayer. I cannot learn that anything is taught contrary to ye Doctrine of ye Church of England<sup>1</sup>

I am Your Lordships most Dutyfull Son

and most obedient Humble Servant

Nathanael Bliss<sup>2</sup> Rector of St Ebbe [1736-42]

<sup>1</sup>In a letter of 3 September 1736 William Chapman, of Pembroke College, told John Wesley—"I read five times a week to a Religious Society in St. Ebbes parish." L. Tyerman, *The Oxford Methodists* (1873) p. 362. George Whitefield had also been a member of Pembroke College. In 1767 the curate of St. Ebbe's reported to the Bishop—"I could wish there were as few Methodists [as Roman Catholics], but this little Parish has more than its share of them. I shall endeavour (as I know your Lordship's sense upon this sect) to make use of all prudent and active means in my power to bring my mistaken parishioners into the regular and reasonable way of worship." MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers c. 431 f. 30.

<sup>2</sup>Nathanael Bliss (1700-64), Savilian Professor of Geometry 1742 and Astronomer Royal 1762. *D.N.B.*

ST. GILES Oxon

1. I have been informed that there are about ninety four Houses in the Parish of St. Giles's Oxon.
2. I know of none.
3. I know of none.
4. I know of none.
5. I know of none.
6. I live in St. John's College, and am seldom absent a month in a year.

7. Publick Service is performed twice every Lords Day ; and one Sermon preached. Prayers are read on all Wednesdays, Frydays and Saturdays, and on all Holy Days and their Eves, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administred every Month, and there are usually about thirty or forty Communicants.
  8. I know of none.
  9. In Answer to this I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the enclosed List of Benefactions.
  10. the same to this.<sup>1</sup>
  11. I keep about ten poor Children at School and the rest I give to the Poor of the Parish especially to those that are visited with Sickness at any time.
  12. I know of nothing more worth your Lordship's Notice, and am, My Lord,
- your most obedient humble Servant

Will: Buck.

<sup>1</sup>These lists are missing.

#### ST MARTINS OXON

1. The Extent of my Parish is but small, containing about fourscore Houses, having no Families of Note in it nor Villages or Hamlets belonging to it.
  2. There are no Papists as I know of in my Parish.
  3. There are in my Parish but two Families as I know of who are Presbyterians and no Other Dissenters whatsoever.
  4. There are no Quakers at all in my Parish.
  5. I don't know of any Persons in my Parish who profess intirely to disregard Religion, or who altogether absent Themselves from all publick Worship of God on ye Lords Day.
  6. I do not reside in my Parish but at Wadham College where I am Chaplain.
  7. Public Service is duly and punctually perform'd more than Twice every Lords Day and two sermons preach'd Prayers constantly read every Wednesday and Friday and all Holy days ; In Lent I catechize ye Children in my Parish, when they are duly sent to be instructed by me ; I know not of any Persons who frequent publick worship and are not baptised ; ye Sacrament of ye Lords is administ'r'd five times in ye Year, ye number of Communicants about forty or fifty sometimes and sometimes Less.
  8. There is no Free School, Hospital, or Alms-House wtsoever in my Parish.
  9. There is no voluntary Charity School in my Parish wch I know of.
  11. The Money given at ye Offertory is dispos'd of by ye Churchwardens with my Approbation among ye Poor of ye Parish, who do not receive Alms.
  12. I know of Nothing more Material, my Lord wch at Present Occurs to yr
- most Obedient Humble Servt  
Bond Spindler Rector [1737-83]

Four Lecturers,<sup>1</sup> have £10 a year each, from the Corporation to read prayers and preach every Sunday morning and evening. The Rector reads prayers a second time in the Evening and on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Holidays in the morning And Bp. Fell<sup>2</sup> left £20 a year for reading of prayers all other mornings and evenings at 8 of the clock. Income of this Rectory £25 a year arising from Surplice fees and voluntary contributions.

This account given by Mr Spindler Aug 12 1738.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Cf. C. J. H. Fletcher, *A History of the Church and Parish of St. Martin, Oxford* (1896) pp. 22 ff.

<sup>2</sup>John Fell (1625-86), Bishop of Oxford 1676-86. *D.N.B.*

<sup>3</sup>This note is in Secker's hand.

#### ST MARY MAGDALEN'S OXON

1. The Parish of St Mary Magdalen Oxon consists of about 220 Houses or Families, wherein there are also great Numbers of Single Independent Persons or Lodgers.
2. There are I am persuaded, no professed Papists in this Parish.
3. I know not one Presbyterian, Independent or Anabaptist in this Parish.
4. There is, I think but one Single Family of Quakers in this Parish ; ye Master of wch (Thos: Nicholls) is ordinarily ye Speaker or Teacher in their Meeting House, wch is likewise in this parish, and, as ye sd Thos: Nichols assures me hath been duly licensed. The Quakers in this City do ordinarily meet there every Lords day in ye forenoon and likewise upon Thursdays in the forenoon.  
I never made any Demand of my Easter offerings from Thomas Nicholls or any of his Family as knowing yt he wd not be prevailed to pay them but by Compulsion ; nor have I in ye Course of near 18 years received one penny from him or from any of his Family ; 'tho ye dues I am entitled to by Law wd in ye Course of so many years have amounted to near £30
5. It must be confess'd yt there are in this Parish (especially among the poorer sort) great numbers of Absentees from ye publick worship of Almy. God. This Scandalous and lamentable Neglect is (I fear) in most Persons ye Effect of a Worldly, Carnal unthinking or Irreligious Disposition of Mind, Occasioned by ye want of an Early Instruction in ye Principles and Duties of Xnity.
6. I am constantly resident upon my Cure.
7. Divine Service is duly performed in this Church twice every Lords Day, and one Sermon preached. The Children are Constantly Catechized, and ye Catechism Expounded to them every Lords Day during ye Season of Lent. The Sacramt of ye Lords Supper is constantly administred in this Church ye first Sunday in Every Month, besides ye 3 gt Festivals of Easter, Whit Sunday and Xmas Day ; and ye Number of Monthly Communicants is ordinarily near Fifty.
8. There is no Free School, Hospital or Alms-House in this Parish.
9. There is not any Voluntary Charity School within this Parish.
10. There are Some Lands and Several Tenements belonging partly to ye Church and partly to ye poor of this parish ; And I believe they are faithfully applied to ye purposes for wch they were left.
11. The Money given at the Offertory is distributed by the Minister and Church-Wardens amg ye Sick and Such others of ye Parishioners who most need it.
12. Nothing of this kind occurs to my thoughts at present

Thos: Lamprey [V. 1723-43]

#### ST MARY YE VIRGINS OXON

1. My Lord  
The Parish of St Mary's (tho in a papal Bull for confirming the Vicarage made in the Reign of Ed the 3rd, tis call'd *gravis et onerosa Cura*) is at

present very small containing no more than about 30 houses ; the rest having from time to time been demolish'd to make room for the many publick Buildings and Houses of Learning now standing in it : such as the Printing House, Schools, Radcliff Library, All Souls, Brazen Nose, University and Oriel Colleges, and St Mary Hall. The Village of Little-more about two miles from Oxon containing about 10 houses belongs to this Parish ; but there is not, and I believe there never was any Chapel there ; and the Inhabitants (except on Xtnas and Easter dayes, when some of them come to St Marys) goe to Church at Yeoffly or Cowley ; at one of which Churches the Children are christened, the Women church'd, and the Dead buried ; and the Curate officiating has the surpluss Fees that are due ; not one farthing a year being paid to the Vicar, all tithes great and small be appropriated by the Regal and Episcopal Authority, confirm'd by the foresaid papal Bull, to Oriel College. Easter Offerings indeed are due to ye Vicar ; but they amount to so little that the Parish Clerk usually has them for the trouble of fetch'g and gathering them. There is no family of Note either in the Parish or Village.

2. There is not one Papist.
3. No Presbyterian, Independent Anabaptist.
4. or Quaker in the Parish or in the Village thereto belonging that ever I heard of.
5. Nor are there any Persons in the Parish, who profess to disregard Religion, or who commonly absent themselves from all publick Worship of God on the Lords Day. On the contrary I think they are all good natur'd, charitable and well dispos'd to Religion. I am sure there is not one of them whose Life or Conversation I can make any objection to.
6. I live in Holywell in a house that I rent there having none belonging to my Vicarage, nor any Land to build one on—I dont remember that I have been absent above a moneth in all these last seven years from my Cure. And when I was absent it was to bury my Father and Mother, and to Vote at an Election of a Member of Parliament.—I have no licensed or settled Curate ; because I always doe my own busieness myself, when I am in health : but when I am otherwise I get some Clergyman of the University to assist me, for which I allow him 3 Guineas a Quarter ; which I hope will be thought a Sufficient Allowance : because my Vicarage, tho discharg'd at £35 a year, is on account of the Printing House and Ratcliff library, and some Houses taken in by All Souls and University Colleges,<sup>1</sup> for which I have not yet had any Satisfaction, reduced to about £29 a year, which Summ includes all Surpluss Fees (for I have nothing certain but £8 a year paid out of the Impropriation) And out of the said £29 a year I pay £20 a year for a house and taxes so that at present after my house Rent and taxes are paid I am a loser by my Benefice.
7. Public Service is duly performed twice every Lords Day and one Sermon at least preach'd either by myself to ye parish or by some Member of Yr University to yt body ; At wch Sermon to Ye University ye Parishioners have a right to be present. For when ye Church was regulated as 'tis at present, Bishop Fell<sup>2</sup> order'd that ye Seats on ye side of ye Pulpit should belong to ye men Parishioners and the side Pews to ye Women and the Pews behind the Drs to their Wives and Daughters. Prayers are also read on Wednesdays Frydays and Saturdays and on holy days—This Parish being very small there are often times as for instance at

present no Children to be instructed in the Catechism, but as often as there are any I instruct them till they are confirm'd by the Bishop. The Sacrament of ye Lords Supper is administred five times in a year generally all that come to Church, that is about 70, exclusive of Children, receive it.

8. There is no Free School, Hospital or Alms House in the Parish.
9. Nor voluntary Charity School.
10. There are Lands, Houses and money at Interest belonging to the Fabrick of the Church, and to the Poor, the Income whereof is uncertain ; but I think it amounts to about £30 a year : which I believe is faithfully and honestly disposed of according to the Wills of the Donors. But I will make a more particular Enquiry into this Affair, having not been able (on account of ye Absence of the Church warden) to come at ye Parish Register of Benefactions till this morning.
11. It is generally disposed of by ye Churchwarden to the Poor of ye Parish : but sometimes to keep up my right I dispose of some of it to the Same Use.
12. There is an injury, which ye Parish Clerk of St Mary's suffers, which it may not be improper to acquaint Your Lordship with, tho' perhaps it will not at present admit a Remedy.  
I have been credibly inform'd, that till about 60 years ago, the said Parish Clerk stuck up the names of ye Preachers at the Colleges, attended the Preachers, sung the Psalm, laid the Cushions for the Drs and Noblemen, and opened the Pews for Strangers ; but that about that time a Parish-Clerk sold this Busieness, and reserv'd only the Busieness of the Parish to himself ; and that ever since the Vicechancellour hath dispos'd (as often as there has been a vacancy) of the former Busieness as if there was an University Clerk, as well as a Parish Clerk : (tho' there is no mention made of an University Clerk in the Statutes of the University). And that hereby the Parish-Clerks place, which used to be reckon'd worth £100 a year, is reduced to about 8, which is not a reward sufficient for his Attendance on the Parish, tolling the Bells, and keeping clean so large a Church, and of which Church the University have immemorially had ye 1st and greatest use.

I am, with great respect, My Lord,

Your Lordships most Dutifull, and Obedient Servant,

Thomas Weeksy<sup>3</sup> Vicar of The Church of St. Mary The Virgin Oxon  
[1720-54]

Holywell in Oxford

July 17 1738

<sup>1</sup>The Clarendon Building was completed in 1713, and the foundation stone of the Radcliffe Camera laid on 17 May 1737. The site for the Codrington Library was acquired from the parishioners of St. Marys in 1714. Dr. Radcliffe's bequest had stimulated building at University College.

<sup>2</sup>John Fell (1625-86), Bishop of Oxford 1676-86. *D.N.B.*

<sup>3</sup>R. of Llanfihangel Cwmdru, Brecon, 1722.

#### ST PETER IN THE BAILEY OXON

1. The Parish of St Peter in the Bailey Oxon. consists of about 120 Families, which are numerous, but generally very poor ; neither can I recollect that there is any Family or Person of Note in it.

J. Swinton.

2. There is only one Roman Catholick Family in the Parish of St Peter in the Bailey Oxon. Every other Article in this Query is to be answered in the Negative.

J. Swinton.

3. There are three Presbyterian Families in the said Parish. There is likewise a Presbyterian meeting house in it, which serves for all the People of that Persuasion in the city of Oxford. The number of Presbyterians in the said Parish is of late years much diminish'd, and the Congregation above mention'd is now scarce half so numerous as it was 15 or 16 years ago.

J. Swinton.

4. We have no Quakers amongst us at present ; though I baptiz'd Mary Elisabeth Lambe at the age of 56 (who had been educated and liv'd to that Time a Quaker) June 23, 1737. She was fully convinc'd of the Errors and Absurdities of Quakerism, and of the Truth and Excellency of the Doctrines of the Church of England ; for which Reason she earnestly desir'd to be baptiz'd according to the Rites and Ceremonies of that Church, and was by me so baptiz'd at the Time above mention'd.

J. Swinton.

5. The Church we perform Divine Service in is St Ebbs, which not being capable of containing its own Congregation and our Parishioners, many of the latter are obliged to frequent other Churches, but our Church being now almost finished we hope this Inconvenience will soon be remedied.

J. Swinton.

6. There being no Parsonage house in my Parish I constantly reside in Wadham College. The Rectory being worth not above £15 p Ann. I cannot afford to keep a Curate, though I should be glad to do this would my Circumstances permit ; The Parochial Duty which I am oblig'd to being a full Impley for one Minister.

J. Swinton.

7. Publick Service is duly perform'd once every Lord's Day, and one Sermon preach'd, and yt in the Afternoon. The Reason we have not publick Service performed twice every Lord's Day is, because the Congregation of St. Ebb's have their publick Service perform'd, and Sermon preach'd in the Morning. I Catechize and Expound every Sunday in Lent, and administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper five Times a Year. The Number of Communicants is frequently betwixt 30 and 40.

J. Swinton.

8. There being neither Free-School, Hospital, nor Alms-House in our Parish, the Subsequent Articles require no Answer.

J. Swinton.

9. We have no Charity School at all in our Parish.

J. Swinton.

10. I cannot learn that any Lands, or Tenements, or Tithes, or Pensions, or Sums of Money to be placed out at Interest, have been given at any Time to our church or poor.

J. Swinton.

11. This Money is dispos'd of by the Church Wardens to the properest



Objects of Charity in our own Parish ; chiefly to Those who frequent Church and the Holy Communion.

J. Swinton.

12. Nothing that I can at present recollect.

J. Swinton.<sup>1</sup> [R. 1729- ]

<sup>1</sup>Keeper of the Archives 1767-77, V. of Middlewich, Cheshire, 1731-7, R. of Munsley, Herefordshire, 1738-9.

ST PETER IN THE EAST OXON

1. My Lord,

St Peters Parish in the East, is One of the largest in Oxford. The Number of Houses that pay Taxes, are 160, and of those inhabited by Poor People, 48, In all 208. There are besides within its Precincts the following Colleges and Halls, viz ; Magdalene College, New Coll: Queens Coll: Part of University Coll: Hart Hall, Edmund Hall, Mag: Coll: Hall and part of Alban Hall. There are no families of Note live in it, but the Inhabitants for generality are All Tradesmen or Dependents on Some of The Colleges.

2. I cannot learn from the best Information I can get, that there are any Papists in the Parish.
3. I don't find that there are any Dissenters of any Denomination in the Parish, excepting two or three Presbyterians, Or, that there is any Meeting House of any kind.
4. I cann't hear that there is One Quaker in the Parish.
5. I know of no Persons who professedly disregard Religion. The Church, particularly on the Lord's Day, is constantly frequented by All Ranks of Persons in the Parish, and they attend the Service there Orderly and Decently.
6. I reside upon my Cure here six Months every year and the other six upon a Living in the Country, and my Residence is not in the Vicarage House but in Merton Coll: During my Absence I generally appoint a Fellow of our Coll: Or Some other Discreet and Prudent Person of some other College to take Care of the Parish and allow him half a guinea per Sunday. The Profits of this Cure arise from Contributions collected by the C. Wardens, Money given at the Offertory and Surplice fees, Wch Amount to between £50 and 60 pr An.
7. Publick Service is perform'd twice every Ld's Day and One Sermon preach'd. Prayers are read every Wed: Fryday and Saturday in the Afternoon and All Holydays throughout the Year. The Parishes of Holywell and Woolvercot are said to be Chappels belonging to St Peters, but they have their distinct Ministers. The Children are Catechised every Lent and have the Catechism expounded to 'em, but not from any printed Exposition. I know of no One who frequents the public worship and has not been baptized. The Sacrament is administer'd every first Sunday in the Month, besides the usual Festivals. At the monthly Sacramts. there are generally about 30 or 40 and at the usual Festivals above Threescore Communicants.
8. There is none.
9. About 20 Years ago there was establish'd in this Parish a voluntary Charity School for the Education of 54 Boys. This School is supported by Voluntary Contributions from most of the Colleges in Oxford, wch

maintain a Master with a Sallary of £40 pr an, to teach these Boys to read, write and cast Account, and to instruct them in the Principles of Religion. They are only clothed once a Year when ten of 'em are put out Apprentices with an Allowance of £10 and ten New Ones are appointed in their Room, by the Heads of those Colleges, wch contribute to their Maintenance.<sup>1</sup>

10. I have here enclosed a Transcript from the Table of Benefactors to St Peters Parish and I believe they are carefully preserved and applied to their intended Uses.<sup>2</sup>
11. At every Comunion The Two Church Wardens go about with Each of em a Plate to every Communicant and what is collected in the first Plate is for the Minister, who finds the Bread and Wine and the second for the Poor wch. is Distributed amongst them by the Church Wardens.
12. I do not recollect anything else at present proper to acquaint your Lordship with

I am

Your Lordships most Dutifull and obedient humble Servt.

Merton College Ox'on

Samll: Wolley

August 11th 1738

<sup>1</sup>The Grey Coat school was founded in 1708 to educate the boys of University servants. In 1813 it was removed to new premises in St. Aldate's. [Information supplied by Mr. H. Minn].

<sup>2</sup>This list has not survived.

#### ST THOMAS OXON

1. It is bounded East-ward by Paradise Garden. West-ward by Botley-Mill. North-ward by Medley ; and South-ward by Kings-Meads. We compute about one Hundred and thirty-Six Houses. We have no Family of Note.
2. We have no Papists ; no Popish Priest &c.
3. We have no Presbyterians &c or any other Sect of any kind, or Denomination Whatsoever.
4. We have no Quakers.
5. There are some persons, who do absent themselves from publick worship, but they are of the lowest Rank.
6. My Cure is a College-Cure.
7. Publick Service is perform'd twice every Lords Day, and one Sermon preach'd.  
We have an Expounder belonging to our Parish.  
We have a Monthly Sacrament, and about forty or fifty receive it.
8. There is a Free-School, No Hospital &c.
9. There is no Voluntary Charity-School.
10. There are two Sums of Money, viz, twenty one pounds and ten pounds placed out at Interest for the Use of our Church and Poor.
11. The Money given at the Offertory is dispos'd of by the Church-Wardens.
12. There is no other Matter relating to my Parish of which at present I can inform Your Lordship

#### PIDDINGTON

1. The Extent of ye Parish of Piddington is about a Mile and a half in length, a Mile in Breadth, and five Miles in circumference.

There are no Villages or Hamlets belong to it.  
 The Number of Houses it contains is Fifty Six.  
 There is no Family of Note living in it.

2. There are not any Papists in the Parish.
3. There are no Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists in ye Parish.
4. There are no Quakers in the Parish.
5. There are two or three Persons of the poorer sort, who commonly absent themselves from all publick worship on the Lords Day ; their excuse is deafness.
6. I do reside constantly upon my Cure, and in the House belonging to it.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lords day, and one Sermon preached ; and besides prayers are read upon all State Holidays, and several Festivals and Fasts of ye Church. there is not any Chapel in ye Parish. I generally begin to Catechize at Easter : (that being the time of ye Year my Parishioners are most at leisure to teach their Children.) they duly send their Children, and I expound it to them myself. There are not, I believe, any Persons unbaptised, who frequent publick Worship. The Sacrament of ye Lords Supper is administred four times in ye Year : Ye Number of Communicants is about fifteen upon Palm-Sunday, thirty upon Easter Day, ten upon Whitsunday and twenty upon Christmas Day.
8. There is not any Free-School, Hospital or Alms House in ye Parish.
9. There is not any voluntary Charity-School in ye Parish.
10. Mr Hart<sup>1</sup> has given by Will three pounds pr. Annum to this Parish for ever payable out of an Estate in Easington in ye County of Bucks to Apprentice poor Children : and the Money has been, I believe, carefully applied to that use.
11. There is not any Money given at the Offertory.
12. There is not any other matter relating to my Parish of wch it maybe proper to give Your Lordship information

Henry Bruges Curate

July 22 1738

<sup>1</sup>John Hart (d. 1665), of Cotisford, endowed charities in a number of parishes.

PIRTON

1. My Lord,  
 The extent of the Parish is between 7 and 8 Miles including the Hamlets of Standel, Clare, Golder and Assendon which are annex'd to it : The Number of Houses about Three-score : No Families of Note.
2. There are four or five and twenty Papists (I mean reputed such, for I know of none Convict) all private Persons, almost of the lowest Rank. I do not apprehend their numbers to encrease. But one in Bp Fell's time.<sup>1</sup>
3. There are two or three reputed Anabaptists.
4. I know not one Quaker of or belonging to the Parish.
5. I know of none who profess to disregard Religion &c.
6. I reside in my own house, and have no Curate.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lord's Day, and one Sermon preached. There was formerly a Chapel at Standel, the ruins yet remain.

8. There is an Alms-house at Assendon for six Poor Women and Four Poor Men endow'd by Sr Francis Stonor<sup>2</sup> in the year 1621.
9. No Charity School.
10. The Monies heretofore given to the Poor (between 7 and 8 pounds yearly Rent) are carefully preserved for their uses alone, and annually distributed among them.
12. This My Lord, is the best Account I can give to the foregoing Questions: what particulars are not fully answered, I beg leave to reserve for your Lordships private Ear when you shall be pleas'd to permit me to wait upon you.

I am

My Lord

Your Lordships most dutiful Son and most obedient Servant

Ralph Church. [V. 1735-87]

<sup>1</sup>Note in Secker's hand.

<sup>2</sup>Sir Francis Stonor (1553-1637), of Stonor.

#### GREAT ROLLRIGHT

May it please your Lship, the extent of my Parish is about 4 miles in Circumference. The Number of Houses is 44. No Family of Note at present living there. No Village or Hamlet belonging to it.

There is only one Papist in my Parish who keeps a publick House.

I have no Presbyterian Independent or Anabaptist in my Parish.

I have no Quakers in my Parish.

I reside in ye House belonging to my Cure and am never absent but when Business requires. I keep no Curate, but when Absent get it supplied by Neighbouring Clergy.

I read Prayers twice, every Lord's Day and Preach once. I Catechise and Administer ye Sacrament thrice in ye Year and about 15 persons usually receive it each time.

There is no Free School Hospital or Alms House in my Parish.

There is no Charity School in my Parish.

There is an estate left to ye Poor of my Parish of ye yearly rent of £15 wch. is applied to that purpose.

It is disposed of to ye poor by ye Church Warden and your Lordship's most dutifull son and servt.

Tho: Foxley Rect. of Rollright. [1736-40]

#### LITTLE ROLLRIGHT

1. About 3, or 4.
2. No Papists or Dissenters in this Parish, God be prais'd.
3. I reside at Chipping Norton, pretty near the middle between my two cures, Little Rollright and Heathrop.<sup>1</sup>
7. There are Prayers and Sermon constantly every Sunday morning at Little Rollright. Public Service was never performd there twice on a Lord's Day. The Curate's Salary £16 out of £43 (the Amount of the Rectory) will not purchase Residence and whole Service. The Farmers and their men will not leave their work for Service on Holydays. There are no children here of an age for being catechiz'd. Whether the grown extraneous Servants ever learned or remember their catechism,

I know not. I usually administer the Sacramt 4 times a year to about 4 or 5 persons. The young ones, above 16 years old (notwithstanding all I can say In Church or Out) are resolv'd to think, yt belongs only to elderly people to receive it.

8. There is no money given at the Offertory by this poor Parish.

[R. Thomas Heyward 1700-43]

<sup>1</sup>James Martin, R. of Heythrop 1724-70. Cf. HEYTHORP p. 82.

#### ROTHERFIELD GREYS

1. Greys parish is near 4 miles long and a mile over or thereabouts. The upper end, where it joins to Nettlebed Parish, is called Highmer. The Lower End reaches to ye Thames and takes in one side of a Street at Henly, and ye End of another. That part of ye parish contiguous to Henley contains 51 houses inhabited. There are 3 or 4 untenanted. The other part contains 72 houses; 1 of 'em untenanted. Sr. Wm. Stapleton's<sup>1</sup> ye only family of Note. The Henly End are baptiz'd and buried at Henley, ye Rector of Henly having a portion of Tythes out of Greys (as is suppos'd) on yt consideration.
2. There is but one Papist in ye Parish, a wharfinger's widow, by ye Thames side, she was bred such.
3. In yt part of ye Parish contiguous to Henly there are 7 familys or part of familys Protestant Dissenters, and 2 in ye other part; but of what particular sect I believe they themselves are hardly able to inform me, being all tradespeople or of ye meaner sort. Henly Meeting house stands within Greys Parish. The Minister I suppose legally qualified. Their numbers much ye same since my time.
4. But two families of Quakers in ye parish, both at ye Henly end containing but 2 persons in each family.
5. Absenters (totally) from ye Church or other place of worship (I think) none; tho' some few I have not been able to speak with; ye Bargemen in particular are generally from home. There are a great many yt come but seldom; their Pretences various; want of clothes, Distance from Church, a family of small children Absence from home &c. All of ye meaner sort, their numbers not increas'd, none professing a disregard to all religion, yt I know of. I am not so well acquainted with some of my parishioners as I should otherwise be, because ye lower end all go to Henly church or Harding<sup>2</sup>; and many of ye upper end to Nettlebed.
6. Dr. Barker, Prebendary of Westminster, is my Rector. I reside at Henly, 2 little miles from Greys Church. I am generally absent 6 weeks in ye year, 3 at Whitsontide and 3 at Christmas to visit my own or wife's relations, and to look after my affairs always taking care of a supply in my absence.
7. I preach every Lord's Day morning, and read prayers in ye afternoon. As also on Easter monday; when we have a Parish meeting, but not on other Holidays. Mr. Price ye last Rector,<sup>3</sup> used to toll ye Bell and wait for a Congregation till at last he grew tir'd of it and left it off and indeed there are but 4 or 5 houses near ye Church. I catechise ye children every Sabbath day from about ye beginning of Lent till Whitsontide; and am pretty well attended. I have sometimes read and exposition of my own compiling, at other times, for variety, out of A.

Bp Wake,<sup>4</sup> and Dr. Stebbing.<sup>5</sup> I administer ye Sacramt. publicly at ye 3 great festivals only and have generally 15 Communicants or 20 at most.

8. No Free School &c.
9. No Charity School, except yt Dr. Barker pays for teaching ye poor children to read and some to write.
10. We have 38<sup>l</sup> out at interest ; ye produce of wch is distributed by ye Parish Officers every Easter monday to such poor parishioners as do not receive weekly Collection. We have Ground rent of 20s paid out of Widow Rackstraw's house in Henly Corn market ; with wch clothing bôt every Christmas, and distributed by ye Officers to some of ye Poor.
11. The Communicants are chiefly of ye Poorer sort ; and there is no Offer-tory at all, nor has there been any since I knew ye parish wch is now 21 years.
12. None yt I know of.

Jno Birch Curate of Greys.

[R. Henry Barker<sup>6</sup> D.D. 1720-40]

<sup>1</sup>Sir William Stapleton, 4th Bart. M.P. (1698-1740), of Greys Court.

<sup>2</sup>i.e. Harpsden.

<sup>3</sup>Ralph Price R. 1687-1720.

<sup>4</sup>Cf. ARDLEY p. 10.

<sup>5</sup>H. Stebbing, *The young Christian instructed* (5th ed. 1728).

<sup>6</sup>Prebendary of Westminster from 1716.

#### ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD

1. The Parish is about four Miles long, but very narrow. We have no considerable Village but about forty Houses in it, and those mostly scattered. There are but two Families of any Figure in it, viz. Charles Price Esqr. of Blunt's Court, and William Barker Esqr.
2. We have no Papists in ye Parish.
3. We have three Families of Presbyterians in the Parish, the masters of which are substantial Farmers. They are about eighteen in number and frequent the Meeting House at Henley upon Thames, having no Meeting House in our Parish. Their number is much ye same, as it has been for many Years.
4. We have no Quakers in ye Parish.
5. I know no Person in ye Parish who either totally absents himself from ye publick Service or openly professes any Disregard for Religion.
6. I do not reside upon the Cure being obliged to reside in Jesus College Oxford, of which I am Principal. I have a Curate whose name is Mr. Jenkin Owen, who was ordain'd Priest some Time since by your Lordship, who lives about two miles from the Church, but in another Parish, having no Conveniency of Boarding in my own Parish. I allow him forty Pound a year for Serving the Cure.
7. Public Service is duly performed twice every Lord's Day and a sermon constantly preach'd in ye morning. We have not Prayers upon all Holydays but upon some particular Days. We have no chapel in the Parish. The children are generally catechiz'd in ye Lent, if not, between Easter and Whitsuntide ; and an Exposition is sometimes read to them on ye same by my self or Curate. I know of no unbaptiz'd Persons in

- ye Parish. The Sacrament is constantly administred on the three great Festivals. The number of Communicants is about twenty.
8. We have no Free School, Hospital or Alms Houses founded in the Parish.
  9. I pay forty shillings a year for teaching five boys of ye said Parish to read and write ; besides which there is no contribution of any sort to that end.
  10. There is one Acre of Meadow Land in the Parish given by Mr. Jackson late Rector<sup>1</sup> thereof which is rented out at one Pound ten shillings pr. ann, and distributed in Pursuance of his Will on Good Frydays among ye poor Housekeepers of ye said Parish. There is likewise a Rent Charge of one Pound a year paid out of a certain tenement in Henley upon Thames The gift of Mr. Knapp<sup>2</sup> towards clothing ye poor of the said parish. There is likewise ten Pounds in Money given by John Clark,<sup>3</sup> the interest whereof is to be distributed among the poor of the said Parish yearly.
  11. We have no offerings at the Communion.
  12. I have nothing further to inform your Lordship of and am, yr. Lordship's most dutyfull and obedient servt

Tho. Pardo<sup>4</sup> [R. 1727-63]

<sup>1</sup>Eldridge Jackson R. 1673-97.

<sup>2</sup>By the will of Augustine Knapp dated 1602.

<sup>3</sup>By the will of John Clerke dated 1640.

<sup>4</sup>Principal of Jesus College 1727-63.

ROWSHAM

My Lord

In answer to your Lordship's 1st Article of Enquiries,

The Parish of Rowsham consists of 1022 acres and 7 Perch of Land

1. No Villages or Hamletts  
21 houses  
General Dormer's<sup>1</sup> the only Family of Note.
2. ) No Papists, Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists ; One Quaker
3. ) only, an old widow, not lyable to Dues.
4. )
5. The Parish in General very well behaved. A very Few Persons only do not attend the publick Worship of God so constantly as might be wished. The motives and principles I presume are, their not having a due Sense of their Duty, of the Importance of a religious Life, and of the Necessity of those Means that are appointed for the Promotion of Both.
6. I do not reside upon my Cure, being I hope indulged upon the Account of prosecuting my Studies in the University of Oxford. My Curate does not reside in the Parish, but in the Neighbourhood of it. His name is, Leader. The Cure is served very regularly by Him.
7. The publick Service is duly performed twice every Lord's Day, unless any very extraordinary Occasion such as a case of Sickness or Charity, prevents it, and One Sermon is constantly preached. Prayers are read upon Holy-Days and upon other Occasions, as often as the less busy Seasons of the year will supply a Congregation. No other Church or Chapel. My Curate catechizes several times a year, generally all the Lent Season, expounding at the same time. Everyone to the best of my knowledge has been regularly baptized. The Sacrament is administered 3 times a year, and generally a very good proportion of Communicants

8. No Free School, Hospital, or Alms-House.
9. No Charity School. No perpetual Donations of any Kind or for any
10. use. General Dormer is pleased to continue, as the Family have for some time done, a yearly stipend to a former Incumbent's Widow, for teaching the poor Children to read
11. The money given at the Offertory is disposed of by my Curate with the consent of the Church Wardens. In the Distribution of which chief Regard is had to the poor Communicants.
12. The Church has Time after Time been presented, as out of order, but no effectual Injunctions given for the Repair of it, chiefly owing to a Controversy depending as to a supposed Claim of Property in one of the Isles of the Church. That claim being now dropt (the Estate, to which the supposed claim did belong being devolved into other Hands, viz, from Mr Martin late of Rowsham into the Hands of Mr Reeves of Woodstock) the least Intimation from your Lordship will, I am satisfied, put this Affair upon a proper Footing.

I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's,

Most dutifull Son, and Servant

Lancelott Michell. [R. 1734-10 Oct. 1738]

<sup>1</sup>Lieutenant-General James Dormer (1669-1741), of Rousham. *D.N.B.*

#### SALFORD

1. The Extent of my Parish is almost two miles each way. There is no Hamlet belonging to it. The number of houses are thirty nine. John Blewitt Esq. the only Family of note.
2. There are only two Papists in my Parish, and those of mean rank.
3. Neither Presbyterian Independent or Anabaptist in my Parish.
4. No Quaker at all in my Parish.
5. None.
6. I constantly reside.
7. Publick Service is twice performed every Lord's Day and one sermon preached. Prayers are read such Saints Days and Holy Days as a congregation will attend. No chapel in my Parish. I catechize in my church every Sunday in Lent, and some few Sundays before the Visitation, and expound to them myself. No unbaptiz'd person frequenteth my Church. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administred at least three Times in a year. Usually twenty or more receive it.
8. No alms house.
9. No school.
11. No money given at the Offertory.
12. No further Information worthy your Lordship's notice.

Deliver'd by Richard Plasted Rector of Salford. [1725-79]

#### SANDFORD

1. There is one Hamlet and about 70 Families in ye Parish, and ye only Persons of Note one Colonel Pawlet<sup>1</sup> and Mrs. Taylor.<sup>2</sup>
2. There is but one Papist in ye Parish.
3. There is but one Presbyterian in ye Parish.



4. There are no Quakers in ye Parish.
5. There are none yt I know, of who absent themselves from Church entirely.
7. Publick service is performed twice every Lord's Day in ye Church, and one Sermon preached. It is customary to catechise ye Children in Lent only. It is usual to administer ye Sacrament at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide.
8. There is neither in ye parish.
9. There is none.
10. There has been a charity of a hundred Pounds left to ye poor, ye interest of wch. is distributed at two different times in ye year.
11. It is not customary to collect money at ye offertory, but I will take care yt: it shall be done for ye future.
12. I know of nothing else proper to acquaint your Lordship with at present.

I am Your Lordship's

Most dutifull and obedient Servant

John Blake.<sup>1</sup>

[V. possibly John Taylor]

<sup>1</sup>Colonel Charles Armand Paulet (d. 1751), of Ledwell Park.

<sup>2</sup>Joseph Taylor, of Sandford Manor.

<sup>3</sup>V. 1750-84.

#### SARESSEN

1. The Parish is about two miles in length, and something above half a mile in breadth. It contains twenty two houses. There is no other village or hamlet belonging to it. There is a Gentleman's seat belonging to the Family of the Walters<sup>1</sup> but at present inhabited only by the Tenant that rents the land.
4. There are no Papists, Quakers, nor Dissenters of any sort in the parish.
5. There are none who commonly absent themselves from Church on the Lord's Day.
6. I do reside constantly upon my cure, and in the house belonging to it.
7. Public Service is duly performed twice every Lord's Day, and one sermon preached and there are usually prayers on Saints Days. I hear the Children their Catechism in Lent, but being obliged to read prayers four times, and preach twice, I have not time to expound it to them. The Sacrament of the Lds Supper is administred four times a year and generally about twenty come to it.
8. There is no Free School, Hospital nor Alms House in the Parish.
9. There is no voluntary Charity School in the Parish.<sup>2</sup>
10. There is an hundred pound plac'd out at interest, one half left by the Walter family, the other by Mr. Edmund Wansell, to be distributed yearly amongst the poor of the Parish, and it is dispos'd of accordingly.
11. The money given at the Offertory is dispos'd of by the Minister and Churchwarden to the Poor who come to the Sacrament.
12. I have nothing else to inform your Lordship of at present.

Nat. Sturges Rector of Sarsden. [1720-62]

<sup>1</sup>Sir Robert Walter, 3rd and last Bart. of Sarsden, had died in 1731.

<sup>2</sup>But cf. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I p. 487.

SHERBORNE

1. My Lord,  
The parish of Shirburn is about 3 Miles in Length and about  $\frac{3}{4}$  Mile in Breadth. It has no hamlet. It comprehends about 52 houses. The only family of note is the Rt. Honble. the Earl of Macclesfield.<sup>1</sup>
2. There are 7 Papists : A Farmer's widow, and 2 Sons, and 2 Daughters ; and 2 Day-labourers. No Person hath been lately perverted to Popery. There is no Place in wch. they assemble for worship. No Popish Priest resides here. There is no Popish School kept. There hath been no Confirmation nor Visitation.
3. There are two Families (London Tradesmen) that live at some distance, and never come to Church ; and reputed to be Presbyterians. There is no Independent, nor Anabaptist.
4. There is no Quaker.
5. There are no persons who profess to disregard Religion. A very few of the meaner sort sometimes absent themselves from Publick Worship on the Lord's Day ; rather out of Idleness, than a profess'd Disregard to Religion. Their Number is lessen'd.
6. I reside constantly upon my Cure, except when I attend Ld. Macclesfield's Family in London, wh may be about 18 or 20 weeks in a year. During wch time, there being little or no weekly Duty, my cure is serv'd by Tho. Bisse M.A. of All Souls College, at the allowance of 10 shillings pr. Sunday. There is no Vicarage House. I live in Lord Macclesfield's family.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lord's Day and one sermon is preach'd. Prayers are read on all Saints Days and Holidays. The children are catechiz'd for many Sundays together in the summer. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administered Four Times a Year. The Communicants are sometimes about 30, sometimes about 20, and sometimes fewer.
8. There are no Free-School, Hospital, nor Alms-House.
9. There is no Charity School.
10. There has been 1000 pound given to the Church by the Governrs. of Queen Anne's Bounty, and others: which sum has been laid out by the sd. Governrs. in the purchase of Lands in the Parish of Sutton Wick near Abingdon, Berks.
11. There is never any Money given at the Offertory.
12. There is no other matter relating to Shirburn, that I need inform your Lordship of.

I am My Lord,

Your Lordship's Most dutiful and obedient

Humble servant

July 26th. 1738.

Tho. Hunt.<sup>2</sup> [1731-48]<sup>1</sup>The second Earl of Macclesfield (c. 1697-1764), of Shirburn Castle.<sup>2</sup>R. of Bix 1729-74, Canon of Christ Church 1739, Laudian Professor of Arabic 1738-74, Lord Almoner's Professor of Arabic 1741-8, Regius Professor of Hebrew 1747-74.

SHILTON

1. About a mile and a half in Length and a mile in Breadth. No Hamlet. About Thirty Houses. One Gentleman viz Reginald Morgan Bray Esqr.<sup>1</sup>

2. No Papists at all, no Priest, no place of worship nor school. No Confirmation or Visitation by any Popish Bishop.
3. Two poor widows yt. are Anabaptists. No meeting house. No increase of Dissenters since I knew ye Parish.
4. No Quakers at all nor meeting house.
5. None who profess to disregard religion or commonly absent themselves from all publick worship of God.
6. I do not reside upon my Cure but at Burford within Two Miles of the Place. The late Lord Bishop of Oxford having given me leave to serve that Cure, for which Mr. Stiles the Vicar pays me twenty pounds a year.<sup>2</sup>
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lord's Day and one sermon preach'd. No prayers on Holy Days for want of a congregation. We have prayers on every Fryday before a Communion which we have four times a year. About fifteen Communicants. No children have come to be catechis'd till now of late against the Confirmation. No chapel.
8. No Hospital nor Alms House. No Free School.
9. One Charity School given by Mrs. Jane Bray,<sup>3</sup> ye salary thereof being Four pounds Ten shillings a year to a Dame for teaching some poor children to read, which is preserv'd and employ'd as it ought.
10. Samuel Tawney gave Fifty pounds, the Interest thereof to be paid to the poor of Shilton. Mr — Gregory gave Twenty pounds, one half of ye interest thereof to be paid to ye Vicar and ye other half to ye poor of Shilton. Mr Chadwell gave Five pounds ye interest thereof to be paid to ye poor, all which charities are preserv'd and rightly apply'd.
11. No money given at ye offertory.
12. I know of nothing more of which it may be proper to give your Lordship Information.

I am

Your Lordship's Most dutifull humble servant  
R. Griffiths. Curate of Shilton.

[V. James Stiles 1722-50]

<sup>1</sup>Reginald Morgan Bray (1705-1740), formerly of Great Barrington, Gloucestershire.

<sup>2</sup>Marginal note in Secker's hand reads "He is schoolmaster at Burford."

<sup>3</sup>Jane (d. 1715), widow of Reginald Bray, of Great Barrington, Gloucestershire.

#### SHIPLAKE

1. The Parish of Shiplake I Believe to be about Five Miles long, and not half a mile over in Any Part of it. It consists of Two Hamlets wherein are Comprehended about Seventy Houses. The Chief Families of Note at this time are, three : The Earl of Effingham,<sup>1</sup> Mr. Jennings,<sup>2</sup> and Mr. Price.<sup>3</sup>
2. There are no Papists. No School nor Place of Assembly for Popish worship in this Parish.
3. There are Four Puny Farmers, Presbyterians ; but no Meeting House in this Parish. And I do with Pleasure observe that their Wives, Children and Servants will not follow, nor be led by them ; in as much as They Do, and have for some years past Frequented the Church more yn ever they were known to have done before.

4. There are no Quakers in this Parish.
5. There are no Persons in this Parish yt I know of That Professedly disregard All Religion : or that wholly Absent themselves from All Publick Worship on the Lord's Day.
6. I constantly reside in the Vicarage House and serve the Cure myself.
7. There is one Sermon Preached and Public Service duly Performe'd Twice in my Church every Lord's Day, except Prevented by Sickness, or now and then call'd upon to Assist a Brother in ye like Distress. On other Days I am ready to Read Prayers as ye Rubrick directs, when I can get a Congregation. We have no Chapel. I Chatechise all Lent : and when I have not Dr. Busby's Lectures to Read I either expound myself, or chuse some Catichetical subject to Preach upon during the Lent Season. I know of no Persons that frequent my Church Unbaptized. I administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Eight Times a Year : And one time with another have about eight or Ten Communicants at each Administration.
8. There is no Free-School, Hospital, nor Alms House in this Parish.
9. There is no Voluntary Charity School in this Parish.
10. There is Twenty Shillings the Interest of Twenty Pounds in Money and Bread, distributed yearly among the Poor of this Parish, but when or by whom given I cannot discover.
11. The Money given at the Offertory is, as usual, disposed of by the present Vicar when and where he sees most Occasion.
12. There's Nothing more relating to ye Parish, worthy your Information, that falls at present within the Observation of

Yr. Lordship's most Obsequious Vicr.

Jos. Cane. [1710-47]

<sup>1</sup>The first Earl of Effingham (1683-1743), tenant of Crowsley Park.

<sup>2</sup>James Jennings, of Shiplake Court.

<sup>3</sup>Charles Price, of Blounts Court.

#### SHIPTON UPON CHARWELL

1. The extent of ye Parish is two Miles. There's no Hamlet belonging to it. The Number of Houses are fifteen, and there's no Familie of Note in it.
2. There is no Papist in ye Parish.
3. There are no Presbyterians, Independents, nor Anabaptists.
4. There are no Quakers.
5. There are no such Persons in ye Parish.
6. Rector usually resides but hath now been half a year absent in Hampshire on acct of his health. The Cure hath been servd in the mean time by Mr. Winder of Trinity.<sup>1</sup>
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lord's Day and one Sermon Preach'd. Prayers are read on Good-Friday, Ash Wednesday and on other Holy Days as often as People are likely to attend. There's no Chapel in ye Parish. The Children are constantly catechiz'd every Sunday in Lent. The Sacrament of ye Lord's Supper is administred three times in a Year, and there are usually twenty Communicants each Time.
8. There is no Free-School, Hospital, nor Alms House in ye Parish.

9. There is no voluntary Charity School in the Parish.
10. No Lands, Tenements etc. have ever been given to Church or Poor.
11. No Money is given at ye offertory but by ye Minister and two or three of yr Inhabitants ; and what is there given is dispos'd of to those families in ye parish that most want it.
12. No.

I am Your Lordship's most dutifull  
and obednt. Son and Servt.

Willm. Winder. [R. William Deane 1719-80]

<sup>1</sup>This entry is in Secker's hand.

#### SHIPTON-UNDER-WHICHWOOD

1. The parish of Shipton is of a very large extent being near seven miles long and three or four wide. It contains five large villages viz. Shipton, Milton, Leafield, Lyneahm, Ramsdon, besides smaller as Langley, Merry-Court, and many Single Houses, in all about three Hundred and seventy Houses. There are no Families of Note but Sr. Thomas Read<sup>1</sup> and his brother Col. Read<sup>2</sup> who live together at Shipton.
2. A Taylor and his Sister inmates are reputed Papists. I never heard of a Popish Priest being in the Parish or anything done therein to promote their Religion.
3. There are three or four common People that I can only call Dissenters ; for having no Meeting House in the Parish, as I understand, they go to that, which is most convenient. Formerly I believe there might be more.
4. The Quakers are decreased of late years. There are not more than three or four Families and three or four single person. There is a Meeting House at Milton but whether Licensed according to Law I cannot tell. They meet in it, as I am informed, every Sunday, but they have not a Speaker oftener than once a month. As to my Dues, some have paid me themselves, the Relations of others, who are not Quakers have paid me for them, some I have lost, and once I apply'd to two Justices of the Peace against four who refused to pay me.
5. There are none that I know of who profess to disregard religion, but there are many common People who too much neglect the publick Worship of God on the Lord's Day. They never mentioned any motives to me but necessary business, their living at a great distance from the Church, Sickness or the like. But their Number of late I think is not increased.
6. I have constantly lived in the Vicarage house and for the Eleven Years since I have been Vicar, have been never absent more than a Week in a Year, except six Weeks last Summer, when I was advised by Dr. Frewen<sup>2</sup> to ye Bath for my health.
7. There is constantly Service twice every Lord's Day and one Sermon, and Prayers upon all Fasts and Festivals, but the Parish consisting in general of People of Business, seldom more than seven or eight attend on Prayer days. There is a Chapel at Leafield. Mr. Arundell<sup>3</sup> has a Licence to serve it, and I believe attends duly every Sunday in the afternoon. I have duly catechized all Lent, but having never had any but little Children, and having a great deal of duty, (preaching twice and reading prayers three times every Sunday) instead of reading Lectures in the afternoon, have made it my rule to preach on Catichetical Subjects

every Lent. There are no persons attend the Public Service that I know of who are not baptiz'd. The Sacrament is administred three times at Easter once at Whitsuntide, and once at Christmas, and there are commonly between 30 and 40 who receive it each time.

8. We have no Free School, Hospital or Alms-House in the Parish.
9. There is no Voluntary Charity School in the Parish.
10. There is an old House at Shipton of so little value that the Parish don't think it worth letting and so put their poor in it and five Acres of Land that belong to the Church. There are some Houses at Leafield and about an Acre of Land, in all about eight pounds a year given by Sr. Harry Unton<sup>4</sup> and invested in Feofment for the service and repairs of the Chapel. There are only sixteen Pounds at Interest for the use of the Poor at Shipton There is a Rent Charge of two pounds a year on one Mr. Robert Wisdon's estate to the Poor of Shipton. There is likewise an House and Estate which is now let for twelve pounds a year, vested in Feofment for the repairing of Shipton and Milton Bridges, and the Overplus, if any, remains to be disposed of in good Uses according to the Discretion of the Feoffees. These are the several Charities we have, and I know nothing but what they are duly and properly applied.
11. To old poor People of a good Life, especially to those who attend the Communion, by me when the Churchwardens have not been present.
12. Not that I know of.

Jos. Goodwin. Vic. [1727-73]

<sup>1</sup>Sir Thomas Reade, 4th Bart. M.P. (c. 1683-1752), of Shipton Court. Founder of the Rede Lecture at Cambridge.

<sup>2</sup>George Reade M.P. (1687-1756).

<sup>3</sup>Richard Frewen M.D. (c. 1681-1761), Camden Professor of Ancient History from 1727. *D.N.B.*

<sup>4</sup>The Rev. William Arundell, curate of Minster Lovel.

<sup>5</sup>Sir Henry Unton (c. 1553-96), of Wadley Manor, Faringdon. *D.N.B.*

#### SOMERTON

1. Our Parish is but small containing about fourty Houses. There are no Families of Note in it.
2. Our Parish has always been remarkable for a great many Papists, which I suppose proceeds from most of the Inhabitants being Tennants to Mr. Fermour<sup>1</sup> a Roman Cathk. gentlm. who lives at Tusmore about three miles from us ; I am informed that formerly near half ye Families in ye Parrish were Papists, but they are considerably diminished of late years, there being now 148 Church of England men, and 47 Papists, nineteen of whom are young Children, Servants and Boarders ; Ten or a Dozen have come over to the Church of England within this four or five years last past. I never lost but two Women that were at years of discretion since I came to the Parrish, their names are Mary Luckett and Farnel Saunders, both these Women turn'd upon marriage about six years ago, and I have great reason to suspect that they are still more influenced by their Husbands than their consciences. One of these Women being a Widdow when she married had two children ; one of these children is now grown to years of discretion and has left her friends and their Communion ; the other I hear intends to do ye same as soon

as she can get a Service. This happened when I was oblig'd to be absent from ye Parrish upon a very bad state of health.

3. No Presbyterians, Independents or Anabts. An answer to the former questns. concerning the Papists continu'd. . . We have no Popish Priest resides in our Parrish, nor any school that is a Seminary for Papists, neither hath any Confirmation or Visitation been held in the Parrish as I can hear of ; but I believe they assemble for Worship about once a month in an old house of Mr Fermours that was formerly the Family seat but is now become almost ruinous.—As to the Priest y't has officiated amongst them the greatest part of my time, which is about eleven years, he went by the name of — Brooks,<sup>2</sup> who I hear, for the most part resided at Mr. Fermours at Tusmore, but he has left them about half a year, and I never heard where he is gone ; since he left them, I hear, there is one from Goddington a village about four or five miles from us, who officiates amongst them at present. I have made enquiry after his name but never heard it. Since Brook's time there was one who went by the name of Constable who liv'd with Mr. Fermour and was generally suppos'd to be his Priest, who was sometimes amongst them, but I hear he has very lately left him, and I am inform'd there is no Priest at Tusmore at present, when there is one there, he yt Priest that commonly resorts to our parrish. I have not heard yey have attempted to pervert any of our Communion of late, except one who formerly came from them, and that but once, she being firm in ye Church of England, as I hope all of them are who profess themselves Protestants ; the Generality of the other Communion live quietly and neighbourly amongst us, and behave with a good deal of civility, and respect towards me.
4. No Quakers.
5. Our Parishioners frequent ye Publick Worship tolerably well, tho' some of them are absent oftner than there is occasion, particularly four Persons, the one an old Shepard that is deaf, who I scarce ever saw at Church ; the other three live at some distance from ye Church, and tell me they sometimes go to other Churches, but I am afraid they seldom go anywhere so often as they shou'd, they seldom come to their own Church above once in six weeks or more. We have none that profess an open disregard for religion.
6. I am constantly resident on my cure and live in the house belonging to it but by reason of an ill state of health I am not able to perform all ye dutys of my function, and am therefore oblig'd to have an assistant from Oxford on Sundays. He has not taken out a Licence, for being Chaplain of Christ Church, he tells me he did expect according to what has been the custom of that place to have receiv'd from ye Dean and Chapter some little Curacy in or about Oxford, but not withstanding should he continue with me he is willing to take out a License.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd every Lord's Day and one sermon preach'd. Prayers are read on all Feast Days, Wednesdays and Frydays in Lent, on every day in Passion week, with a sermon on Good Fryday, on ye eves of Sacrament days, and on ye days appointed for Public Fastes or Thanksgivings with a Sermon or Homily as ye Rubric directs. I generally catechise every Sunday unless hindered by something extraordinary, reading a lecture on ye Church catechism in course after ye children have repeated it, collected partly from different Authors and partly of my own. The Authors I have made use of to instruct ye young

people in private in order for Confirmation are Clark<sup>3</sup> and Nelson on Confirmation<sup>4</sup> but chiefly ye Bp. of Sodor and Man's catem.<sup>5</sup> The Children and Servants are not so forward in coming to be instructed as I cou'd wish. We have no persons yt are not baptiz'd. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administred 5 time in ye year, the greater part of the Parishioners generally receive it at Easter, and at other times usually about thirty.

8. We have a free School but no Alms house—all ye boys in the Parish come free to reading English, writing and accounts, which ye School-Master is very well qualified to teach, and very diligent in his office, and I believe a true Church of England man. Who was ye Founder of the School I could never learn from any of ye Parrishioners, all that I can gather is from an old monument of Mr. Thomas Fermour about the year 1555 on which is inscribed, "Fundator novae scholae," by which I suppose, must be meant the School at Somerton; what particular Governours, Revenues or Ordinances he left when he founded the School I could never learn. I never heard of any other than what now belong to it, except an uncertain report that it was founded a Grammar School, this would be of little or no use to our Parrish if it was. I am informed Mr. Fermour puts in a School Master when the School is vacant; the Salary is about thirteen pounds a year, there was an old custom for ye School Master to receive part of his salary from different persons of ye Parrish of Milcom in ye Church Porch, but this particular ceremony of receiving in ye Church Porch has not been used for some years.<sup>6</sup>
9. No Charity School.
10. I have fifty five pounds plac'd out at Interest for ye poor, and the Interest money is duly distributed to them every year by ye Overseers; I never saw ye Wills of ye Donors, but I never heard that the Money was given for any other use. We have also some land in the field yt goes by the name of Church Ground the produce of which for time immemorial has been made use of towards ye repairs of ye Church, but I can't hear yt this land was ever legally bequeath'd to ye Church, but only set apart by the Inhabitants with ye consent of the Landlord for this purpose; as there is other land towards maintaining the Churchwarden and Constable in their Offices.
11. There was no Offertory before my time, and there is but little raised at it now by reason of ye low condition of ye Inhabitants, what there is I commonly dispose of to the poor, or for some little ornaments in ye Church, keeping a little stock by me against sickness or any other extremity of ye poor.
12. I have formerly been advis'd by my superiours not to be troublesome to ye Roman Catholicks so long as they live quietly and peaceably, and get no ground amongst us. The Protestants and Papists by long living together in ye same Parrish are so blended and united together, having for several years married one among another, that shou'd we put ye laws in execution against ye Papists, I am afraid that instead of bringing them over to the Church, it would be a certain means of driving some of our own people away. I have endeavored to give your Lordship as full an Answer to your Questns as I can; I must confess, it has taken more time than I imagined, at first running over, which is the occasion of too much haste at last; I hope your Lordship will excuse it. If upon perusing my



answers you will be so good as to give your advice and Instructions in the Management of my Parrish, you will highly oblige

Yr. Lordsp. Most obedient servant and Dutyful son

John Watson. [R. 1729-69]

<sup>1</sup>Henry Fermor (1714-46), of Tusmore.

<sup>2</sup>Cf. CHARLBURY p. 38.

<sup>3</sup>Samuel Clarke, *An exposition of the Church Catechism* (1729).

<sup>4</sup>Robert Nelson, *The great duty of frequenting the Christian Sacrifice, to which is prefixed Instructions for Confirmation* (1714).

<sup>5</sup>Cf. BURFORD p. 34.

<sup>6</sup>The school was founded by Thomas Fermor by his will dated 1580. J. C. Blomfield, *History of Middleton and Somerton* (n.d.) pp. 152 ff. The sum of £10 was received annually by the schoolmaster from different landowners in Milcombe, near Banbury.

#### SOULDERNE

1. The extent of ye parish of Souldern is not large ; no village or Hamlet belongs to it, ye number of Houses is about fifty, there are no families of any considerable Note in it etc.
2. The number of Papists in ye Parish I take to be nine two of which a Gentleman and his wife, the rest inferior sort of people. I am fully persuaded none have been here lately perverted to Popery. I do not know that any Popish Priest resides in ye Parish, or that there is any assembly for that kind of Worship here. I have never hear'd of any Confirmation or Visitation has been held by any Popish Bishop in this Parish.
3. I am very well assur'd there is neither Presbyterian, nor Independent, nor Anabaptist in ye Parish.
4. I have heard of no more than one Quaker in ye Parish and he is not married—I have no trouble with him about Tithe that being paid by ye Person of whom he Rents.
5. In general ye Parish is very regular in coming to Church, there are two or three very ignorant Creatures that I wish I could prevail upon to be more carefull of their Duty in that respect.
6. I have resided in ye Parsonage House ever since Lady Day was twelve month, the time when I left St. John's College in Cambridge.<sup>1</sup> I have since then had ye constant care of ye Church upon me, except for some little intervals at which my private affairs have forc'd me to be absent.
7. The customary Public Service here is performed twice every Lord's Day, and one sermon preached—there are likewise Prayers on all Holy-days. I propose if I can procure sufficient numbers to attend, to have prayers on all Wednesdays and Fridays. I design if I can prevail with the parishioners to send their Children and Servants both to Catechise and expound the Catechism during all the summer season. The sacrament of ye Lord's Supper has hitherto been only administer'd at ye three great festivals at which time I have had betwixt twenty and thirty.
8. There is no Free School, Hospital, or Almshouse in my Parish.
9. There is no Charity school in ye Parish.
10. There is Land in ye Parish which is called ye Poor's Land, which is let out by ye Parishioners and ye rent plac'd in ye Poor's Levy, but by whom it was left or whether it is really apply'd to ye particular uses for which it was given, I have not yet had an opportunity of informing myself.

11. The money given at ye offertory since I came to ye Parish has always been distributed to ye Poor by me with ye approbation of ye Churchwardens.
12. In answer to yr Lordship's Queerys I have given you the best account I at present can relating to my Parish but if anything should hereafter arise in which it may be proper to have your Lordship's directions, I shall beg leave to lay it before you, and desire you to be asured that there will be none more ready to follow and execute your commands than yr most dutifull and obedient servt.

John Russell. [R. 1735-72]

<sup>1</sup>The Master and Fellows of St. John's College, Cambridge, were the patrons of the living.

#### SOUTH NEWINGTON

1. The extent of South Newington is about one mile and a half over. No villages or Hamlets. About three score Houses.
2. There are no Papists in South Newington.
3. We have three families that are Presbyterians, one Family, only a man, and his wife, labourers. The other two have children four each. Two families are Anabaptists. They have children. One family one child and the other two.
4. Quakers we have about seventeen in number. They have a meeting House and burying Place licenced near fifty years ago. None of them will pay their tithes willingly.
5. We know not any such person.
6. I reside about eight miles from South Newington, at Woodstock where I attend a Free School.
7. Publick Service is duly performed once a day upon the Lord's Day : The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administred four times a year. Eight or ten generally receive it a time.
8. No Free School nor Alms Houses.
9. No Charity School.
10. We have no such thing.
11. There's no money given.

#### SOUTHSTOKE

1. The Parish of South-Stoke is nine Miles in Extent. Consists of about 60 Houses in two Villages with one Gentleman's seat in each Village.
2. There is one Papist, a woman of a low Rank.
3. Three Families of Presbyterians bred up that way, of the lower Rank.
4. None.
5. None.
6. Constant Residence in the Vicarage House.
7. Twice every Lord's Day, and one Sermon. A Chapel three miles distant from the Church, supplied eight times in the year. Catechising in Lent. The Sacrament administred 3 times at ye Church and Chapel, about 30 communicants.
8. A Charity School for ten Boys, of ten pounds a year ; founded by one Mrs. Newman.<sup>1</sup> The Trustees, the Vicar of the Parish, the Ministers of Checkindon, and Ipsden.
9. None.

10. There are some legacies given to the poor disposed of annually according to ye direction of the Donors.
11. To the poor.

Robt: Hughes. Vicar of South-Stoke. [1721-43]

<sup>1</sup>Founded by the will of Susannah Newman dated 1715. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I. p. 488.

#### SOUTH-WESTON

1. My parish of South-Weston is small, consisting of about 500 acres of Land. It is one village only, containing Twenty Families all Labourers except two Yeoman Farmers and one widow woman.
2. There are no Papists in my Parish.
3. There are neither Presbyterians, Independents, nor Anabaptists in my Parish.
4. There are no Quakers in my Parish.
5. Too many in most places absent from the publick Worship of God on the Lord's Day, but we have none, who do it professedly, neither need we fear attacks of Infidels from such Quarters. Infidelity is a stranger here.
6. I reside constantly upon my Cure, and in the House belonging to it, and am rarely absent, except it be, when I go to my other Parish of Hampton Poyle, and then either my Curate, or some neighbr. supplies for me at Weston.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lord's Day, (except in cases of necessity), and one sermon preach'd in my Church. Prayers are read in the Xt'mas., Easter, and Whitsun-Holidays, on Ash Wednesdays, Good-Friday, Ascension Day, and the State Days. My Parishioners being generally such, as get their living by their daily labours will not, indeed cannot, spare time to attend Public Prayers every Sts. Day, as Tradesmen and others in Towns can, otherwise I shou'd be very glad to have Prayers on those Days. I have no Chapel in my Parish. I catechise during the Lent-Season but (to make use of Bp. Beveridge's observ<sup>o</sup>n), am sometimes forc'd to omit this Duty for want of some, to whom I may perform it—My Parishioners send, what Children can say their catechism to be catechis'd, but I could never get any Servts. to come, tho they have been admonish'd by me. My usual Practice has been to collect from such Expositors of the Catechism, as I have by me, viz Bp. Beveridge,<sup>1</sup> Barrow<sup>2</sup>, Hammond,<sup>3</sup> Newton,<sup>4</sup> Newcome :<sup>5</sup> and to read, after catechising, a set Lecture ; but this being so like preaching, I thought it not so edifying in an unlearned congregation as another method, wch. I have now taken, wch. is, to ask the Children Questions all along the Catechism, and to enlarge upon the Answers in a familiar Way, which I take to be more instructive both to them, and to the rest of the congrega<sup>o</sup>n, who cannot so well attend to, or comprehend, the reasonings of a set speech. I have no unbaptiz'd Persons in my Parish, that I know of. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administred four times in the year, and sometimes about Fifteen and sometimes about Twenty receive.
8. There is neither Free School, Hospital, nor Alms House in my Parish.
9. There is no voluntary Charity-School in my Parish.
10. Under this article I must beg leave to represent to your Lordship what is thought to be misapplied. There are certain Lands in the Parish,

which go by the name of Church Lands, and wch. are presum'd to have been left for the beautifying of the Church, and for which Lands the owners of four Estates pay a small yearly Rent, not near the value, as under specified, to the Church-warden. This paying of rent is a strong Presumption yt these lands are no part of their estates. They are computed to be worth 50 shillings pr. ann, wch. sum if it had been constantly applied to the use of the Church, wou'd have made it a very beautiful little Parish Church. I have endeavoured by proper argumts. to bring the Persons, that hold these Lands to give them up, to the use, they are presumed to have been given, and one of them seems willing to so do, if the rest wou'd. But as we have nothg. to shew relating to the Gift, I fear it will be labour in vain to attempt a recovery of them. For your Lordship's better Information, I have here transcrib'd a Paper left by my Predecessor, wch. is as follows :—

Church-land belonging to South-Weston in the County of Oxon. There are above 5 acres and half of it, but not put to the that use for wch. it was piously given : but instead of making the best of it for the good of the Church, they share it among themselves and pay for the Communion Wine.

Francis Carter hath one rood of arable and one acre of Grass in a Ground called Red-beat for wch. he only pays pr. year

o. 3. o

Thomas Cooper has one acre, ore Land, for which he pays yearly.

o. 4. 4

Mr. Alnot hath one acre, one rood for wch. he pays yearly.

o. 3. o

Wm. Stevens has one acre of Pasture and a rood of arable Land, for wch. he pays yearly.

o. 3. o

And there is one half acre of Ground holden by the Churchwarden for wch. he only payeth.

o. 2. o

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o. 15. 4

11. The Communicants in my Parish chiefly consisting of labouring People, we never have any money given at the offertory. I have had thoughts of exhorting them to do it, but these were superseded upon consideration, yt. wou'd rather be a means of keeping them away from the Sacramt., than of bringing them to it, if it was attended with any, the least, charge. As for my own part I generally invite my poor clerk and his wife to dine with my servts. and send something to the sick, or most necessitous.

12. My Lord

I have given your Lorship a faithful Acct. of the state of my Parish, and there is nothing else I want to inform Your Lordship of, but that the Altar is not rail'd in, and I cannot prevail with my Parishioners to have it done. We likewise want a Gallery very much for servts. and young People to sit in, and my Church being small, rails and a gallery will be but a small charge. I therefore beg the favr. of Your Lordship to give Instructions, yt these two things may be done, and yt the churchyard mounds now presented at your Lordship's Visitation may be repair'd.

I beg leave herewith to put into Your Lordship's hands, (with all due Deference and hopes of pardon for the Presumption) a small Tract,<sup>6</sup> wch. I drew up for the use of my Parishioners, who being generally

illiterate People and of the meaner sort, tho', I hope, good Christians, neither can purchase, nor spare time to peruse larger Treatises. I hope it is all orthodox, I am sure it is well intended, and if it meets wth. Your Lordship's approbation, That wth. the prospect of promoting Piety and Devotion, (our common cause,) intended by it, will be a double satisfaction to,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's Most dutiful Son and Servt.

Joh: Hunter.<sup>7</sup> [1727-51]

<sup>1</sup>Cf. BURCESTER p. 32.

<sup>2</sup>I. BARROW, *A brief exposition of the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the ten commandments ; to which is added the doctrine of the sacraments* (1697).

<sup>3</sup>Cf. BLACK-BOURTON p. 18.

<sup>4</sup>R. NEWTON, *A Practical Exposition of the Church Catechism* (1727).

<sup>5</sup>Cf. BURCESTER p. 32.

<sup>6</sup>*Adius ad Templum, or the pathway to Church ; being a preparation for a more solemn devotion of the publick worship of God in the Church ; a New Year's gift to the parishioners of Hampton-Poyle and South-Weston, Oxon.* (1737).

<sup>7</sup>R. of Hampton Poyle 1728-51.

#### SPILSBURY

1. My Parish consists of 5 Hamlets Spilisbury, Dean, Taston, Fulwell, Ditchly. The 3 former contain upwards of twenty Houses each, the third 6, the last only the seat of the Earl of Litchfield<sup>1</sup> and his Farmer's House who rents the Land adjoining. The rest of the Inhabitants are chiefly Husbandmen and none of superior Rank. Excepting Mr. Rowney<sup>2</sup> Member of Parliament for the City of Oxford who rents a house at Dean. The Dimensions of the whole Parish are 2 Miles at least in Length.
2. None, excepting the Females of the Ditchly Family with 4 Domesticks, not including the Priest (for none resides there) but whoever officiates during their Continuence in the Country is no inhabitant of my Parish nor could I ever learn his Name.
3. There is not one Dissenter of any Denomination.
5. Excepting 2 or three idle Vagabonds of the Town of Spilisbury, I know but one notorious Absenter without reasonable Cause, and that is the Widdow of a late Steward to the Earl of Lichfield.
6. My Only Place of Residence is the House belonging to my Vicarage.
7. I constantly read Prayers twice, and preach once every Sunday ; and in Lent explain the Church Catechism to the Congregation, after hearing the Children repeat it publicly ; and administer the Sacrament 4 times every year to a good number of Comunicants. But the number is greatest at Easter.
8. There is an Alms House founded by Mr. Cary<sup>3</sup> formerly steward to the Ditchly Estate and endow'd with the yearly revenue of ten Guineas at the disposal of the Minister and Churchwardens for the Maintenance of 4 Ancient Men or Women and other necessary uses, wch. Charitys hath been hithertoo employ'd according to the Will of the Donor, excepting that the Officers have now and then slipt part of it into their general Poor's Stock, notwithstanding the strict care of my Predecessor.
9. There is nothing of this Nature.

10. The Poor's Stock hath been formerly 80 Pounds, but is now reduced to 70 and most of that upon bad Security.
11. There are no Contributors, excepting our own Family and my Lord Litchfield's Steward. What little is collected, I dispose of myself.
12. If these Answers are not sufficiently explicit, I am ready to give your Lordship any farther Satisfaction and accordingly purpose to wait on your Lordship very shortly.

I am

Your Lordship's most Dutiful son and obedient svt.

Chipping Norton

Tho: Horne.[V. 1736-68]

July 20 1738.

<sup>1</sup>The second Earl of Lichfield (1690-1743), of Ditchley. He was a Roman Catholic.

<sup>2</sup>Thomas Rowney (1693-1759) M.P. for Oxford 1722-59.

<sup>3</sup>John Cary (d. 1702), steward to Sir Henry Lee, of Ditchley.

#### STANLAKE

1. Stanlake is about two miles long and a mile broad ; there are in it about an Hundred and Fourteen Houses, at ye end nearest to Ducklington lives ye Right Honble. Simon Viscount Harcourt<sup>1</sup> at his seat called Cockthorpe.<sup>2</sup> He goes to ye chapel of Hardwick adjoining to his House and in ye parish of Ducklington.
2. Mr. Hyde and his wife are Papists. He is descended from an ancient Popish Family, but has not above four-score pounds a year, and consequently cannot maintain a priest. He often goes abroad upon Sundays and I suppose to some Popish Meeting. He is a quiet good neighbour and constantly sends his protestand servant to Church.
3. I have no Presbyterians nor Independents in my parish. I have four small familys of Anabaptists, poor people, who goe to a meeting at Cote in ye parish of Bampton to hear one—Collet<sup>3</sup> a man almost as ignorant as they are, I am told there were double ye number some years since, but this sect going to decrease in all these parts.
4. I have no Quakers in my parish.
5. I have no person yt constantly absents from ye Church but too many who are frequently absent. I do not apprehend yt they absent upon any view or principle except yt of profit, for many of ye labourers go a Fishing or Fowling. Many of ye Farmers and Labourers stay idly at Home, others go to ye Ale House. Ye Constable does not care to complain of them to ye justices, for he knows some are unwilling and some dare not punnish them for fear of lessening ye revenue of ye excise.
6. I reside in my parish as ye Canons and Acts of Parliament direct.
7. I perform ye Services twice every Sunday if well, if not by a friend. I have heartily endeavoured to get a congregation upon Holy Days and caet. but no village Minister can do it unless he has one or more Gentlemen's Family in his parish.

I used to catechise upon Sundays and read a short Lecture upon some part of ye Catechism, so as to goe over ye whole in a year, but I have for this last year done it upon Fryday in Hopes it would bring in a congregation, but I find it will not, so yt after harvest I design to do it upon Sunday. I have no chapel in my parish.

*Addit'ons to Q-ye 7th page ye fifth.*

Some will send their Children and Servants to be Catechised but most will not, tho I give ym Books. I use a Catechism compiled by a Friend whose name is not to it, it consists of ye Questions and Answers and in ye margin a Text of Scripture to prove each Answer, wch I make ye older Children get without Book, as well as ye Catechism, and then expound briefly upon ye Text. I have four Sacraments in ye year, at Easter I have had above Forty, at Christmas and Whitsuntide not above Thirty at Michaelmas not above twenty.

8. I have no Free School, Hospital, or Alms House in my parish.
9. I have a school endowed with about six pounds a year wch is left wholly to ye discretion of ye Rector and Churchwardens, fifteen Boys or Girls are taught to read and write, and I make an addition to have five more, give them all Catechism Books and oblige ye master to teach them.<sup>4</sup> This is too poor a salary yt none of Your Lordship's predecessors ever obliged ye Master to take a Licence and it has been fortunate for me because three behaved so ill yt I was forced to remove them and I have had so many complaints of ye present Master yt I shall soon remove him, but if he takes a Licence I cannot do it without trouble and expense in Yr. Lordship's Court.

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 10. Mrs. Crouch's <sup>5</sup> lands in Standford                       | £ s. d.   |
| Mr. Walker's <sup>6</sup> lands in Appleton.                            | 11. 1. 0  |
| Richard Allen <sup>7</sup> lands.                                       | 9. 1. 11½ |
| These are given to ye poor in Bread every Sunday as their Wills direct. | 0. 10. 0  |

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| Mr Wyat's <sup>8</sup> lands   | £ s. d. |
| Mr. Weal's <sup>9</sup> dit.   | 2. 0. 0 |
| Mr. Yateman's  | 2. 0. 0 |
| These are given in money as their Wills direct upon St. Thomas Day or Good Fryday and I believe very honestly. | 1. 4. 6 |

11. We have no offertory.

12. My Ld,

I have sent Yr. Lordship ye best Answers I could to yr Questions, and if you honour me with any more they shall be readily answered by  
Yr. Lordship's

Most dutifull son and servant

Rob: Lydall Rect. of Standlake. [1724-42]

<sup>1</sup>Subsequently the first Earl Harcourt (1714-77).

<sup>2</sup>Cokethorpe Park, built by the first Viscount Harcourt.

<sup>3</sup>Cf. BAMPTON p. 13.

<sup>4</sup>Cf. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I p. 487.

<sup>5</sup>By the will of Susannah Crouch dated 1713.

<sup>6</sup>By the will of John Walter dated 1635.

<sup>7</sup>Richard Allen who died about 1632.

<sup>8</sup>Robert Wyatt died in 1675.

<sup>9</sup>By the will of Thomas Weal dated 1657.

#### STANTON-HARCOURT

1. I have Two Parishes under my Care, Stanton-Harcourt and South Leigh, both Vicarages. The Extent of Stanton-Harcourt is about two miles

- every way. It consists 2 small Villages, Stanton-Harcourt and Sutton, and a few Houses called West-End: and contains near 100 Houses. Mr. Bonnel, a Gentleman whose Estate is in Lincolnshire, lives here. South Leigh is about the same Extent. It contains about 45 Houses.
2. There are no Papists in either Parish. One poor Woman, who living in another Place was formerly drawn that way, seems to be reconciled to our Church. I know of no Attempt to instil Popery.
  3. There are 3 Anabaptists (a Farmer and 2 Women) in Stanton-Harcourt and 3 more who are either Anabaptists or Presbyterians. In South Leigh about a third part of the Inhabitants are Anabaptists. They have no Meeting-House or Teacher in either Parish. They behave peacefully and their Number is rather lessened ; for they die off and no new Converts are made.
  4. One man in Stanton-Harcourt was brought up a Quaker, but seems to have no such Principles now. A Woman I am doubtful of. There is no Householder in South Leigh that is a Quaker.
  5. There are none in these Parishes who profess to disregard Religion ; and I hope none who commonly absent themselves from publick Worship. If there be, I will endeavour to persuade them.
  6. I reside constantly at Stanton-Harcourt. I have no House belonging to me in either Parish. But live by Lord Harcourt's<sup>1</sup> sufference in his Manor House.
  7. I perform publick Service twice every Lord's Day at Stanton Harcourt and preach once. I read prayers likewise on Wednesdays and Fridays, and on Holy Days. I ought to Catechise oftner ; but in the 4 years that I have been here, I have gone through several little courses of it, either in Church after Evening Service or in private. The printed Exposition I use is the Bp. of Man's.<sup>2</sup> I administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper once a month, and on the 3 Festivals. There are usually between 20 and 30 Communicants. At South Leigh I perform Publick Service once and preach once every Lord's Day. I don't remember that I have had any Catechumens there upon calling for them (except 2 now presented who were chiefly prepared then) since the last Confirmation. I ought to have sought them out. I administer the Lord's Supper there 4 times a year and have about 12 or 15 Communicants. I don't know that above once an unbaptised person (a Quaker) has been at publick Worship.
  8. There is no Free School etc. in either Parish.
  9. There are Charities left to the Parish of Stanton-Harcourt, for the teaching of about 16 or 17 Boys or Girls,<sup>3</sup> and for the cloathing also of 3 or 4 Boys, and putting them out to a Trade. Some of the Charities are charged on Estates, but most of them are in money. The Children are taught to read and write, and the Boys especially to cast account. The parish of South Leigh has no Benefaction of this kind.
  10. The Vicarage of Stanton Harcourt has been augmented with £400, the Interest of which I receive. A piece of Ground worth £6 a year has been given beyond memory to the Vicarage of South Leigh. I am also obliged to your Lordship and your Predecessors for a Benefaction of £20 a year. To the poor of Stanton-Harcourt there belongs in the parish of North Moor a piece of ground £4 - 10s. a year, which is yearly distributed among them. Also 10s. given them in Bread about Easter. To the Poor of South Leigh, now in land £4:5s. a year, which is given



them chiefly in Cloaths at Christmas, partly in money to Labourers at Easter.

11. At Stanton-Harcourt the money so given is (as it was before I came tho' then not so much, there being no monthly Sacrament) disposed of at present with my consent towards teaching more poor children. At South Leigh it is distributed by me and the Churchwardens to the poorest parishioners.
12. One thing it may be proper to inform your Lordship of, that All Soul's College, to whom the great Tithes of Stanton Harcourt belong are obliged it seems to procure 12 Catechetical Lectures to be read in that Church yearly on Sundays in the Afternoon, for which they are to pay 6*l*. This has been done once about 4 years ago, (the Burser then employing me to read such Lectures, and paying me) but never before for many years nor since. It may be my Fault that it was not continued ; but not being sent to, I was timorous to put the College in mind of it.

My Lord,

I am sensible I fall short in the discharge of my office. As I shall have reason to be glad of anything that may awaken me to greater Diligence, so more especially any Commands or Directions from Your Lordship shall always be received with Submission and Gratitude by

Your Lordship's most obedient son and servant

July 17 1738

John Gambold.<sup>4</sup> [V. 1735-43]

<sup>1</sup>Subsequently the first Earl Harcourt (1714-77).

<sup>2</sup>Cf. BURFORD p. 34.

<sup>3</sup>Cf. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I. p. 487.

<sup>4</sup>John Gambold (1711-71), one of the Oxford Methodists and subsequently a Moravian bishop. *D.N.B.*

#### STANTON ST. JOHN'S

1. My Lord,

The Extent of my Parish of Staunton St. Johns is near 10 miles round and three miles over from North to South. It consisteth of one compact Village excepting two straggling Farms, and three Cottages and all one Side of yt is commonly called Forresthill, wch. is half a mile eastward from my Church. Our Houses Tenements and Cottages are seventy. There is but one Gentleman's House among us, wch is lately built, but hitherto inhabited by none but a gardener and his family. The house hath been finished about seven or eight years.

2. We have no Papist at all in our Parish and to my Knowledge never had while I have been Rector, wch is fourteen years. I moreover never heard of any of that Denomination here before my time.
3. I have none of these in my Parish. There was a Family of Presbyterians settled here about four years agoe, wch with me hath conformed to ye Church of England in all respects.
4. I am so far blessed likewise as to have no Quaker in my Flock.
5. Tho there are few or none yt openly profess to disregard Religion, yet there are several who commonly absent themselves from all publick Worship on ye Lord's Day, thro' a principle of Obstinacy. The Number of such may amount to half a Dozen or more. There is one farmer who pretends yt he cannot come for ye Strangury but can sit at a Christening longer than ye usual time of ye Morning Service, and not stir from his

place. The rest are labourers and poor men and women. Several of my Flock who live near Forresthill Church go there, but I believe sparingly and seldom. I am I seldom see them at their own proper Church.

6. Tho I was an unusual time at London last Summer upon an extraordinary affair, yet since September last I have been absent but eight days. I have had some years ye good luck to have a Clergyman live at Forresthill, who ever was ready to serve my Parish by way of weekly Duty upon any Emergence. I reside here at ye Parsonage House and keep no Curate.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lord's Day by me in my Church and one Sermon always preached in ye morning. Only when I was at London last a neighbouring Clergyman was forced to officiate one Sunday for me in ye afternoon only, but ye parish had due notice of this so that they might if they pleased repair to Forresthill or Beckley or any other neighbouring Church in ye morning. I ever had prayers here in all Festivals and State Holy Days, on Ash Wednesday and all ye Passion Week and ye eves before any Sacramt. Sunday. I have no Chapel belonging to me. I catechise yearly every Sunday in ye Lent ; and a few Children but no Servants are sent. I expound for half an hour in ye afternoon about a Dozen Sunday afterwards. I have used sometimes private Expositions that wch pleaseth me best and I am now using is called Catechumenorum Doctor, it being an extract from many good ones. I know of none here unbaptised. The holy sacrament is administred here only four times in ye year at wch one time with another there may be about fourteen Communicants.
8. About 28 years ago a Rector of Staunton by name Lawrence Squibb<sup>1</sup> died and gave upon will Fifty Pounds for several pious uses ; ye interest of wch hath for many years been layd out in teaching six poor Boys and Girls ; but at present it brings no Interest, and yet I have good reason to think yt ye money is safe and design to put it out to Interest as soon as I can get it out of ye hands it is now in and get proper Security. In a short time we shall have seven hundred and fifty pounds more for ye use of the schooll.
9. We have no voluntary charity school. We every now and then apprentice a poor child yt hath been taught by Mr. Squibb's above mentioned legacy ; ye income of a small estate with wch one Dr. Pincke a former Rector of Staunton<sup>2</sup> above an hundred years go gave us, for ye use, of Five pounds annum.
10. We have nothing of this kind excepting Dr. Pinckes Land, and a gift Five Pound. The first is well apply'd, ye last in a great measure lost. One Wright left ye five pounds by Will above an Hundred years ago.
11. The Churchwardens always acquiesce in my Disposal of ye Offertory money wch I distribute among ye poorest having an especial regard to yose who come to Church and Sacrament as often as they well can.
12. My Lord

I can think of nothing else material to lay before your Lordship, and therefore beg leave to subscribe myself and hope you'll esteem me.

Your most dutifull and most obedient Servt.

Steph: Wheatland. [R. 1724-64]

Staunton St. Johns July 15th 1738.

<sup>1</sup>R. 1680-1710.

<sup>2</sup>Robert Pincke D.D. R. 1620-47, Warden of New College 1620-47, Vice-Chancellor 1634-6, 1642-3, 1645.

## STEEPLE-ASTON

1. Our Parish is supposed to be about one Mile long, and one Mile broad. We have two Villages or Hamlets in it, and about sixty five Families. Judge Page<sup>1</sup> lives in our Parish.
2. We have no Papists, Popish-Priests, nor Popish School in our Parish.
3. We have no Presbyterians, Independents, nor Anabaptists in our Parish.
4. We have no Quakers, nor Quaker Meeting House in our Parish.
5. We have no Persons, who profess to disregard Religion or who commonly absent them from all Publick Worship of God on ye Lord's Day. There are two or three Persons in our Parish who do not come to Church so often as in Duty they should.
6. The Rector doth constantly reside upon his Cure and in ye House belonging to it. The Curate has not been long here, but if he continues, and has not taken a licence, he will, if it be insisted upon. His name is Lionel Lampet, ye bearer hereof, Master of Arts, a very sober, industrious young man, as any I know. He does not serve any other Cure, and resides in ye Parish.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lord's Day in our Church, and one Sermon preached. Publick Prayers are read every Wednesday and Friday, every Holy Day Eve, every Holy Day twice, and every Saturday eve. Children are Catechised every Sunday in ye Afternoon after ye reading of ye Second Lesson from ye first Day in Lent till ye first Sunday after Michaelmas. The Holy Sacrament is administred five times in ye year.
8. We have a Free-School in our Parish founded by Doctor Radcliffe<sup>2</sup> Principal of Brazen-Nose College in Oxford, and endowed by him with twenty pounds paid yearly by ye Bursars of ye said College, (but now sunk to 17.10.0) for ye teaching of all Parish Boys. The said Dr. Radcliffe did by his Will order two Alms Houses to be built, which were accordingly builded ; and he has endowed each of them with four pounds yearly paid to them by ye Bursars of ye said College.<sup>3</sup> He also gave two Scholarships to Brazen-Nose aforesaid ye Vacancies to be supplied from yt School, if any Boys there were judged fit for University Studies.
9. We have no voluntary Charity School in our Parish.
10. Mr. John Carpenter B.D. Rect. of this Church<sup>4</sup> gave seven pounds to be lent upon good Security to two poor Men who have suffered Loss of House or Cow ; to each three pounds and ten shillings for one year, or two at the most gratis, at ye will of ye then Rect. and ye Churchwardens. Mr. Thomas Sixesmith B.D. and Rect. of this Church<sup>5</sup> gave five pounds to be lent upon good Security with Interest to be given to ye Poor of ye Parish, whom ye Rect. judged meet. Mr. Richard Duckworth B.D. and Rect. of this Church<sup>6</sup> gave a Folio Bible and Common Prayer Book, a Sylver Salver for ye Sacrament Bread and a table to register benefactions. The Honble. Mr. Justice Page gave a handsome Sylver Flagon for ye Communion Wine ;<sup>7</sup> He gave also for ye use of ye Church a fair and handsome Folio Common Prayer Book.
11. The Money given at ye Offertory is disposed of by ye Rect. and ye Churchwardens.
12. I think it proper under this head to acquaint Your Lordship yt about fifty years agoe, some part of ye Common Fields of Steeple Aston in this parish was enclosed by Sir Richard Hawkins,<sup>8</sup> and made several

without ye Rect. Approbation and Consent, by which he is excluded from his Right of Commoning at Commonable Times, and Judge Page has enclosed several lesser Parcels of Land, and, as I am informed, he designs to enclose more without agreeing with ye Rect. which cannot be done without Prejudice and loss to ye Rect., but being old and infirm I cannot contend with him. I have no more to trouble your Lordship with at present and so humbly beg your Blessing and leave to subscribe myself, what I sincerely am,

My Lord,

Your dutiful Son and Servant

Geo: Freeman Rect. of Steeple-Aston. [1709-46]

<sup>1</sup>Sir Francis Page (c. 1660-1741), Justice of the King's Bench, of Middle Aston. C. C. Brookes, *A History of Steeple Aston and Middle Aston* (1929) pp. 216 ff.; *D.N.B.*

<sup>2</sup>Dr. Samuel Radcliffe, Principal of Brasenose College 1614-48, and R. of Steeple Aston 1617-48, founded the school in about 1639. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I pp. 459 f.; C. C. Brookes, *op. cit.* pp. 306 ff.

<sup>3</sup>*ibid.* pp. 325 f.

<sup>4</sup>John Carpenter R. 1579-96. *ibid.* pp. 323 f. The latest record of this charity is in 1745.

<sup>5</sup>R. 1648-51. *ibid.* p. 328.

<sup>6</sup>R. 1680-1706. *ibid.* pp. 379 ff.

<sup>7</sup>*ibid.* p. 301.

<sup>8</sup>Sir Richard Hawkins, a member of the Guild of Grocers, bought the manor of Middle Aston in 1686 and died the following year. His son Richard sold it to Sir Francis Page in 1714. *ibid.* pp. 209 ff.

#### STEEPLE BARTON

1. The Parish of Steeple Barton is judged to be at least two Mile over every way. It consists of three Villages, called Suswell's Barton—more commonly Sheldon's Barton, Steeple Barton, and Middle Barton, as This last lies just between Steeple Barton and Westcote Barton the next parish. In the three Villages there are about 60 Houses, and no Family of Note lives in the Parish. All Suswell's Barton belongs to Mr. Sheldon<sup>1</sup> a Catholick as I am informed who lives at Weston in Warwickshire. His estate here is about £400 a year, Great Tythe free. All Vicarial Tythes in full. Steeple Barton belongs to The Dutchess of Marlborough,<sup>2</sup> Mr. Justice Page,<sup>3</sup> The Revd. Mr. Taylor,<sup>4</sup> who claim alternately the Right of Presentation to the Vicarage, and likewise to Mr. Mitchill. The estate of the Dutchess of Marlborough, Tythe-free, about £60 a year who has the Great Tythes of Middle Barton about £60 more. The estate of Mr. Justice Page, Great Tythe free, about £260 a year. Vicarial Tythes wool and lamb one in 30. All others Tythes in full. The estate of Mr. Mitchill about £50 a year, the same holding with Mr. Justice Page's. And Mr. Taylor's is uncertain. Middle Barton about £300 a year belongs to several Persons of no Distinction.
2. These Questions are answered in the Negative.
3. These Questions are answered in the Negative.
4. There are two Women Quakers in the Parish—Mary Fletcher and Hannah Hall. And there is a Meeting-House which the Quakers from the neighbouring Towns come to once a Month, but I cannot learn whether or

no it is duly licenced. I have no Disputes with them concerning the payment of any legal Dues, because they are poor.

5. There are too many absent themselves from Publick Worship, and it may be imputed chiefly to their Ignorance and Laziness, tho' some will follow idle Diversions on the Lord's Day notwithstanding They have been often reprimanded for it. Were they once punished I am apt to think their Number would decrease more and more. They are the lowest sort of People.
6. I do not reside at Barton because your Lordship's Predecessor excused me being Mr. Justice Page's Chaplain and Fellow of Trinity College in Oxford. But I take care of the Church myself every Sunday, and am always in the next Parish when any Weekly Duty is likely to happen. I therefore humbly hope your Lordship will be pleased to grant me the same Indulgence, and not except against my serving the Church in the manner I have hitherto done for these last two years ever since I have had the Vicarage : as the whole Income amounts to but £28 a year, and the Vicarage House so dilapidated that it is impossible to be repaired.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lord's Day and one Sermon preached. Prayers are read on Ashwednesday, and Good Friday when a Sermon is preached. There is no Chapel in the Parish now, but Lydwell and Sanford were once Chapels of ease to this Church. The children are catechized every Sunday in Lent, and afterwards a part of the Catechism is explained. I cannot learn whether any frequent Publick Worship, that are not baptized. And the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administred four times a year, but not many receive it.
8. These Questions are answered in the Negative.
9. These Questions are answered in the Negative.
10. There is a Donation of six pound now out at Interest at £5 pr c. Robert Buswell has 3 pound and William Boddington 3 pound. The Interest-Money is distributed among poor Persons having no Relief from the Parish.
11. The Money received at the Offertory, which is very inconsiderable, is given by me to poor Persons who do not only communicate but come constantly to Church.
12. There seems nothing more for me to trouble your Lordship with at present,

Except that I am Your Lordship's

Most dutifull and obedient

Humble Servant

John Bruere [V. 1736-41]

Steeple Barton

July 18th 1738

<sup>1</sup>William Sheldon (b. 1715), of Weston House, Warwickshire.

<sup>2</sup>Sarah (1660-1744), widow of the first Duke of Marlborough.

<sup>3</sup>Cf. STEEPLE ASTON p. 149.

<sup>4</sup>Pierpoint Taylor R. 1729-36.

STOKE LYNE<sup>1</sup>

1. The extent of our Parish is a mile. The Number of Houses is Thirty Seven. Two Hamlets (by name Bainton and Fewcott ; No Family of Note.

2. There is but one Papist by profession a Tradesman. There are no persons perverted to popery in my time. There is no Popish Priest that resides in our Parish, Nor no popish School in the Parish.
3. None.
4. None.
5. None.
6. I reside constantly upon the Cure, there is no House belonging to it. Mr. Ockleshaw the Vicar allows me twenty five pounds a Year, and the Surplice Fees.
7. Public Servis is
8. No.
9. No.
10. No.
11. No.
12. No.

Theodore Fletcher Curate

STOKE LYNE

1. The extent of the Parish of Stoke Lyne is a Mile there are Thirty Seven Houses ; two Hamlets, Fewcott and Bainton ; No Family of Note dwelling therein.
2. There is but one Papist in the Parish A Layman ; there have been no persons lately perverted to Popery, there is no Popish Priest, nor School, neither hath any Confirmation or Visitation been held by any Popish Bishop in the Parish.
3. There are no Presbyterians Independents nor Anabaptists belonging to the Parish.
4. There are no Quakers.
5. There are no persons who profess to disregard Religion, or who commonly absent themselves from the Church.
6. I reside constantly upon the Cure, there is no House belonging to the Vicar, Mr. Ockleshaw allows me Twenty-Five pounds a Year and the Surplice Fees.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lords Day, and one Sermon preached. Prayers are read on Holy Days. There is no Chapel in the Parish. I Catechize in the Church twice a year, and the Parishioners duly send their Children and Servants, and I expound it to them. There are no persons that are unbaptized who frequent publick Worship. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administred four times a year about twenty in number usually Receive it.
8. There is no Free School, Hospital, or Alms House in the Parish.
9. There is no Charity-School in the Parish.
10. There are no Lands, or Tenements, or tithes or Pensions, or sums of Money that belong to the Church or Poor.
12. There is no other matter relating to the Parish, of which it may be proper to give you Information

My Lord

I hope I have answer'd these Enquiries according to yr Desire

I am yr most dutyfull and most obedient Humble Servant

Theo: Fletcher

Sep 15 : 1738

[V. Richard Ockleshaw<sup>2</sup> 1735-56]

<sup>1</sup>There are two returns for this parish, each in different hands but signed by the Curate.

<sup>2</sup>Curate of Corringham, Essex.

## STOKE TALMAGE

1. The Parish of Stoke Talmage is about two measur'd Miles long, and about half a Mile over in its widest Part, rather more. There is neither Village nor Hamlet, and but one Single House in the Parish of Stoke, besides the Village call'd by that Name. It comprehends only two and Twenty Houses and the most considerable People in it are four Farmers.
2. We have not a Papist of any Rank in the Parish ; or any Persons who have been lately perverted to Popery ; or any Place of assembly for such Persons. We have no Popish Priest residing *in*, or resorting *to*, our Parish ; nor any School for the Education of Such Persons ; neither hath any Confirmation or Visitation been lately held in the said Parish by any Popish Bishop.
3. We have not a Presbyterian, Independent, or Anabaptist, in the Parish ; or any Meeting House for the Use of Such Persons.
4. We have not a Quaker in the Parish ; or any meeting House for Persons of such Denomination.
5. I do not know, that there are any Persons in the Parish, who either profess to disregard Religion, or that do commonly absent themselves from all publick Worship of God on the Lord's Day.
6. I do not reside, My Lord, at Stoke, neither have I a licensed Curate residing there : but I live at Tetsworth, which is not more than a Mile and Half from the farthest House in Stoke Parish. This I shall have done twelve Years next Christmas, six of which I shall have had Stoke ; with the knowledge of His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, as well as of my Patrons, the Earl of Macclesfield<sup>1</sup> and Lord Carteret.<sup>2</sup> If your Lordship is desirous to know my Reasons, I shall be ready to wait upon You whenever You please, some of my Reasons being of a Nature not proper to be put into Writing. I do not serve any other Living besides Stoke, and therefore beg Your Lordship's kind Indulgence on this Article.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lord's Day in the Church at Stoke, and one Sermon preach'd. We have prayers on the Week-Days only at Easter and Whitsuntide, Good-Friday and Christmass-Day. There is no Chapel in the Parish. I catechize in the Church from the Beginning of May 'till Michaelmass ; making use of Lewis's short Exposition,<sup>3</sup> the Parishioners sending their Children and Servants pretty regularly. We have no persons that frequent publick Worship who are unbaptiz'd. The Sacrament of the Lds. Supper is administered 4 times a Year. The Communicants are generally about 10 or 12, sometimes more.
8. We have no Free-School, Hospital, or Alms-House in our Parish.
9. We have no voluntary Charity-School in our Parish. I offered near a Year ago to pay myself for the Instruction of our poor Children. But we are so unhappy at present as not to have any one in the Parish, who is qualified, that will undertake it.
10. We have Four Shillings a Year given to the Poor of our Parish, which is paid out of an Estate at Rawford. We have forty shillings likewise which pays Interest to the Poor, and is in the Hands of Mr Slade, our Church Warden, a substantial Farmer. These Sums are duly applied to the Uses of the Poor. I never heard of any Donation either to Church or Poor, except those above mentioned.
11. We have no Collection at all at the Sacrament, the Parishioners being all

common Labourers, or poor People, except the Four Farmers above mention'd.

12. I do not know of any other Matter, relating to the Parish, of which it maybe proper to give Your Lordship Information.

I am, My Lord,

Your Lordships most Dutiful and Obedient Servant  
Samuel Thornbury. [R. 1732-51]

<sup>1</sup>The second Earl of Macclesfield (c. 1697-1764), of Shirburn Castle.

<sup>2</sup>The second Baron Carteret and subsequently second Earl Granville (1690-1763). *D.N.B.*

<sup>3</sup>Cf. BAMPTON p. 14.

STONESFIELD

Stonesfield 17 July 1738

1. My Lord,

The Extent of my Parish is about Two Miles long and a Mile and half broad. We have no Villages nor Hamletts nor Familys of Note belonging to it. The Number of Houses contain'd in it are about Fifty.

2. We have no Papists of any Rank or Degree in Our Parish, Nor has any Papistical Act been done in this Parish since I have been Minister of it.
3. Neither have we any Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists, Teacher, or Meeting House within this Parish.
4. I have one Quaker that has Lands in this Parish, but does not live here, but in Fawler a Hamlet belonging to the Parish of Chisbury, he pays his legal dues to me in a peaceable manner.
5. There are four Heads of Familys who commonly absent themselves from all Publick Worship of God on the Lord's Day ; These Persons I have privately admonished of their Duty before I recd. Your Ldp's Instructions, but now my Advice coming authoris'd by yr. Ldp's Authority, I am in great hopes of better Success. For they have all promis'd me to be more constant Frequenters of the Church on the Lord's Day.
6. I do reside constantly upon my Cure, and in the House belonging to it.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lord's Day, and one Sermon preach'd. No Prayers are read on any other Day but Xmas Day. I catechise all the Year round but a Month or thereabouts in ye depth of Winter. I make use of Lewis's Exposition<sup>1</sup> to assist me in my explication of the Catechism. I administer the Lord's Sacrament five or six times in ye Year, and have about Eighteen Communicants.
8. We have no Free-School, Hospital or Alms-House in our Parish.
9. There is a voluntary Charity School maintain'd in my Parish for Seven Children Boys and Girls promiscuously, Three at the expense of one Mr Tipping and four at my own expence. They are neither lodg'd, fed or cloath'd but only taught at our joynt expence. When they leave the School they are employed in Husbandry ; and the Farmers allready experience the Advantage of such an Education.
10. We have an Estate of Lands and Houses of Three pounds four shillings a Year for the use of the Church.  
Q. Whether Church Wardens Expenses at Visitations shd. be defray'd out of this Charity ?  
We have besides Eleven pounds set out at Interest in the Name of Feoffees,



and the Interest yearly applied to the Relief of industrious Poor who have no Assistance from the Parish.

11. We have no money ever given at the Offertory.
12. My Lord Litchfield,<sup>1</sup> Sr Thomas Wheat<sup>2</sup> and some Inhabitants of Chalbury have enclos'd their Commons where the inhabitants of Stonesfield had an Equal Right of Common wth. the Proprietors ; Stonesfield Common is still open, and the Tenants of these Gentleman wth. Some Farmers of Chalbury notwithstanding the enclosure of their own Commons, where we had an undoubted Right, still continue to common upon us, where it is matter of Dispute whether ever they had any Right.  
Q. Whether I am entitled to Thirds of Wool or Agistments or any other sort of Tithe for the time these Gentleman's Tennants Sheep feed upon our Common ?

This is the best Information I am capable of giving Your Lordship of the State of my Parish, and shall be allways ready to obey Your Lordshp's Commands who am Your most Dutifull

Son and Most Humble Servt.

Wm Bradshaw [R. 1732-71]

<sup>1</sup>Cf. BAMPTON p. 14.

<sup>2</sup>The second Earl of Lichfield (1690-1743), of Ditchley.

<sup>3</sup>Sir Thomas Wheate, 2nd Bart. (c. 1695-1746), of Glympton.

#### STRATTON AUDLEY

1. My Lord  
The Extent of my Parish is near 7 Miles. One Village, call'd Stratton Audley, which comprehends between 50 and 60 Houses. One Family of Note, Borlace Warren's Esq.<sup>1</sup>
2. Not one Papist.
3. One Presbyterian—Mary Westbury.  
Not one Independent.  
Not one Anabaptist.
4. Not one Quaker.
5. One Only. Thomas Malcher, and who has promis'd to be more constant in his Duty.
6. I do not constantly reside in ye Summer—Because there is not a Family in the Village that can receive me as a Boarder—in Winter (My Lord) I constantly reside—'tho wh some Difficulty, being obliged to dress my Victuals in my Bed Chamber. When I am absent I am at Hampton Gay, abt 6 miles from my Parish, wh a Near Relation. There has not been the least Neglect of Duty since I first commenced Curate to this Prest. Time, as my Parishioners have lately Assur'd the Dean and Chapter of Xts Church, Whose Curate I am. My Parishioners are ready to give yr Lordship the Same Assurance. If any Accidental Duty happens, which is very seldom, Mr Warren of Heathe, Mr Wardle of Fringford, and Mr Richardson of Goddington are ready to Serve me. The Sick, My Lord, I constantly attend.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lord's Day and a Sermon Preach'd. Prayers are read the Week, or Part of the Week before Xmas Day, and on ye Succeeding Holy Days. The Passion Week and on Easter Monday and Tuesday Wednesday and Friday before Whitsunday and on the Monday and Tuesday following. On ye 30th of Jan : Ash

Wednesday, 29th May, 11th of June, 5th of Nov.<sup>2</sup> The Children and Servts, who are very Constant, are Catechiz'd ev'ry Lent, and agst Confirmation, at which Time I expound ye Catechism. Ev'ry Person that frequents my Church, I believe has been Baptis'd. The Sacramt is administred four Times in ye Year. The Number of the Communicants is uncertain, sometimes 20 sometimes 30.

8. Neither Free School, Hospital, nor Alms-House.
9. No Charity School.
10. Neither Land, Tenants, nor Tithes, &c.
11. The Money given at ye Offertory is Distributed among the Poor of my Parish, that receive ye Sacramt.
12. There is not

I am yr Lordships Most Obedient Humble Servt.

Fielder Hammond

Stratton Audley

July 20th 1738

<sup>1</sup>Borlase Warren (d. 1747), of Little Marlow manor and Stratton Audley.

<sup>2</sup>Cf. ASTAL p. II.

#### SWAILCLIFFE

1. The Parish of Swacliffe consists of Six Hamlets and Villages (viz) Swacliffe, Sibford Ferris, Birdrup, Sibford Gower, Shetford, Epwell—The farthest, almost two miles distant, from ye Church. In the whole are about two hundred Houses but no Familys of Note.
2. No Papists in the Parish.
3. Two Anabaptists of inferior rank, but no meeting house in the Parish.
4. There are in all the Hamblets Twenty Eight Familys of Quakers and I dont find by Enquiry there is any Increase of late Years. They have one meeting house In Sibford Gower and another in Shetford but neither of these Licensed as I know of. The Dues to the Vicar being a Rate Tythe of one Shilling or ten pence pr Yard Land are for the most part paid by their Neighbours.
5. I know none who absent themselves from all publick Worship, but of mean Rank.
6. I reside constantly at Swacliffe in the Vicarage House and have a Curate to assist me on Sundays in the Chappel of Shetford to whom I give half of ye Salary allow'd me. His Name is Gile, He is Curate of Drayton within two miles of Shetford, and resides there.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd once Ev'ry Lords day in ye Church of Swacliffe and in the two Chappels of Epwell and Shetford and One Sermon preach'd in Each—The Children are Catechis'd by me at different times of ye Year in two places, and for want of Time to expound ye Catechism, Expositions of it have been given to such persons as could make a right use of them. The Sacrament is administred three times in ye Year at each Church. The number of Communicants at Swacliffe is about 60, at Epwell and Shetford under 20, at each.
8. There is a Free School in Sibford Gower to teach the Children of the Parish to write and read, but I cannot procure any certain Information of Its Founder or the applying of the Revenues. The Estate left for ye maintenance of ye School together with the Poor of ye same parish has

been let at above Sixty Pounds pr An of which The Master receives fourteen pounds, The Poor never more than Five pounds pr An.<sup>1</sup>

9. None.
10. None
11. The money is dispos'd of by Me to the Poor who frequent the Church.
12. I know none.

James Fussell  
Vicar of Swacliffe [1734-9]

<sup>1</sup>Cf. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I p. 488.

#### SWEREFORD

1. The Parish of Swereford is about two Miles in length and near a Mile broad; There is an Hamlet belonging to it called Showell, where formerly stood a Chapell. It consists of forty seven Houses among which the only one of Note is that of John Travell Esqr.
2. There are no Papists.
3. There are three Anabaptist Familys. They have no Meeting house in the Parish. The Number of them is not increased.
4. There is one Quaker's Family. They have no Meeting House in the Parish.
5. There are none.
6. I do not reside ; the Reason of my not residing is, that I am engaged in a Cure in Warwickshire in the Diocese of Worcester. There is no Resident Curate ; I propose fixing one in the Parish as soon as possible and to allow him forty pounds a Year.
7. Public Service is duly performed twice every Lords Day, and one Sermon is preached. Children are constantly catechized during the Season of Lent. Prayers are read upon Ash-Wednesday and Good Friday, and the Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administred four times in the Year. The Number of Communicants is usually twenty.
8. There is none.
9. There is no Charity School.
10. The Summ of ten Shillings a Year was left by Mr Hollands<sup>1</sup> formerly Rector of Swerford to the Poor of the said Place to be dispos'd of on St Thoms: Day which Annual Summ is raised from some Lands called Cradles in the Parish of Hook-Norton, which are now in the Possession of John Travell Esqr of Swerford and Farmer Hall of Wiginton
11. No Collection is here made at the Sacrament
12. There is none

Richd: Lydiatt [R. 1732-9]

<sup>1</sup>William Hollins R. 1609-34.

#### SWINBROOKE

1. My Parish is of very small extent consisting only of one small village. It contains only 32 houses and Sr George Fettiplace<sup>1</sup> is ye only person of note in it.
2. There is no Papist in my Parish nor do I know that there was ever any popish priest there, or any act done to promote yr Religion.
3. There is no Presbyterian, Independent, Anabaptist or any other Dissenter in my Parish.

4. There is no Quaker or Quaker's meeting House in my Parish.
5. There are no persons that profess to disregard Religion in my Parish.
6. There is no House belonging to my Cure but I reside within a Quarter of a mile of my Parish Church. I hold my Cure by Nomination under Mrs Newel of Stoken Church who is tenant to ye Chancellour of Sarum and allows me but ten pounds a year.<sup>2</sup>
7. I read Prayers and preach every Lords Day in the Evening, and read Prayers every Fast and Festival. The Schoolmaster (Mr Daniel) is obliged by his office to read prayers every Lords Day in the morning who is also obliged to Catechize ye Children. I administer ye Sacrament thrice every year and about twelve receive.
8. There is in my parish a Free School<sup>3</sup> for Boys of Swinbrook, Widford and Payns Farm, Founded by Mrs. Pytts<sup>4</sup> (Sister to Sr George Fettiplace). The Governours are Sr George Fettiplace, Rouland Lacy Esqr—Bushel Esq and Captain Parker.
9. There is no Voluntary Charity School in my Parish.
10. Mrs Pytts above mention'd gave one hundred pounds the Interest of it to put a Boy of Swinbrook apprentice, which is apply'd accordingly
11. We collect no money at ye Offertory.
12. Not at present.

Yr. Lordships most dutiful Son and humble Servt.

Thos. Cony

<sup>1</sup>Sir George Fettiplace, 5th Bart (1668-1743), of Swinbrook.

<sup>2</sup>The living was a peculiar of the chancellor of Salisbury.

<sup>3</sup>Founded in 1715. Cf. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I p. 488.

<sup>4</sup>Anne (1652-1716), wife of James Pytts, of Kyre Park, Worcestershire.

#### SWINCOMBE

1. The Parish of Swyncomb in the longest and widest parts of it extends near 3 miles each way. It has chiefly 3 Villages or Hamlets Viz Cookly, Russelswater and Parkcorner, consisting for the most part of poor inhabitants ; The arrable lands in the Parish are mostly appendent to lone farm houses, as they are very much in all this hill or Chiltern part of this Countrey. It comprehends about 40 houses and Cottages. The chief family is Mr Greenhill<sup>1</sup> now Settled at Swyncomb ; abt. 6 years ago he purchased what he has here, being between £4 and £500 pr an. Swyncomb is bounded on the North and North East, by Britwell and Watlington ; East and South East Pishill then Bix ; Nettlebed, Nuffield, als. Tuffield, and Westward by Ewelme
2. I have not heard of anymore than one Papist or reputed Papist in this Parish of Swyncomb, and that a poor wid. supported by Alms of the Parish and I suppose Sr. Ed: Simeon<sup>2</sup> or others. No place of Worship. No Popish Priest. No Popish School. Nor any Confirmation or other Sacerdotal acts. Reputed Popist Wid. Hussey.
3. I don't know nor have heard of any more than one Protestant Dissenter within the Parish of Swyncomb, and that a poor wid. who if She goes to any place of worshp. It is I believe to the presbyterian meeting at Henley. No meeting house nor Teacher. The children of this poor woman (Settled in the Parish) come to Ch: sometimes and I am apt to think don't go to any other place of Worship. Reputed Presbyterian Wid. Norcott

4. No Quaker nor any meeting house within the Parish of Swincomb.
5. I dont know of any that make a publick profession of their disregard to religion, but as in most places, So we have some few that very seldom come to Ch: nor (I believe) go to any place of worshp. but those are of the lowest and meanest rank. Robt Warren and—London.
6. About 4 years ago I repaired my Parsonage house at Swincomb (then greatly decayed) and the michaelmass following, with the leave of my then Rt Revd and most Worthy Diocesan I removed from my Vicarage of Watlington (2 miles from Swincomb) fixed a Curate there ; after one year (wth. my Diocesan's leave) I removed wth. my family to Oxford for the advantage of education for my children and Supplied my Ch: of Swincomb, and Sometimes Watlington, my Curate taking care of any weekly duties that shd. happen at Swyncomb.
7. Publick Service duly performed and a Sermon constantly preached every Lds. day in the forenoon ; and when there is a congregation publick Service performed in the afternoon but there being besides the Parsonage house none but Mr Greenhill's within near a mile of the Ch: and Mr Greenhill and Servts Seldom coming in an afternoon, it is not often that we have any Congregation on afternoons especially in the winter. No congregation for Services on any Holy day in the Year. No chapel in this Parish. Seldom any Catechiseing ; I always give to the Parishioners at the beginning of Lent Notice to prepare and Send their Children to be Catechised but seldom any Come, mostly very poor people few can read. I dont know of any persons unbaptized that frequent publick worship. The Sacramt. administred at Xtnas, Palm Sunday, Easter Day, Whitsunday. At Easter generally 40 or 50 Communicants other days abt. 10 or 12.
8. No free-school, Hospital, or Alms house within this Parish.
9. No voluntary Charity School in this Parish. Nor (hardly) any possibility of setting up one for excepting Mr Greenhill and myself the inhabitants consist of farmers, rack renters who yet are above any such assistance ; and poor labourers who cannot afford their Children time to go to School.
10. No lands Tenements &c given to the Church but there is the Sum of ten pounds, given to the use of the poor, kept out at Interest, which Interest used to be divided yearly amongst the poor, by the direction of the acting Overseer I cannot get any account or tradition by whom or when these ten pounds were given, nor how the Interest has been dispos'd of of late. The money at present in the hands of Tho: Grey of Russelswater
11. No offertory or money given by the Communicants at the Sacramt. ; there was not used to be any before my Succession here, neither have I promoted or Set on foot any and chiefly for this reason, That it might and probably would prevent the poorer Sort from comeing to the Sacramt. for considering the general temper of people, few care to be distinguished for their poverty, those of such a disposition will either give when they cant afford it, or abstain from that Sacrament because they would not publicly proclaim their inability or poverty.
12. My Ld,  
I dont know of any other matter relating to my Parish of Swincomb that I need lay before Yr Ld shp. That which I have given under this head in Watlington does not so often affect us here, and therefore I need not insert it but refer to it and shall only add that if in anything I can at

anytime Satisfy or Oblige Yr. Ld. Shp. No one will be more ready than  
My Ld.

Yr. Ld. Shps. most Dutyfull and Obedt. Ser.

Tho: Toovey<sup>3</sup>

July 27th: 1738

Rector of Swyncombe [1723-56]

<sup>1</sup>Samuel Greenhill, of Warfield, Berkshire, bought the manor of Swyncombe in 1732.

<sup>2</sup>Sir Edward Simeon, 2nd Bart. (c. 1682-1768), of Britwell Prior.

<sup>3</sup>V. of Watlington 1711-56.

#### TACKLEY

##### 1. My Lord,

My Parish is near upon a Square of two miles in Length and Breadth. It consists of three Hamlets, Tackley, Nothercot and Whitehill, and contains sixty two Houses. Mr John Morton's Family is the only one of any Note in it.

##### 2. There is no Papist in my Parish, nor &c.

##### 3. Nor one Presbyterian, Independent or Anabaptist.

##### 4. Nor any Quaker, except one William Stevens (a Taylor) and his Family.

##### 5. There is no Person in my Parish who professes a disregard of Religion, Some there are who too often absent themselves from the publick Worship of God on the Lords Day out of mere sloth or Self-conceit and they are of the meanest Rank.

##### 6. I reside constantly upon my Cure, and in the House belonging to it ; and have no Curate.

##### 7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lord's Day in my Church, and one Sermon preached. Prayers are read there on the Feasts and Fasts, and on the Week days as often as I am able to have them myself, or my Clerk, who is sometimes necessarily engaged in his own Business can attend them. There is no Chapel in my Parish. I catechise in my Church on the Lent Sundays. The Parishioners duly send their Children to say the Catechism, and come themselves with their Servants to hear me Expound it. There is no Unbaptized Person who frequents Publick Worship. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administred five times in the Year ; about forty usually receive it on Easter Day, and about half as many at the other times.

##### 8. There is no Free-School, Hospital or Alms-House in my Parish.

##### 9. A few Boys and Girls are put to School on a private Charity ; as soon as they can read well, and say the Catechism, they are taken from School, and others put there in their room.

##### 10. There are only ten pounds placed out at Interest for the use of the Poor, to whom it is always given on Easter-Monday.

##### 11. The money given at the offertory is given to the Poor by myself and the Church Wardens.

I am, My Lord, your Dutyful Son and humble Servant

Moses Wyles, Rector [1725-43]

July 18 1738.

#### TADMARTON

1. The parish of Tadmarton consists of too little Villages one of about 30 and the other of 17 families, no person of note.

2. None
3. None
4. There is no meeting house, about six Quakers their number diminished.
5. There are several that do not frequent divine worship as they ought to do for causes unknown.
6. Having a Vicarage at Ledgers Ashby in Northamptonshire about 16 miles from Tadmarton I divide my time of residence near equally between both. Mr Edward Maud is my Curate, he has never yet been called on to take a licence, being Regent master and exhibitor of Lincoln Colledge it hath obliged him to spend part of his time in Oxon, that now ceases w<sup>n</sup>. he will reside regularly. I give him thirty pounds a year.
7. Publick service is duly performed, there is no Chapel. The Children are and shall be catechised halfe the year. Parents have been very negligent 'till of late. two persons (Quakers) frequent the Church, who I hope will desire baptism in a little time. The Sacrament is allways administered thrice a year. The number of Coms. but small.
8. None.
9. None.
10. A very small sum now reduced to about five pounds
11. None collected.
12. Nothing.

Tho: Wodhull<sup>1</sup>

Rec: of Tadmarton. [1720-44]

1V. of Ashby St. Ledgers, Northamptonshire, 1712-43.

#### TAINTON

1. about three Miles in length and one half in Breadth, about fifty houses. No family of Note.
2. One Widow reported a Papist of a small fortune. No attempt made to convert any to Popery.
3. One Independent ffamily very poor. No meeting House, No Increase of Dissenters.
4. Two small ffamilies of Quakers Shoemakers, No Increase or Meeting House. I have but little Dues the ffamilies being poor.
5. No persons who profess to disregard Religion or absent themselves from all public Worship of God on the Lords Day.
6. I do constantly reside in my Vicarage House.
7. Publick Service is performed but once every Lords day and one Sermon preached, the living being under twenty pounds a year and serving ye Curacy of Barrington twice every Sunday, prayers are but seldom read on holidays for want of a Congregation I Catechise ye Children in Lent and often expound it to ym. None come to Church yt are not baptised, the Lords Supper is administred three times a year about fourteen receive at a time.
8. We have neither ffree School, Hospital or Alms House in ye Parish.
9. No Charity School.
10. One pound Six shil and Eightpence for four quarterly Sermons every year. four ten pounds given by four Several Persons to Ye Poor and very lately one hundred pounds by Mr Collier of London and twenty shillings a year given by Mrs Bray<sup>1</sup> late of Shilton to ye poor.

11. No money given at ye Offertory.
12. there is nothing else yt I know of yt can be of any Service to Your Lordship.

I am

Your Lordship's most dutiful and obt. humble Servant

James Stiles Vicar of Tainton [1712-50]

<sup>1</sup>Cf. ALVESCOTE p. 8.

#### GREAT TEW

1. The Circumference of the Parish of Great Tew is about Ten Miles. It is divided into Two Hamlets. Great Tew contains 95 Houses, and Little Tew 33 Mr Keck's is the only Family of Note.
2. There are no Papists at Great Tew. Three at Little Tew of the lower Rank, One of Whom was perverted about a Year and half ago by marrying a Wife of That Profession. There is no Place of Worship ; Nor any Popish Priest who resides or resorts thither ; No Popish School, Nor hath any Confirmation or Visitation been held there.
3. There are no Presbyterians, Independents, or Anabaptists in the Parish.
4. There are about 20 Quakers in the Parish : Four Families at Great Tew, and two at Little Tew. Their Number as well as I can learn from the Inhabitants is about the Same as usual. No Meeting House in the Parish. As my Salary is paid by Mr Keck, I know nothing relating to the Tithes of the Parish.
5. There are no Persons who profess to disregard Religion, or who commonly absent themselves from the Publick Worship of God on the Lord's Day.
6. As I am Fellow of a College in Oxford, I am oblig'd to reside chiefly there. I live in Mr Keck's House, and I know of no House belonging to the Cure. I generally stay from Saturday or Sunday till Tuesday in Term, and in the Vacation I spend more of my Time there than in Oxford.
7. There is Publick Service perform'd Twice every Lord's Day and a Sermon in the Morning. Prayers and a Sermon on Christmas Day And Prayers only on Good Friday. There is no Chapel. I catechize the Children at Lent: I cannot say the Children or Servants come as duly as I could wish. I explain Some of the Catechism to Them at other Times of the Year in the Afternoon. There are no Persons, who frequent Publick Worship and are not baptiz'd. The Sacrament is administred Thrice in the Year. About 20 usually receive it each Time.
8. There is no Free-School, Hospital or Alms House in the Parish.
9. There is no Charity-School in the Parish.
10. I know of no Lands, or Tenements, or Tithes, or Pensions given to the Church or Poor. There is about fifteen Pounds left to the Poor to be placd out at Interest, and to be dispos'd of by the Overseers. As well as I can learn it is apply'd to that use and no Other.
11. The Money given at the Offertory is dispos'd of to the Poor of the Parish by the Direction of the Minister and Church-Wardens.
12. There is Nothing more that I can inform your Lordship of.

Anthony Apperley

#### WATERPERRY

1. The parish is abt a mile in length, and there are in it eleven Farms and twenty cottages.



2. Sr Francis Curson, and Several of his family are Papists ;<sup>1</sup> and Several Protestants.
3. None.
4. None.
5. None.
6. I either live at Waterperry, or at Forresthill wch is near it, and am ready upon every exigence.
7. The children are Catechized in Lent, and the Sacrament is duly administered at the proper Seasons, and most of the inhabitants constantly receive it.
8. No.
9. No.
10. Mrs Anne Thackwell gave the Interest of five pounds for bread to be distributed upon New Years Day, wch money is annually deposited in the hands of the Church. Warden. Sr John Curson<sup>2</sup> gave one hundred pounds to put out children to prentice, wch money is in the hands of Sr Francis Curson and duly applied.
12. My Lord

I shall be glad to wait on You at any time to satisfy You in every particular relating to this parish, and am with my utmost duty,

Yr Lordships

most obedient Son and Servant

Hugh Whistler [R. 1716-39]

Waterperry July 16

1738

<sup>1</sup>Sir Francis Curson, 3rd Bart. (c. 1678-1750), of Waterperry. Cf. Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *A History of the Post-Reformation Catholic Missions in Oxfordshire* (1905) pp. 202 ff.

<sup>2</sup>Sir John Curson, 2nd Bart. (1657-1727).

#### WATERSTOCK

1. It contains about Seven Hundred Acres. Itself is the whole Parish. It comprehends Fifteen Houses. The only family of Note is that of Thomas Henry Ashhurst Esqr.<sup>1</sup>
2. There are no Papists in our Parish.
3. No Presbyterians, Independents, or Anabaptists.
4. Neither are there any Quakers, nor do I know of any Facts relating to them.
5. There are no such Persons in our Parish.
6. I reside constantly upon my Cure and in the House belonging to it. But I Preach and Read Prayers every Lords Day at Emmington Six Miles off, wherefore for this Place I have a Curate not Licenced, who resides at Queens College Oxford at Six Miles distance from this Place, his name is William Wood A.M. He doth not serve any other Cure. His Salary I reckon to be about Five and Twenty Pounds a year.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lords Day in our Church and one Sermon Preached. Prayers are read there on all Holy Days. There is no Chapel in our Parish. The Children are Catechized once a year, commonly between Easter and Whitsuntide which their parents take care to send duly. Servants do not come, who it is to be hoped have learned their Catechism before they went to Service. It has not

lately been expounded to them. No persons frequent publick Worship Who have not been baptized. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administred Four Times a year. The Communicants are from about a Dozen to twenty.

8. There is no Free School, Hospital or Alms-House in our Parish.
9. There is no Voluntary Charity-School in our Parish.
10. There is Eight Pounds a year Payable to the Poor of Waterstock out of an Estate in Rotherhith alias Redriff which is distributed amongst them and is applied to their Use and to no other.<sup>2</sup>
11. It is distributed to the Poor immediately by myself.
12. I know not any.

Edward Lewis<sup>3</sup> [R. 1726-85]

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Henry Ashhurst (1672-1744), of Waterstock.

<sup>2</sup>By the will of Ambrose Bennett dated 1636.

<sup>3</sup>R. of Emmington 1725-85.

#### WATLINGTON

1. Watlington Parish extends in length about 5 miles ; in breadth in the widest part abt. a mile and a half ; Villages, Howe, Greenvil, Chrismuss, and Warmscombe besides some lone houses ; the whole Parish Contains abt 260 odd houses and Cottages. Families Mr Duncomb in Watlington, Watlington Park, The Marquis of Caernarvon<sup>1</sup> ; but the proprietor of the Park is Tho: Stonor Esqr.<sup>2</sup> Impropriator of the gr. tythes of Watlington (a Papist.) Greenvil Mr Lamborne, living in Oxford ; Ld Macclesfield<sup>3</sup> and Sr Ed Simeon<sup>4</sup> have estates in the Parish but no Seat. Advowson of the Vicaridge being not £60 p. annum lately purchased of Mr Stonor by Ed: Horne mercer in Watlington and his Bro: in London. Watlington is bounded on the West, South West by Britwell, South by Swyncomb, then Bix, Pishill pt. of Pirton, Turvil in Bucks, pt. of Shirborne pt. of Pirton, Pirton North, North West and Cuxham.
2. There is some few Papists in the Parish of Watlington but for the most part of mean rank. In Watlington the Wid. Hall *Quare* her Sons and Daughter. Jno. Callis's wife Tho: Messenger's wife ; the wife of one Blackall a Barber-Surgeon, the wife of Tho: Harris, the 2 latter perverted to popery within a few years, by whom I know not but I suppose for the sake of assistance sometimes. No place of Worshp. that I know of nor any resident Priest. No Popish School, nor any Confirmation A Papist or two at Christmuss within this Parish of Mean Rank. There is a reputed Popish Priest of Sr Edward Simeon's Family that is often at Watlington going by the Name of Brown<sup>5</sup> but whether to perform any Sacerdotal acts I cant say.
3. Very few Protestant Dissenters within this Parish, and those few cheifly Sabbatarians<sup>6</sup> and Anabaptists. The Principal is one Nathaniel Nash a Tanner, of good Substance, but very wary and expounds but little to promote their Interests ; When any meeting is held it is at his house, and this about once a month, they us'd to have a teacher from Hadenham in Bucks either a Taylor or a Shoemaker, and I am informed Named Hoare ; How and whether their house and teacher is Licensed or qualified I can't say neither did I think it prudent to enquire for they dwindle by disregard ; Their numbers are decreased, and I conceive by whishing

to use the burial service over them. The congregation of Meeters consist of people of every sort but Quakers out of the neighbouring Villages.

4. In Watlington there is one Wid. woman keeping an ale house that is a Nominal Quaker. She was bred that way or turned pretty young. She was (when young) a woman of no very good fame and I believe has not been admitted amongst the Quakers these 39 or 40 years. Named Haynes. A Wid woman and her children at Christmuss are Quakers, people of some little Substance, carry on a brick kiln and Some Small matter of farming. Named White. No Meeting house. They refuse to pay Ecclesiastical dues, nor have I at any time prosecuted them, but when I want kiln ware I Send and they deliver it, and So I stop payment of which I find to be due to me. I dont know of any other Quakers in this Parish neither have there been any other (as I remember) in my time.
5. I dont know of any that publickly profess to disregard religion but there are a great many that seldom come to Church, nor I believe go to any place of publick worship. Some for want of a sense of Religion through a very mean condition ; others attending their shops and trades, wch: I have endeavoured to prevent but can't without the interposition of authority. The only person of any Note that absents himself from Ch is Jno. Duncomb Esqr, and that is for want of a seat or pew, but he has now petitioned the Court for a faculty to *resort to* a Gallery but that is at present opposed.<sup>7</sup>
6. I do not reside upon my Cure ; but by the leave of my late Diocesan I resided a year before I went to Oxford upon my living of Swyncomb,<sup>8</sup> and have had a resident Curate at Watlington evr since, at present Mr Will: Wynn M:A: and Scholar of Jes: Coll: Oxon: and have all along allowed him £30 pr. annum: pd. quarterly which with other perquisites has made up I believe more than £40 pr. annum: but the living is so small (not £60 pr annum) that I must with Yr. Ldshps. leave abate him something for the future.<sup>9</sup> He does not serve any other Cure ; nor is he Licensed for he proposes to leave me soon.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lds. day and a Sermon preached. Prayers read generally upon all Holydays especially in the Summer, through the distance of the Ch: and extreme badness of the ways in the winter we can Seldom raise a Congregation upon Holy days, at that time of the year. Prayers upon Wednesdays Frydays in Lent. No Chapel in this Parish. I dont know of any unbaptized person that frequents the Ch. Sacramt. of the Lds. Supper administred, 5 times in the Year Easter day abt. 100 Communicants other times 20. Catechizeing in the Ch: every Lent. Children tolerably well prepared and sent by Parents and Schoolmasters.
8. A Grammar free School<sup>10</sup> founded by Tho: Stonor Esqr<sup>11</sup> abt 1665-6 Endowed wth. £10 per ann: for teaching 10 boys. Abt. the Year 1731 Endowed wth. a meadow in Bouson of £4 pr ann: by Ldy Tipping<sup>12</sup> then lately of Whitfield. 4 boys to be taught English and writing for it. The Schoolm now at present I employ a person who Carefully teaches; and the Statutes are duly observed Excepting that in Compliance wth the Condition of the Inhabitants we sometimes teach reading writing and acctts. Instead of Gramar.
9. No voluntary Charity School in this Parish, nor any poor Children putt to School by any private person, excepting sometimes 2 or 3 double

poor children of honest parents putt out at the expense of [blank in M.S.]

10. Divers lands and tenemts. have been given to the Church and also to the poor, those lands and tenemts. to the Ch: are now let for £25 pr. ann: I can't find out who were the Donors, only of some part William Dancaster, either in Qn: Eliz or K: James ye first's time as I remember it as expressed in the deed as given to the poor, but for time immemorial has been applied to the Ch.<sup>13</sup> One Mr Chibnal gave certain gowns and Some hollon.<sup>14</sup> Mr Hart of Cottsford £9 per ann to putt poor boys apprentice,<sup>15</sup> Robt Parslow 10 coates and gowns yearly;<sup>16</sup> Jno. Greenwood<sup>17</sup> £4=10s=0d worth of bread yearly. Wid. Burt 7s 6d yearly to Widows.<sup>18</sup> Rich. Hester £200 the Interest distributed yearly on St Thos: day.<sup>19</sup> All applied to proper uses excepting that in apprenticing poor boys they are apt to have too great regard for easing the Parish.
11. No offertory found here, nor since by me Set on foot, for the reasons given under this head in Swyncomb, Viz: that the Communicants Consisting for much the greater part of people that can't afford to give, It is apt to discourage them from coming to the Sacramt. because they would not be distinguished in their Inability. Besides the reason of it is in some measure coupled in with the provision made for the poor in every parish.
12. One great complaint I must make and I am afraid is a pretty general one, is the little regard had in the Spiritual Courts to presentmts. for bastardy &c Or the easy Commutations for penance, If a Commutation can be demanded I humbly conceive Some of the money ought to be distributed in the place where the offence was committed, or the offenders Inhibited, to satisfy that they were punished. This I really think has been some encouragemt. to Vice and I am Sure a great occasion of Contempt and disdain of the Spiritual Courts and authority.

[V. Thomas Toovey<sup>20</sup> 1711-56]

<sup>1</sup>Subsequently succeeded his father as second Duke of Chandos (1708-71). C. H. Collins Baker and M. I. Baker, *The Life and Circumstances of James Brydges First Duke of Chandos* (1949) pp. 257, 260.

<sup>2</sup>Thomas Stonor (1710-78), of Stonor Park.

<sup>3</sup>The second Earl of Macclesfield (c. 1697-1764), of Shirburn Castle.

<sup>4</sup>Sir Edward Simeon, 2nd Bart. (c. 1682-1768), of Britwell Prior.

<sup>5</sup>William Brown, R. C. chaplain at Britwell House 1729-50. Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *A History of the Post-Reformation Catholic Missions in Oxfordshire* (1905) pp. 282 f.

<sup>6</sup>"There is a particular Society, tho' it makes but little Noise, of People, who tho' they go by the Name of Sabbatharians, make Profession of expecting the Reign of a Thousand Years without participating in the other Opinions, which are ascrib'd to the ancient Millenarians. These Sabbatharians are so call'd, because they will not remove the Day of Rest from *Saturday* to *Sunday*. They leave off work betimes on *Friday* Evening, and are very rigid Observers of their Sabbath" etc. M. Misson's, *Memoirs and Observations in his Travels over England* (translated by Mr. Ozell, 1719) pp 234 f.

<sup>7</sup>A petition for a faculty had been presented by John Duncumb on 22 April 1738 (MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers c. 456 f. 92) and a faculty for a gallery was granted on 17 April 1740. MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers c. 434 f. 11.

<sup>8</sup>In 1744 Mr. Toovey was proposing to reside "which shall be as soon as I can with any safety live in a new built house, I hope soon after Xmas. MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers c. 652 f. 60.

<sup>9</sup>In 1740 the Vicar refused to allow Mr. Wynn's successor to accept his licence. "If the Bishop insisted on putting Mr. Gabriel upon him according to the Terms of the License (£40 per ann.) he would remove to Watlington and serve the Cure him-

self. That the Bishop used him very hardly, but that he was determined not to pay one penny more for the Serving that Cure than the Law should oblige him to." MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers c. 651 f. 72.

<sup>10</sup>Cf. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I pp. 477 f.

<sup>11</sup>Thomas Stonor (1626-83), of Stonor Park.

<sup>12</sup>Ann (d. 1728), widow of Sir Thomas Tipping, 1st Bart. (1653-1718), of Wheatfield.

<sup>13</sup>Seven acres were given by one Dancaster to the church and are mentioned in an early Elizabethan rental. *Oxford Archeological Society Report* 1921/2 p. 311.

<sup>14</sup>By the will of Joan Chibnal dated 1646.

<sup>15</sup>By the will of John Hart of Cottisford dated 1664.

<sup>16</sup>By the will of Robert Parslow dated 1683.

<sup>17</sup>By the will of John Greendown dated 1700.

<sup>18</sup>By the will of Ann Burt dated 1730.

<sup>19</sup>By the will of Richard Hester proved in 1737.

<sup>20</sup>R. of Swincombe 1723-56.

#### WESTCOTE BARTON

1. Westcot Barton is a parish about a furlong or more long containing 31 Houses, whereof one is uninhabited, and some inhabited by single Persons. Families of ye most considerable note are yt of Mr Thomas Dandridge<sup>1</sup> a Batchelor, who is possessed of one 3rd part of ye Parish nearly related to Ye Family of ye Buswells whereof one Mr John Buswell<sup>2</sup> is ye Lord of ye Manour, a rich person both in money and land if I mistake not. He hath a First Cousin of ye same name reported a wealthy person, ye Church and Parsonage house are Situated about ye middle of ye Parish.
2. No papists, nor any popishly inclin'd yt I know of in ye Parish.
3. No Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists here. No Meeting House in ye Parish of Dissenters of any denomination whatsoever. Nor have I any Dissenters in Dodford. I mention ys to alleviate ye charge of Neglect yt hath been imputed to me.
4. No Quakers, nor meeting House of Quakers.
5. One Thomas Bath, an immorall man as I have heard, and doe believe, a conceited ignorant person absents himself from all public worship of God on ye Lords day on Antinomian principles, but He hath been presented on ys Account, but to no purpose. But I doe not look upon him as a Stated Inhabitant of ys Parish.
6. I reside constantly upon ye Cure and in ye house belonging to it, except when most urgent and necessary business, or Duty constrains me to be at Dodford and have resided here near a Quarter of a year in all wch time I have not been above 4 or 5 days absent. I hope such a residence is a residence bona fide.<sup>3</sup>
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lord's day in ys Church unless Some extraordinary inevitable accident prevents, and one Sermon preach'd and sometimes two On Holy Days, and Parliamentary Feasts and Fasts Public Service hath been duly performed by me, but hath been omitted on Holy Days but very lately through ye Clerk's attendance. I catechise generally in Lent and other times ye Children of ye Parish. Sometimes expound it myself sometimes make use of ye Catechism broke into short Questions and Answers, sometimes make use of Mr Elliss<sup>4</sup> and Bishop Beveridge<sup>5</sup> and other's expositions. I Oft read Catechetically Lectures. No Persons unbaptised yt I know of frequent ye publick

worship. The Sacrament of ye Lords Supper is administred thrice in ye year at least viz at Christmas Easter and Whitsuntide above 12 or 13 Communicants. Since I have had notice of Confirmation, I have and shall doe my best endeavours to prepare persons proper to receive it.

8. There is here no free School, Hospital, or Alms house here.
9. Neither is there any Charity School here.
10. 40 pounds given by several persons at severall times for ye benefit of ye Poor are placed out at Interest, for ought I know in good hands.<sup>6</sup> ye Interest of ye money is distributed partly in bread, partly in money every Christmas, and Easter to proper Objects of Charity as I believe, About a year or two agoe I wrote an account of these benefactions and to what uses they are to be applied, and caused a table thereof to be fixed in ye most publick place of ye Church at my own care and expense.
11. The money given at ye Offertory is disposed of for ye benefit of ye poor only, and I desire and hope that it may be disposed of where it may doe most good, and to none but proper Objects of Charity.
12. My own Personall complaints as to neglect of payment of my dues viz Easter Offerings, and delaying ye payment of my rent, a considerable part of All-hallowtide rents being still unpaid, I hope to redress in a quiet and friendly way ; Being willing to forbear rigour with Honest Industrious men, on account of their complaints of difficult times, and not only so but because I am naturally as well as religiously disposed, if it be possible as far as in me lies to live peaceably with all men. I quickly submit to my present difficulties, I shall neither remonstrate, nor recriminate. My Lord I have abundant reason to be sensible yt I have many secret Enemies here abouts who have been and will be apt privately to suggest things to my prejudice. If yor Lordship will favour me to let me know my Accusers, and withall to signifie ye crimes laid against me, You will assist me to make a proper defence of myself, or influence me to correct and reform my misconduct, if any hath happened, and greatly Oblige thereby

Yor Lordships Obedient and most Humble Servt

William Welchman.<sup>7</sup> [R. 1712-49]

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Dandridge, of Tackley, occupied the farm, now known as Park Place. J. Marshall, *Memorials of Westcott Barton* (1870) p. 48.

<sup>2</sup>John Buswell (1697-1768).

<sup>3</sup>The Bishop appears to have demurred. On 19 September 1739 the churchwardens (in Mr. Welchman's handwriting) represented that a residence of at least half the year should suffice. "A constant, perpetuall residence in ye deep solitude, is inconsistent with his Health, Liberty, ye Duty he owes to his Cure in Northamptonshire, and his other important concerns." MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers c. 651 f. 58.

<sup>4</sup>C. Ellis, *The Scripture Catechist: or, the whole religion of a Christian. Being a full explanation of the Church Catechism* (1738).

<sup>5</sup>Cf. BURCESTER p. 32.

<sup>6</sup>Marshall, op. cit. pp. 21 f.

<sup>7</sup>R. of Dodford, Northamptonshire 1707-49.

#### WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN

1. There is but one Village in the Parish which comprehends upwards of Fifty Houses, there is no family of note here at present Mr Norris Bertie<sup>1</sup> who has a Seat in the Parish being a minor.

2. None
3. None
4. None
5. None
6. I am a Student of Xt Church in Oxford where I reside, it is seven miles from Weston, And I serve the Cure my self.
7. Publick service is performed here twice every Lord's Day and one Sermon preached, prayers are read on Xtmas Day the 30th of January, Ash-Wednesday and Good-Friday. no Chapel in ye Parish. I catechize every Sunday in Lent in ye Church. No persons not baptized. The Sacrament is administred four times in the Year, and there are usually about fifty who receive it each time.
8. None
9. None
10. None
11. There is no Money collected
12. None

Your Lordship's Most Dutiful Son

J. Bertie<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Norreys Bertie (1718-66), M.P. for Oxfordshire 1743-54.

<sup>2</sup>John Bertie (1711-74), brother of the third Earl of Abingdon.

WEST WELL

1. The Extent of my Parish is about five Miles It comprises neither Village nor Hamlet, and but twenty two Houses and no Family of Note.
  2. There are none at all.
  3. There are Three Dissenters, but of what Mungrel Sect I cant say. They are of mean Rank. No Meeting House in my Parish. Their Number neither lessen'd nor increas'd of late Years.
  4. There is but one Quaker, who pays her Dues without compulsion. No Meeting House of any Sort in my Parish.
  5. There are none at all.
  6. I do reside constantly upon my Cure, and in the House belonging to it, and have no Curate.
  7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords Day in my Church, and one Sermon preach'd. Prayers read on some Holy Days. No Chapel in my Parish. The usual time for Catechising is Lent. The Parishioners dont send their Children so duly as I could wish and this I attribute in a great measure to a Dissenters teaching School. Her name is Lydia Strange. The Sacrament is administred thrice a year, and between 20 and 30 usually receive it each time.
  8. No Free-School, Hospital, or Alms-House.
  9. No Voluntary Charity-School.
  10. None that I know of.
  11. It is dispos'd of by me with the consent of the Churchwardens and to the poorest Communicants.
  12. None at the present time.
- Jul: 17. 1738

B. Dowdeswell Rectr. of Westwell [1735-40]

WHEATFIELD

July 27 1738

1. This parish contains about 700 Acres. Here are about a dozen houses.

Edwd. Rudge<sup>1</sup> Esqr. ye Patron of ye Living is ye only Gentleman in ye parish, All the Rest being farmers and Labourers.

2. Here are no Papists.
3. Here are no Presbyterians, Independents or Anabaptists.
4. Here are no Quakers.
5. I think ye People of this Parish behave as well as any others: None have a particularly bad reputation as I know of.
6. I Reside constantly in the Parsonage House. I am but seldom absent.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords Day (and one Sermon preach'd in ye morning) excepting when I serve a neighbouring Clergyman in an afternoon at wch. time There are no prayers.—Prayers are read here only on ye Lords Day. No Chapel. I have not yet Catechis'd. I know not of any unbaptis'd in ye Parish. The Sacrament of ye Lords Supper is administer'd 4 times a year. Sometimes 15 or 16 communicate, Sometimes 4 or 5.
8. Here is no Free School Hospital or Almshouse.
9. Here is no Charity School.
10. I have heard that £4 p. an: was left to the poor of this parish and that for ye payment of it some land in the Estate of Edwd. Rudge Esqr was bound by deed—However, the payment was Stopped in ye time of my Predecessor Mr Thos. Cornish.<sup>2</sup> I have spoke to ye Squire about it and heard his Reasons for Stoppage of payment but cannot say I fully understand the merits of ye Cause, not having yet seen the Deed, wch: is in the hands of my Predecessor's Executors. Till I shall have seen the Deed I can only speak upon common Report.<sup>3</sup>
11. Here is no offering made at the Sacrament of the Lords Supper.
12. I know not of any other matter in the Parish proper to inform yr Lordship of.

Henry Taylor

Rectr: of Wheatfield [1737-46]

I dont remember that I ever inform'd your Lordship that I hold this Living in Trust for a nephew of Mr: Rudge<sup>4</sup> who is now a Minor.

<sup>1</sup>Edward Rudge F.R.S. (1703-63), subsequently M.P. for Evesham, of Wheatfield.

<sup>2</sup>R. 1722-37.

<sup>3</sup>The Rector's correspondence with Secker on this matter is to be found in MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers c. 651 f. 23-4.

<sup>4</sup>Benjamin Rudge (1725-1807) R. 1750-1807.

#### WHITECHURCH

1. That part of this Parish, which lies in the County of Oxford, extends to about 1900 Acres, and contains between 80 and 90 houses, about half of which lie near to each other and to the Church, the rest are dispers'd. The chief Families are those of John Wallis Esqr Philip Powys Esqr, and Anthony Whistler, Lord of the Mannor.  
The other part of this Parish, lying in the County of Berks, is the Estate of Francis Hawes Esqr,<sup>1</sup> on which is situated his Farm House great part of his Mansion House. The Lands are so dispersed, and so intermixed with those of the adjoining Parishes of Purley and Sulham, that I cannot give ay certain account of the quantity.
2. The Papists in this Parish are one Single man and two married Women. The Children of these marriages are one Son and three Daughters. The



Daughters, according to the usual practice, follow the religion of their Mothers and this is the only way by which this religion is propagated here. The place to which they resort for worship is Maple-derham. Further I know not.

3. There are no Presbyterians, Independents, or Anabaptists in this Parish.
4. There are no Quakers in this Parish, nor ever have been that I know of.
5. There are several persons, of ordinary rank, who shew a disregard to religion by seldom or never attending ye publick worship: but I know of no motives or principles upon which they do so, but such as are comon to all other parishes. The number of absenters must be suppos'd to be increased; that of the Inhabitants being much greater than formerly, to such a degree that the Church will not conveniently hold one half of them.
6. I ordinarily reside upon my Cure, but not in the Parsonage House that being occupied by the Farmer of the Glebe and Tythes. I usually Spend some of the Sum̄er months at a House I have in Wiltshire, at the distance of about four and forty Miles. Edward Peach, M.A. is my Curate, and always resident, and has been so for almost fifteen Years, but was never requir'd to take a Licence. He serves no other Cure. The Salary I allow him is Forty Guineas p. annum, besides a House, in which he lives with his family, of the value of Ten Guineas more.
7. Public Service is duly perform'd twice every Lord's day, one Sermon preach'd Prayers are likewise read on Wednesdays and Fridays and all Holy days. There is no Chapel in the Parish. The Children, being taught the Catechism at School, are heard to repeat it in the Church on Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent. The Catechism is not professedly expounded. There are none who frequent publick worship and are not baptized. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administred five times in the Year. The number of Communicants upon each of the three great Festivals is usually about fifty: upon the Sunday after Easter and the Sunday after Michaelmas the numbers are ten.
8. There is no Free School, Hospital or Alms House in this Parish.
9. There are three Schools in this Parish where Children are taught to read. The number is uncertain, but none of the Poor of either sex are rejected. The Offertory money so far as it will go, is applied to that use. Besides their reading they are taught to say the Catechism. Cloaths and Books have been occasionally given by private charity. Other provision there is none.
10. 26th Novem 1602 Augustin Knappe of Rotherfield Pyparde gave by Will a Rent charge of Twenty Shillings paid for ever, issuing out of 2 messuages in Rotherfield Greys payable to the Church Wardens of Whitechurch for cloathing poor people. This is paid and dispos'd of accordingly.
- 31 Oct 1612 Joan Widow of Richard Lybbe of Hardwick Esqr gave by will a Rent charge of Ten Shillings paid for ever, issuing out of a Tenement in Goring for the use of the Poor of Whitechurch. This money was distributed in 1641 and 1642 but I find no account of it being receiv'd since.

Dr Thomas Singleton<sup>2</sup> Rector of this Church, gave by Will (a clause of which was entred in ye Parish Register ye 10 Apr 1615) Five Pounds for a Stock for the Poor If this legacy was ever paid in it is long since lost.

5 Feb 1714 John Horn of this parish gave by Will a House and Land in this Parish of about Fifty Shillings p. annum value, to buy Shoes for the Poor for ever. The premises were never recover'd for the use of the Poor but have since the Testators death pass'd thro the hands of several Purchasers the Title under the Will being defective.

15 Aug 1726 Thomas Cresswell of this Parish gave by Will a Messuage in this Parish (of ye value of about Six pounds paid) to Trustees for ever to buy Coats for 3 Poor Men of this Parish, and 2 of Goring yearly and to pay ten shillings for an annual Sermon in this Church on St Thomas day. This gift does not take place till after the death of Mary Scudamore who is yet living.

Jan 1737 Mary Neighbour of this Parish Widow, gave by Will a Rent charge of Twenty Shillings paid for ever issuing out of a Messuage in this Parish to be dispos'd of yearly on Good Friday viz To the Minister of this Parish Ten shillings for a Sermon, to the Parish Clerk One Shilling To Six Poor Widows Eighteen pence each. This is paid accordingly.

11. The money given at the Offertory is dispos'd of by me for teaching poor children to read, as in ye answer to the 9th article.
12. I have nothing further to add.

S. Walker Rector of Whitechurch [1723-68]  
27 July 1738

<sup>1</sup>V.C.H. Berks. I p. 421.

<sup>2</sup>R. 1596-1610, Principal of Brasenose College 1593-1614, Vice-Chancellor 1598 and 1611-14, Canon of St. Paul's 1597, and of Hereford 1604, R. of Whitechurch, Salop 1609-14.

#### WIGGINGTON

1. The Extent of the Parish is something more than a mile—No Hamlet belonging to it—The Number of Houses is about 40—No Family of Note in it.
2. There is not any Papist in the Parish.
3. There is not any Presbyterian or Independent in the Parish ; Anabaptists there are in Number about 12—of no considerable Rank—They have no Meeting House in the Parish—Their Number is much the same as it hath been for several Years past.
4. There is but one Quaker in the Parish who hath always paid his legal Dues without Compulsion.—No Meeting House in the Parish.
5. None
6. I do not reside in the Parish having no Conveniency of Boarding there—The Distance at which I am from it is 4 mile ; but I have frequent Opportunities of hearing from thence, as I live in a Market Town ; So that I am able conveniently enough to perform all the Duties both in the Church and Parish. I am not licensed, and I humbly hope Your Lordship will not insist upon my being licensed ; for my Continuance upon the Cure is very precarious ; the Rector himself being soon expected to reside, who will then have no further need of my Service.—I serve no other Cure—the Salary allow'd me is 30 Pound a Year.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice ev'ry Lord's Day in the Church and one Sermon preach'd—Prayers on no Day beside—The Church of Milcomb, a mile distant from Wigginton, is wholly taken care of by the

Ministers of Bloxham and Wigginton: the Duty which falls to the Share of the Minister of Wigginton is only to read Prayers, and preach a Sermon there one Sunday in ev'ry month ; the rest of the Duty belongs entirely to the Minister of Bloxham—The Parishioners send their Children and Servants to be Catechized in the Church every Sunday in Lent. I have expounded it to them myself. Some few Anabaptists come to Church, when the Weather is so bad, that they cannot go to their Meeting House. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is administered Three times ev'ry Year viz, on Christmas Day, Easter Day, and Whitsunday; The Number of those, who usually receive it, does not exceed Eight.

8. None
9. There is a School in the Parish, kept by a Woman, to which the Rector sends four Children, and the Curate two at their own Expense, where they are taught to read; they are lodged, fed and cloath'd by their Parents; and as soon as they can read, are taken from School, and Others are sent in their Room.
10. None.
11. There is not any Money given.
12. I know of Nothing more for your Lordship's Information  
Hudson Martin  
Curate of Wigginton.  
[R. Francis Payne 1729-75]

## WILCOT

1. The parish of Wilcot is abt. 2 Miles in Circumference, contains 3 Houses, two of wch are inhabited—No Family of Note.
2. Their is neither papist, presbyterian, Independent Anabaptist or Quaker in ye parish.
3. None as mentioned in ye foregoing Query.
4. None as above mention'd
5. I believe all ye parishioners regularly attend divine Service in ye Church.
6. I do not reside upon my Cure, neither is there any House belonging to it. The place of my residence is at Charlbury, two miles distant from it, where I teach a Gramar School to wch. I was presented by Braze-Nose Coll : Oxon. Mr Hutchins of Lincoln Coll: Oxon is my Curate to whom I give ten pounds pr. Year. The whole of ye living of Wilcot by Composition amounting to no more than twenty one pounds ten Shillings pr. Year.
7. Divine Service is performed but once every Lords Day and one Sermon preach'd, wch. is in ye Afternoon.—The Sacrament of ye Lords Supper is administered 4 Times every Year.
8. There is no Free-School Hospital &c.
9. There is none
10. No Lands, Tenements or Tithes &c have at any time been given yt I can learn.
11. The Money at ye Offertory is dispos'd of to ye poor of ye parish.
12. The Answers to ye foregoing Queries are true, as far as I can get intelligence.

Witness my Hand J Arrowsmith Rectr. of Wilcot

[R. 1734-61]

## WINDLEBURY

1. The Parish consists of two small street but the Liberties or Limits of ye feild of Wendlebury are above six miles in circuit, and are supposed to contain about two Square Miles. Here are Two and Thirty houses contiguous. No Hamlet. No family of note.
2. Here are none.
3. Here are none.
4. Here are none.
5. Here are some who frequently absent themselves from the publick worship of the Church on the Lord's Day upon ordinary or idle pretences, but not from any evil motive or principle as I hope and am persuaded.
6. I reside constantly and at ye Parsonage.
7. The morning and evening Service are duly performed and one Sermon preached every Lord's day; and prayers are here read upon all Festivals and Fasts generally. Here is no Chapel. I have not observed the times appointed by the Rubric, nor any certain times, for Catechizing; and (I think) could not, considering the impediments. If the occasions which I have taken for Catechizing have been less frequent than they might have been, the fault, I believe, is mine only, and I can lay no part of ye blame upon my Parishioners—At such times I have usually taken upon me to expound in some sort myself and have likewise furnished my Catechumens with Lewis's printed Exposition.<sup>1</sup> The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is here administred four times in ye year, at the three great Festivals and at Michaelmas. The biggest number of Communicants which I have had at one time was Two and Forty, and the least Thirteen.
8. Here is none
9. Here is not
10. There are in the common field of Wendlebury seven Lands by Estimation three Acres and a half wch were given (AD 1573) by William Brownrigg (then Minister of Wendlebury) in trust to certain Feoffees for ye benefit of ye Poor of this Parish; which trust has been from time to time renewed, and is now executed by the present Trustees agreeably to the Donors intention; The Revenue of ye said lands (wch is 35sh per ann.) being by them distributed once a year amongst ye Poor.  
There has been since also given to ye Poor of Wendlebury by three several persons and at different times, ye several sums of £5, £10, and £5 wch sums amounting in ye whole to £20 have been usually placed out together at Interest, and ye Interest thereof distributed once a Year to ye said Poor. But ye Principal money at this time lies dead, having been lately paid in and deposited in the hands of the Church-wardens.  
There is also what is called the Prentice money, said to be £5 pr. ann. charged upon an estate of £40 pr. ann. in ye parish of — in ye County of — given formerly by one — Bowell for placing out poor Children apprentices to be chosen annually and alternately out of Parishes of Wendlebury Bicester and Chesterton. But for further particulars relating to this matter I must refer to the accounts to be given in from Bicester and Chesterton this being all ye information I can hitherto get at Wendlebury, where (perhaps for want of due enquiry after it) this money has not been received these — Years.
11. Here is none given

12. Nothing else occurs to me, of which it is necessary to trouble your Lordship

I am, my Lord,  
Your Lordships Most dutiful Son and Servant  
Robt. Welborne. [R. 1730-64]

<sup>1</sup>Cf. BAMPTON p. 14.

#### WITNEY

1. The Parish of Witney includes three other Villages or Hamlets Hayly, Curbridge, Crawly, and some part of Caswell Grounds belonging to Ld Wenman.<sup>1</sup> The Circuit of the whole Parish, as it was measur'd at the last perambulation in the Year 1734, is 24 Miles round. The Number of Houses in Witney, that are inhabited, are about 350 in Haly 170, in Curbridge 24, in Crawly 26, in all 570. The whole Number of Inhabitants Men Woman and Children are computed to be near 2400. All of them are Tradesmen, Inholders, Farmers, Day Labourers, and Poor. The Earl of Clarendon<sup>2</sup> holds the Manner the [Advowson] the Bp of Winchester, and an Estate of about £1000 per ann.
2. There is but Two small poor Familys of Papists. All the other Questions in this Paragraph are answer'd in the Negative.
3. There are about 40 Familys of Presbyterians, Independents, and Anabaptists. Who all generally go to the Same meeting House in the Town of Witney, where The Teacher, Mr Ward,<sup>3</sup> is reputed to be a Presbyterian, and has a licence as I am informed by some of his Congregation tho I have not seen it, He being absent, Two of the most zealous Familys which have supported the Presbyterian Interest here are extinct, and so are some of lesser Note among the Dissenters, but None of late Years have left the Church, so that their Numbers must decrease Most of 'em come occasionally to Church, especially in Sermon Time. I have once among the Rest seen their Teacher there.
5. There are about 30 Familys of Quakers. My Tenant has always found Means of getting the Tythes, so that I never had any trouble upon that account. None of them will pay their Easter Offerings without Compulsion, but none of them have in my time been put into the Spiritual Court, so that those Dues, wch are but small, have been lost, but may, if it be thought proper, be requir'd for the Future. They have a Meeting House within ye precinct of Witney (where they and their Friends 3 or 4 miles about meet every Sunday) and it is Licenc'd.
5. I know of no One that professes a disregard to Religion upon Principle. But there are severall who commonly, some intirely absent themselves from all publick Worship. Many have been presented and paid their Fees at Court, but have not reform'd upon it. Most of them are concern'd in the Blanketing trade, and are call'd Tuckers, their business lys at the Mills.
6. I reside five Months in the Year upon my Cure and in my own House. Sometime every Year I go to Bath for my health and rest of the Year I divide between my attendance at Westr. and at Ch. Ch. Oxon. I have a Licenc'd Curate constantly residing throughout the Year. His Name is Mr Price, a very worthy man that has been with me about 25 Years. He serves no other Cure. I allow him £40 a year and All Surplice Fees

and Easter Offerings, and make him an allowance for reading Catech. Lectures in Lent, and examining the Children.

7. Publick Service is perform'd twice every Lords day, and two Sermons preach'd. Prayers are read Every Wenesday Friday and Holyday throughout the Year. Theres no Chapell of Ease. Some have come to Ch. before they have been Baptiz'd. 2 Adult persons have been baptiz'd this Summer, who left the Dissenters. The H. Sacrament is administerd 7 times a Year. At Easter the Communicants are about 250, at other times they hardly exceed 100.
8. There is a Free-Grammar-School founded by Mr Henry Box in the Year 1664,<sup>4</sup> with a Salary of £30 p. an. to the Master and a very large House, to the usher £15 and a lodging, to the Writing Master £10. There is an Hospitall for Six poor Blanketer's Widows New-built, with 2sh and 6d per week to each Widow. And a School for teaching 12 poor Children to read and write with a House and £10 per An. to the Master. Both founded by John Holloway in 1723.<sup>5</sup>

These are Govern'd as appointed by the Founders, and the Parish have no care of them

The Grocers Company in London are Governors of the Free School. And the Rector of Witney must always be One of the Trustees for Mr Hollowways Charitys.

9. There is no Voluntary Charity School here. In the Year 1711 I began one for 12 Boys, who were Cloathed and taught to read and write at my Expense, and I contributed to put severall of [them] out as Apprentices; in hopes that I might by degrees have drawn in the Parish to joyn with me in that design, but I cou'd not prevail. I kept it up about six years, and have Changed my Charity into Several Shapes that no Pretence of Custom might be imposed upon my Successors.

Mr Blake of Cogs in ye year 1693 left £6 p. an. for a School Mistress<sup>6</sup> to teach 30 poor children payable by the Owner of Cogs Manner, now Lord Harcourt.<sup>7</sup>

10. There have been left to the Poor of Witney Many Benefactions, all of which, with the names of the Doners, are inscribd in a Table hanging up in the Church. A Copy of all the Doner's Wills is kept in the Parish Chest, under Four Keys in 4 different hands, by the Trustees, who are the Church-Wardens the Overseers of the Poor and the Bailifs for the Time being, Who yearly lay an account before ye Vestry how these Charitys are dispos'd of according to the Will of the Doners, as near as may be.

Some small matter has been lost by lending money to poor Tradesmen that have fail'd. But now they lend to none, but who can find security.

All ye small Summes left, the Interest of wch was given for severall Uses to the Poor, amounted to £500. A Commission for Charitable uses ordered that the said summe of £500 should be employ'd in the purchase of land, and that ye income thence accruing should yearly be disposed of to the poor according to the Intentions of the Several Benefactors. The Land has been purchased and the Revenue distributed, as order'd.

11. Tis dispos'd of by the Minister and Church Wardens, generally to ye poor that attend the Church, sometimes to sick Persons.

[R. Robert Freind<sup>8</sup> 1711-39]

<sup>1</sup>The sixth Viscount Wenman (1719-60), of Thame Park. The Wenmans were originally clothiers of Witney.

<sup>2</sup>The fourth Earl of Clarendon (1672-1753), of Cornbury Park.

<sup>3</sup>John Ward was minister from some time after 1728 until 1747. W. H. Summers, *History of the Congregational Churches in the Berks, South Oxon and South Bucks Association* (1905) pp. 270 f.

<sup>4</sup>The school was founded by Henry Box (d. 1661), a prominent member of the Grocers Company, and his widow Mary, who obtained an Act of Parliament in 1664. *V.C.H. Oxon.* I pp. 478 ff.

<sup>5</sup>The school was founded by the will of John Holloway, of Cripplegate, made in 1723. *ibid.* pp. 489 f. Similarly the almshouse.

<sup>6</sup>Endowed under the will of William Blake in 1693. *ibid.* p. 489.

<sup>7</sup>The second Viscount and subsequently first Earl Harcourt (1714-72), of Nuneham Park.

<sup>8</sup>Robert Freind (1667-1751), Headmaster of Westminster School 1711-33, Canon of Windsor 1729, Prebendary of Westminster 1731, Canon of Christ Church 1737. *D.N.B.*

#### WOOD EATON

1. The Parish of Wood Eaton is of small Extent, it comprehends about twelve Houses ; Mr Nourse the only Person of Note in it.
2. There is one Papist a Farmer.
3. There is no Presbyterian in the Parish.
4. There are no Quakers in my Parish.
5. None.
6. I reside upon my Cure of Holton, five miles distant from Wood Eaton ; Mr Geering Fellow of Trinity College in Oxford is my Curate. I allow Him eighteen Guineas p. Ann.
7. Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lords day, and one Sermon preached. Prayers are read on Ash-Wednesday, Good Friday, the Holy-days after Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide, and on the State Holydays. There are no Children to be catechized. The Sacrament is administred five times in the Year. Sometimes six or eight, at other times ten or twelve Persons receive it.
8. There is no Free-School, Hospital or Alms-House in My Parish.
9. There is no voluntary Charity-school.
10. Mrs Pitt left five hundred pounds to build and endow an Alms-House the money is not yet paid in
11. There is no money given
12. None

Tho: Finch Rector [1735-51]

#### WOODSTOCK v. BLADEN

#### WOOLVERCOTT

1. Answ: Our Parish is reacon'd to contain 27 Yardlands, each Yardland consisting of about 16 Acres: It comprehends about 40 houses, and no other Village, but what goes by the name of Wolvercot: There is, I think no Family of note in it

27

16

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162

27

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432

2. Ans: There is not, that I know of, any Papist in our Parish. There is no place in our Parish, in which Papists assemble for Worship; nor doth any Popish Priest reside in our parish or resort to it. There is no Popish School kept in our Parish; Nor hath any Confirmation or Visitation been lately held in our Parish by any Popish Bishop.
3. Ans: There is not, that I know of, any Presbyterian, Independent or Anabaptist in our Parish. No such have any meeting house in our Parish.
4. Ans: There is not that I know of any Quaker in our Parish. No Quakers have any meeting house in our Parish.
5. Ans: There are no Persons, that I know of, in our Parish who profess to disregard Religion, or who, in a notorious manner, commonly absent themselves from all publick Worship of God, on the Lord's Day.
6. Ans: I do not constantly reside upon my Cure, or in any house belonging to it. I am generally absent from it excepting when publick service in the Church or Visiting the Sick or other special occasions require my attendance. I reside about a mile and a half distant at Merton College in Oxford of which I am a Fellow. The reason of such absence from my Cure is partly because the Income of it is not a sufficient maintenance, it being no more than twenty pounds a year and partly because I am known to live at so small distance from it. It have no licensed Curate residing in the Parish.
7. Ans: Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lords day in our Church, and one Sermon preach'd. Prayers are also read there on Christmas Day, Good Friday and on other days, when it is customary and reasonable to expect a suitable congregation. There is no Chapel in our Parish. I catechise in the Church, as often as the Parishioners send their children and servants, who have not learn'd their Catechism to be instructed by me. They generally send them on some sundays in time of Lent. I expound the Catechism, as far as seems convent., myself, without using any printed exposition. There is not that I know of any person who frequents publick worship and is not baptised. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administered four times a year. I judge that about twenty persons usually receive it each time.
8. Ans: There is no Free-School, Hospital or Alms-House in our Parish.
9. Ans: There is no voluntary Charity School in our Parish.
10. Ans: There have been Lands to the value of nine pounds a year given for the use of our poor Parishioners. They are carefully preserved and applyd to that use and to no other. Besides these Lands, there have not, that I know of, any Lands, Tenements, Tithes, Pensions or Sums of Money to be placed out at interest, been given at any time to our Church or Poor.
11. Ans: The Money given at the Offertory is disposed of by the Minister and Church-Wardens jointly, and is, by them, distributed among those poor Parishioners, who seem most worthy to partake of the Alms.
12. Ans: I know of no other Matter, of which it maybe proper to give Your Lordship information besides what follows. It has been the custom, for a Fellow of Jesus College, appointed thereto by that Society to preach and perform publick Service in our Church, every other Sunday, alternately with the Minister of the Parish. When or for what reason this custom first began I cannot expressly say: But I have undoubted information from the Parishioners, that it has obtained beyond their



memory and for above fifty years past, till within these four years. The Custom is now ceas'd, but, I think, no good reason has yet been given for the ceasing of it. The only reason, that I ever heard of, is this, That, in former times, there was a Lecture every Thursday in our Parish, there being twelve pounds a year given to a Fellow of Jesus College, as Lecturer of Wolvercot. Granting this to be true (tho I think there is no proof of the Lectures being appointed to be read on Thursdays) Yet, I think, it is no good reason for the custom's ceasing, especially since the Pension still subsists and there is no Lecture at all read. I trust that the matter, of which I now inform Your Lordship, will not appear foreign to this Question, especially, as it seems properly to relate to the 12th Article of the first Title of the Articles of Visitation

WOOTTON

1. My Lord,  
In answer to yr Lordships first Article of Enquirie. The whole Compass of ye Parish of Wootton is, according to nearest Computation we can make, about fifteen or sixteen miles. Old Woodstock, Dornford, Horley, Ludwell Littleworth and Woodlays all belong to the said Parish. The Number of Familys about an hundred and nine. Those of Note are Sr Charles Crisp's<sup>1</sup> and Mr Beestone's.
2. I know of no Papists in ye Parish.
3. We have I believe about five or six Presbyterians. Their Number is not increas'd of late years that I know of. No Independents or Anabaptist.
4. I know of no Quaker in the Parish.
5. I know of none who profess a disregard to Religion, but some there are who seldom appear at the Public Worship on the Lords-day. The Motives I presume are a Want of the due Sense of their Duty.
6. I reside constantly upon my Cure, and in the House belonging to it.
7. One Sermon has been constantly preach'd and public Service perform'd twice every Lords-day (except one or two days, as I remember, and that in Case of Sickness) since my being possess'd of the Living. Prayers are read upon most Holy days, and on other occasions, as there is a Prospect of a Congregation. I catchise and expound yearly during ye Lent Season. I know of none unbaptised. The Sacrament is administred five times a year and commonly about 3 or 4 score comunicants at a time.
8. No Free-School Hospital or Alms-House.
9. No Charity School.
10. We have in ye Parish some Land and Houses to the Value of abt nine pound a year, comonly call'd Church Land but by whom first bequeath'd, and for what purpose does not any where appear that I can find. Out of the Rents arising from hence the Clerks Salary, for looking after the Church and Clock, and the Wine used at the Comunion are paid yearly. I am not altogether satisfied that this is right, and should therefore be glad of your Lordships directions—if thought necessary. We have some Legacys to the Poor of about Fifty pounds, the Interest of wch is regularly distributed amongst them every Easter.
11. The Money given at the Offertory is constantly dispos'd of to the Poor, a proper regard being had to as many Comunicants as are objects of Charity, and to the remainder to such as are thought to want it most.

The distribution is often made by myself, but by no means exclusive of the Church-wardens if disposed to join in it.

12. I can recollect nothing more at present, but what falls more immediately under the Inspection of the Church-Wardens.

I am My Lord

Your Lordship's Most dutyfull Son and Servant

Tho: Lee [R. 1720-55]

<sup>1</sup>Sir Charles Crispe, 5th Bart. (c. 1680-1740), of Dornford, Wootton.

#### OVER-WORTON

1. The Parish is commonly computed to be about half a Mile in Diameter, and a mile and half in Circumference. It is a single Village, and comprehends three Houses, and six small Cottages ; some of which are inhabited by a single Old woman, or an Old man and His Wife. There lives not a Free holder in ye Parish, except the Rector.
2. There is one Papist in ye Parish, Daughter to a poor Cottager, who is suppos'd to have been perverted to Popery by an Elderly Woman, who has since left the Parish. She is suppos'd to resort to Kiddington for divine Worship. No Popish Priest resides or resorts to ye Parish or holds any Confirmation or Visitation in it, as far as I can learn upon ye best Enquiry.
3. There is no Presbyterian, Independent, or Anabaptist in the Parish.
4. No Quakers in the Parish.
5. Four Persons commonly absent themselves from all publick Worship of God on the Lord's Day ; and one, an Old and infirm Widow ; another a Shepherd in Dunstew Field ; a third a Shepherd in ye Parish ; ye Fourth, I fear, professes to disregard Religion, having been often admonish'd to attend divine Worship, tho' all in vain.
6. I reside, as Fellow and Tutor of Brase Nose College, in Oxford, for ye greatest part of ye Year.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd once every Lord's Day in the Church of Over Worton, and one Sermon preach'd ; and I constantly perform publick Service every Ld's day in ye Afternoon at Lower Worton Church. (being but a Quarter of a mile distant from Overworton Church, and a Donative now in ye presentation of ye Duke of Argyle<sup>1</sup>) whither all my Parishioners are invited to go to publick Service, and some do so. I catechise as often as I can prevail on ye Children, or their Parents to let their Children, to be instructed by me. I expound it myself, and distribute printed Expositions for their private use. The Lord's Supper is thrice administred every Year, and seven or eight Persons usually receive it each time.
8. There is no Free School, Hospital or Alms-House in my Parish.
9. No voluntary Charity in ye Parish.
10. A Pension of thirty Shillings and seven pence is annually paid by Thomas Cartwright Esq of Aynho<sup>2</sup> Lord of ye Mannor for ye repair of ye Church and carefully apply'd to that Use and no other.
11. The Money given at the Offertory is, by the Consent of the Rector and Church Warden, dispos'd of to the Parish Clerk, who has a numerous Family of little Children.

## 12. Nothing.

Fr. Yarborough Rector of Over Worton. [1729-39]

<sup>1</sup>The second Duke of Argyll (1680-1743), of Adderbury House. *D.N.B.*<sup>2</sup>Thomas Cartwright (1671-1748), of Aynhoe, Northamptonshire.

## WROXTON

1. (1) The Parish of Wroxton is about five or six miles in circumference.  
 (2) There is one hamlet (Balscot).  
 (3) In Wroxton are contained about 50 houses in Balscot about 20. The number of inhabitants in both between Three and four hundred.  
 (4) There are only Two families of Note Ld. North<sup>1</sup> at Wroxton, Anthony Cope Esq at Balscot.
2. No Papist in the Parish.
3. In Wroxton was formerly a licensed Meeting-house for the Anabaptists, but it has been disused for 15 years and more. During which time I have baptized about half a score adults of that persuasion with their children, the rest have been yearly dying off, so that at present there is only one Anabaptist family (Carpenter a Blacksmith, a rich and shrewd fellow;) I dont hear of his making any converts, on the Contrary his Children often come to Church. There are no other Sectaries in the Parish.
4. There are no Quakers in the Parish.
5. The people in general conform to the publick worship, tho' not so constantly as they ought.
6. I supply the Cure myself. I reside in the Lord North's family, there having never been a house for the Minister that I could hear of. I receive £30 p. ann. from the said Lord, it being one of the conditions of his lease of the Tythes, from Christ Church in Oxford.
7. 1. Publick Service is performed once every Sunday at Wroxton, and one Sermon preached generally in the morning. The Parishioners by reason of their business in the field cannot attend prayers on Holidays. But in the Ld North's family prayers are performed twice every day.  
 2. In the Chapel at Balscot Service used to be performed only once a month, since my coming hither Prayers and Sermon, every Sunday, generally in the afternoon.  
 3. The children are duly Catechised every Lent, The Catechism explained by myself.  
 4. The Sacrament is administred always Three, sometimes Four times in a Year at Wroxton, Three times at Balscot. The number of Communicants at Wroxton between 20 and 30. At Balscot about half that number.
8. No Free School &c.
9. No Charity School &c.
10. No Lands &c except One Yard-land, value about £5 p. ann. the income is laid out yearly by the Churchwardens, with the consent of the Minister.
11. The money is disposed of by the Minister with the consent of the Churchwardens, to sick persons, widows, and large families. The Minister keeps a book of Memorandums for that purpose.
12. The Church is a handsome building and kept in good repair, but the Pews, are decayed in good measure, and patched up, and are otherwise

inconvenient, occasioning thereby irreverent behaviour in some. The inhabitants are unwilling, and as they pretend unable to purchase new Pews, I therefore beg Your Lordship's interposition, and the direction of your Officers.

Francis Wise<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The seventh Baron North (1704-90), subsequently first Earl of Guilford.

<sup>2</sup>Keeper of the Archives 1726, Radcliffe's Librarian 1748.

#### YARNETON

1. The Extent of the Parish of Yarnnton is a Mile and a half in Length, and about a Mile and a quarter in Breadth. There is no Village or Hamlet belonging to it. It comprehends 21 houses. There is no Family of Note in it.
2. My Answer to This, and the two following Articles, is, that there is no Papist, Presbyterian, Independent, Anabaptist or Quaker in my Parish.
5. There are no Persons in my Parish who profess to disregard Religion, or who commonly absent themselves from all publick Worship of God on the Lord's Day.
6. The chief of my Residence is at St Mary Magdalen College in Oxford, of wch I am Chaplain ; but my Cure being at no greater Distance from it than three miles, I am generally there two or three Days in every Week.
7. Publick Service is duly perform'd twice every Lord's Day in my Church, and one Sermon preach'd—Prayers are read on St Stephens Day, Easter Monday, Whitmonday, New-Years-Day, the sixth of March, and ye 30th of April, an allowance of £3 a Year being made for reading on the three Days. There is no Chapel in my Parish. I catechize all the Sundays in Lent, and ye first Sunday in Every Month. The Parishioners send their Children to be instructed by me and I expound the Catechism to them. There are no Persons (that I know of) who frequent publick Worship and are not baptised. The Sacramt. of ye Lords Supper is administred eight Times a Year, And about ten or a Dozen Persons usually receive it each Time.
8. There's no Free-School, Hospital or Alms-House in my Parish.
9. There is no voluntary Charity School in my Parish.
10. Sr. Thomas Spencer,<sup>1</sup> who died 1684, left ten Pounds a Year for ever to the Uses following, viz, three Pounds to the successive Vicars of Yarneton upon Condition that they every Year read Morning Prayer on his Birth Day, wch was New-Year's Day ; on the Day of his Death, wch was ye 6th of March ; and on the Day of the Death of his Wife, which was ye 30th of April : And seven Pounds a Year to be applied to the repairing and beautifying the Monuments of his Family, and that Part of the Church where they are erected, if need be, otherwise toward ye Relief and Support of the Poor of the Parish, at the Direction of the Vicar and Church-Wardens for the Time being. This Money is duely paid and carefully applied to the Uses above-mention'd and to no other.
11. The Money given at the Offertory is disposed of to the Poor.
12. There is no other Matter relating to my Parish of which it is proper to give Your Lordship Information.

Richard Hawkins Vicar of Yarnnton. [1733-46]

<sup>1</sup>Sir Thomas Spencer, 3rd Bart (1639-84/5), of Yarnnton. Cf. Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, *Three Oxfordshire Parishes* (O.H.S. 1893) pp. 291 ff.

## YELFORD

Tho: Bonnell<sup>1</sup>

1. The Vicarage of Yelford (as I am informed) has but one House belonging to it. It is a parish by itself, bordering upon Bampton, Standing Harcot, Dugleton Parishes. The Value of it is thirty pounds per ann. Taxes to be paid out of it. The House is a Farm House belonging to Esquire Lental of Burford.<sup>2</sup> They carry their corps to be buried at Bampton and baptise their Children at Yelford. The Value of Brize-Norton is about Fifty pounds a Year Taxes included.
2. The Family that live in the House are all Protestants.
6. The Vicar is the Revd Mr Newcome of New-Elms. The Cure is served by the Curate of Brize Norton once a fortnight in the Afternoon for nine pounds per Ann.
7. The Sacrament is administred three times a Year ; never but very [few] Communicants.

[V. Henry Newcome 1708-50]

<sup>1</sup>Cf. BRIZE-NORTON p. 27.<sup>2</sup>John Lenthall (d. 1763), of Burford Priory.



