

The Correspondence of Bishop Secker



Edited by A.P. Jenkins

THE OXFORDSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY

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Cover illustration: The bishop's palace, Cuddesdon, in 1820. By J.C.
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THE CORRESPONDENCE OF BISHOP SECKER

The Oxfordshire Record Society

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF
THOMAS SECKER,
BISHOP OF OXFORD 1737–58

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FOREWORD

An edition of Thomas Secker's correspondence while bishop of Oxford was mooted soon after the publication by the Society of *Bishop Secker's Visitation Returns* (1738) as its 38th volume in 1957. The sheer amount of material, however, and its dispersal among various repositories presented a formidable editorial problem, compounded by the desirability of producing as full an edition as possible given the rarity of mid 18th-century episcopal correspondence. The project was shelved until in 1977 the Society was fortunate to find in Mr. Jenkins an editor able, fastidious, and dogged enough to meet the challenge. Since then the bishop has accompanied Mr. Jenkins from Oxford to Durham to Northampton to Preston and, finally, to Japan from where he has at last been laid to rest between the covers of this volume. Mr. Jenkins has put all those interested in ecclesiastical history and in the county of Oxford in his debt, and the Society is deeply grateful to him.

The Society wishes also to express its gratitude to the Greening Lamborn Trust, which has made a most handsome contribution to publication costs, and to Exeter College for generously assisting in the publication of the correspondence of a distinguished alumnus.

Oxford, October 1991

Christopher Day
General Editor, O.R.S.

EDITOR'S PREFACE

Many people were extraordinarily kind during the years it took to prepare this volume. I wish in particular to acknowledge the tireless responses to my enquiries made by Mr. Hugh Hanley, County Archivist of Buckinghamshire, Mr. Nicholas Bennett, Cathedral Archivist of Lincoln, Mr. David Smith, County Archivist of Gloucestershire, and above all by Miss Shirley Barnes, former County Archivist of Oxfordshire, and all her staff, especially Mr. Carl Boardman her successor and Dr. Janie Cottis (now of Magdalen College archives). The County Librarians of Buckinghamshire, Lancashire, and Oxfordshire, and Messrs. R. Wand and T. Shaw of the Lancashire and Dr. M. Graham of the Oxfordshire library services, performed acts of kindness beyond the normal calls of duty.

Although at one time we despaired of being able to present the contents of Secker's shorthand passages, we were mercifully saved by Mrs. A. Payne of the British Library who patiently and successfully brought her expertise to bear on the problem in time for publication.

Mr. Steven Tomlinson of the Bodleian Library repeatedly came to my help with information and advice, and provided generous hospitality on my many visits to Oxford to consult sources.

The individual whose guidance, learning and wisdom helped me most is Dr. Molly Barratt. It was she who first suggested the subject for this volume and she has ceaselessly given encouragement and help in many forms over the past thirteen years.

In addition, a large number of archivists, librarians and others eased my task by supplying information and references, and by assisting in the process of checking transcripts. Although too numerous to list individually, their contributions were of great value. I am grateful to all of them.

The manuscripts upon which this volume is based are the property of the Diocese of Oxford, Lambeth Palace Library, the British Library, and the Bodleian Library. I am grateful for their permission to edit and publish them.

These acknowledgements would not be complete without recording my debt to Dr. John Mason and Mr. Christopher Day, successively general editors of this society, for their careful attention to the progress of this volume and for the information which they have kindly supplied. Mr. Day uncomplainingly performed many tail-end tasks properly those of the editor, notably the preparation of the shorthand passages for the printer. My great distance from England made them difficult to accomplish, and has made me all the more grateful to him.

It goes without saying that all the errors and shortcomings contained in this volume stand entirely to my charge.

Although it is not customary in this series, I am pleased to have been allowed to dedicate this edition of Secker's correspondence to the memory of the late Garry Bennett whose tragic death robbed Restoration and Augustan church history of its leading scholar. To him I am indebted for my interest in this subject and for his encouragement in my career as an archivist.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

a.	aged
Account Bk.	Secker's personal account book, 1747-58: Bodleian MS. St. Edmund Hall 55
archbp.	archbishop
<i>Autobiography</i>	J.S. Macauley and R.W. Greaves, eds., <i>Autobiography of Thomas Secker</i> (University of Kansas, 1988)
<i>Bacon</i>	J. Bacon, <i>Liber Regis</i> (London, 1788)
Best	G.F.A. Best, <i>Temporal Pillars: Queen Anne's Bounty, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and the Church of England</i> (Cambridge, 1964)
Bodleian	Bodleian Library, Oxford
B.L.	British Library
B.N.C.	Brasenose College, Oxford
bp.	bishop (of)
C.	curate
Camb.	University of Cambridge
<i>Carter</i>	M. Pennington, ed., <i>A Series of Letters Between Mrs. Elizabeth Carter and Miss Catherine Talbot</i> , 4 vols. (London, 1809)
Ch. Ch.	Christ Church, Oxford
<i>Charity Reports</i>	<i>Reports of the Commissioners to Enquire Concerning Char- ities</i> , Parliamentary Papers, 1815-39
Coll.	college
<i>Compl. Btage</i>	G.E.C[okayne], <i>Complete Baronetage</i> (Exeter, 1906)
<i>Compl. Peerage</i>	G.E.C[okayne], <i>Complete Peerage</i> (London, 1910-59)
Corpus	Corpus Christi College, Oxford
cr.	created
d.	died
dau.	daughter
dioc.	diocese
<i>D.N.B.</i>	<i>Dictionary of National Biography</i>
f.	fellow
<i>Foster</i>	J. Foster, <i>Alumni Oxonienses</i> (Oxford, 1888-92)
<i>Hassall</i>	W.O. Hassall, ed., <i>Wheatley Records</i> , O.R.S. xxxvii (1956)
<i>Henstock</i>	A. Henstock, ed., <i>Diary of Abigail Gawthern of Notting- ham, 1751-1810</i> , Thoroton Rec. Soc. xxxiii (1980)
<i>Hist. Parl.</i>	R. Sedgwick, <i>History of Parliament: the House of Commons, 1715-54</i> , 2 vols. (London, 1970)
<i>History</i>	L.S. Sutherland and L.G. Mitchell, eds., <i>History of the University of Oxford</i> , vol. v (Oxford, 1986)

inc.	incorporated
Jenkins	J.G. Jenkins, <i>The Dragon of Whaddon</i> (High Wycombe, 1953)
Longden	H.I. Longden, ed., <i>Northamptonshire and Rutland Clergy from 1500</i> (Northampton, 1942)
L.P.L.	Lambeth Palace Library
m.	matriculated
Macray	W.D. Macray, ed., <i>Register of the Members of St. Mary Magdalen College</i> (London, 1894)
McClatchey	D. McClatchey, <i>Oxfordshire Clergy, 1777-1868</i> (Oxford, 1960)
O.A.P.	Oxford Archdeaconry Papers, in O.R.O.
O.D.P.	Oxford Diocesan Papers, in O.R.O.
O.H.S., n.s.	Oxford Historical Society, new series
Oldfield	W.J. Oldfield, 'Clerus Diocesis Oxoniensis' (MS. list of diocesan clergy, in Bodleian Library)
O.R.O.	Oxfordshire Record Office
O.R.S.	Oxfordshire Record Society
P.C.	perpetual curate
Pennington	M. Pennington, <i>Memoirs of the Life of Mrs Eliz. Carter</i> , 2 vols. (London, 1825)
Peyton	S.A. Peyton, ed., <i>Churchwardens' Presentments in the Oxfordshire Peculiars of Dorchester, Thame, and Banbury</i> , O.R.S. x (1928)
Porteus	B. Porteus, <i>Works of Thomas Secker</i> , 6 vols. (London, 1825)
pres.	president
Q.A.B.	Queen Anne's Bounty
R.	rector
resp.	respectively
S.E.H.	St. Edmund Hall
Stokes	F.G. Stokes, ed., <i>Blechley Diary of the Revd. William Cole, 1765-7</i> (London, 1931)
subs.	subscribed
TO	Thomas Oxford (Secker)
Univ.	University College, Oxford
V.	vicar
v.c.	Vice-Chancellor
V.C.H.	<i>Victoria County History</i>
Venn	J. and J.A. Venn, <i>Alumni Cantabrigienses</i> (Cambridge, 1922-54)
Vis. Retns.	H.A. Lloyd Jukes and E.P. Baker, eds., <i>Bishop Secker's Visitation Returns, 1738</i> , O.R.S. xxxviii (1957)

INTRODUCTION

THOMAS SECKER AND THE DIOCESE OF OXFORD

Although not the only one to do so, Thomas Secker (1693–1768) crossed a very remarkable divide in English society: he had been born into a dissenting yeoman family, yet he rose to the highest clerical office in the Church of England. How, by the age of 65, had he managed to become archbishop of Canterbury from such origins? The answer lies in a number of factors. First, he was a man of considerable intelligence which had been matched by educational opportunities and achievement. He had attended several dissenters' academies, and then proceeded first to medical studies at Leiden and Paris, and thereafter, though perfunctorily, to Exeter College, Oxford, having embraced Anglicanism in 1720. Secondly, he had made some invaluable personal connections, most notably with the Talbot family which then claimed a bishop of Durham and, a little later, a lord chancellor. Thirdly, he was a man whose character included ambition and a sometimes withheld charm, a capacity for hard work and an ability to manage men. Perhaps the most telling qualification was his connection with the Talbots, which led to early and valuable preferment in the diocese of Durham. His progress thence to a royal chaplaincy, the rectory of St. James, Piccadilly, the bishoprics of Bristol and Oxford, the deanery of St. Paul's, and finally the archbishopric is too well documented to require any elaboration here. The details are accessible in the *D.N.B.* and in the introduction to the edition of his Bristol diocese book,¹ each based, at least in part, upon Beilby Porteus's account of Secker's life and character.² This, in turn, was partly based upon Secker's memoirs which have now been published.³

Poorly endowed sees such as Oxford, Bristol and the four in Wales were usually reserved for those entering upon an episcopal career. Such fledgling bishops would probably have hopes of early promotion. Indeed, the nine Oxford episcopates between 1663 and 1717, the consecration year of Secker's immediate predecessor, John Potter, had lasted on average only a little more than 5½ years, with four lasting only two years or less. Between 1663 and 1799 the average was nine years, or just over seven if Potter's and Secker's long tenures are excluded.⁴

In the light of these short episcopates prior to Bishop Potter and, perhaps, of the anti-ministry stance of the university, Secker wrote at Gloucester on June 29, 1737:

To tread in the steps of my Predecessor is to be Bishop of Oxford two and twenty years. What fancies one might come to have by the end of that time, I cannot foretell . . .⁵

He had already spent two years at Bristol and in terms of remuneration did not significantly increase his income on being translated to Oxford in 1737.⁶ George II's unfounded suspicion of Secker's relationship with Frederick, Prince of Wales, is the well-known and usually accepted explanation for Secker's remaining there for a lengthy twenty-one years. Indeed, after eighteen years at Cuddesdon Palace he appears to have abandoned hopes of promotion, as a copy letter written on May 13, 1755, from Gloucester seems to indicate. An unidentified letter to him had asked for his response to the possibility of a move from Oxford. Looking back, Secker was able to reflect as follows:

As Bishop of Oxford, I have not much work on my Hands. And though I lie among the Children of Men that are set on Fire, they have given me but little Disquiet & one may hope will rather grow cooler than hotter. My income is sufficient for me. And haveing scarce any Patronage, I have scarce any Sollicitations.⁷

Despite a hint of *ennui* towards the diocese and a declaration that it did not impose upon his time, it would be quite wrong to imagine that the bishopric stagnated during Secker's years. He set himself the early task of becoming master of all pertinent information about the diocese, its personnel and its assets in every form, both through the time-honoured but, in his case, carefully designed and executed medium of the primary visitation, and through minute scrutiny of papers either personally or by employing antiquarians such as Browne Willis and Thomas Sympson. It is a serious loss to historians that the speculum known to have been compiled from such data for this diocese is now missing. Like its surviving counterparts which Secker drew up for Bristol and Canterbury, it would have been an accumulated compendium of data on the parishes, their churches, clergy, charities, problems and so on, and further evidence for Secker's untiring diligence as ordinary.⁸

Secker's stewardship of the diocese can briefly be viewed in terms, first, of his management of external relations, secondly his relations with the diocesan clergy, thirdly the diocesan officers, fourthly his contacts and dealings with the laity, and fifthly what seem to be his special areas of interest and his contribution to the growth of the church.

A. External Relations

In the world of politics a bishop was a man of business: he was made a prelate to reward his past and future political loyalty, and spent half the year or more in London in order to attend the House of Lords and perhaps the

court also. His promotion depended in part upon continued loyalty, not to mention his ability to flatter and to manage the system of reciprocal favours.⁹ Thus Secker, like other bishops, should have been no novice in the style needed in the management of external relations.¹⁰ In this volume, the most obvious relations are those with bodies claiming peculiar jurisdiction within the diocese, with the University of Oxford, with Worcester College, and with the Office of Queen Anne's Bounty.

Although the diocese fell within the province of Canterbury a bishop was, subject to the limits of ecclesiastical law, largely autonomous in matters of routine administration. Nevertheless, a quick glance at a parish map of Oxfordshire shows a considerable area of external influence in the form of peculiar jurisdictions. The most significant of these were Banbury comprising six parishes, Dorchester eleven, Thame four, and the handful of churches claimed by Lincoln College, Oxford. For Secker, as for his predecessors, these particular peculiars were an irritant since their claims to partial or complete independence from him appeared in varying degrees unsubstantiable. Having set out to challenge their status, Secker pursued his arguments vigorously in each case, with the exception of Dorchester, until he left the diocese. Of course, as an authoritarian and a rationalist, it is arguable that Secker's pride and sense of order were piqued by their existence.

The claims of Lincoln College that the clergy of St. Michael's and of All Saints in Oxford, and of Combe, were beyond the bishop's jurisdiction consumed his energies the longest. Secker's patient and judicious yet dogged handling of the matter, seemingly not reciprocated by the college fellows, was in his time fruitless.¹¹ Similarly unproductive were his arguments over Banbury and Thame, peculiars of the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln, where Secker claimed the rights of institution in place of the bishop of Lincoln.¹² In the case of Thame, where the patron was Earl Granville, Secker admitted that his defeat in establishing his right was probably much influenced by his lack of favour at Court.¹³ On the other hand, he was successful in quashing attempts to revive peculiar jurisdictions which had lapsed, as for example in the case of Cogges,¹⁴ and in getting Magdalen College to accept his right to license its curates at Horspath.¹⁵

Secker's relations with the university were problematic for two reasons: its politics, and its performance as the main 'seminary' for Oxford diocesan clergy. First, politics: the Jacobite rising of 1745 took place eight years after Secker had become bishop of Oxford. The prevalent mood at the university was anti-Hanoverian, and this rendered it deeply mistrusted by all of George II's ministries. Thus the man chosen by the government to be bishop of Oxford had a special brief, to observe and, where possible, to influence, opinion within the university. These letters show that Secker fairly regularly received information on details of Oxford's internal politics, for example on intrigues on the important issue of college headship

elections, his source generally being Daniel Burton.¹⁶ Although Secker had his connections with men such as John Conybeare, rector of Exeter College and later dean of Christ Church, and Thomas Pardo, principal of Jesus College, and he resided early in his episcopate with Philip Barton at Christ Church, he nevertheless seems to have accepted the limited regard in which he was held by most of the university and therefore avoided any rash sallies into its affairs.

Secondly, the university as a source of clergy: technically the university was a body external to the bishop's sphere of jurisdiction, yet it was essential to the functioning of the diocese in that it supplied the great majority of its parochial clergy. This was a matter of deep concern to Secker since he was dissatisfied with the educational provision for ordinands who had not proceeded beyond B.A. or M.A. to B.D. or D.D. There are no direct references in this volume to his opinion of general educational standards at the university, but the statements of Catherine Talbot, his protégée, may well be taken to reflect his views. On July 29, 1745 she wrote '... our young people are idle at the universities ...' and on Nov. 26, 1754:

For pity's sake, if you [Elizabeth Carter] will be a tutor all your life, put on a coat and a square cap, and come and be a tutor at Oxford ... the university would be absolutely reformed in a few years ...¹⁷

Professor Greaves has traced the troublesome course by which Archbishop Secker was eventually able to achieve the provision of theological lectures for undergraduates and resident B.A.s intending to take holy orders, trouble which as archbishop he would have been better able to provoke and endure than as bishop of Oxford.¹⁸

While Lincoln College professed pride in rarely troubling its visitor,¹⁹ the fellows of Worcester College made great use of theirs as section (ix) of this volume shows. Secker, with the vice-chancellor and the bishop of Worcester, was *ex officio* joint-visitor, and was left by the others to handle day-to-day issues. He dealt with problems in a businesslike way on the basis of a strict and literal interpretation of college statutes. There is no hint in the correspondence that he directly exploited his position to gain greater influence in the university, although his patient and courteous attendance upon this new college's affairs may have enhanced any incipient reputation he had for being meticulously fair-minded.

Secker energetically and successfully managed a very different kind of external authority in order to achieve significant material advantage for some of his clergy. This was the Office of Queen Anne's Bounty established only a few decades earlier to augment the lowest clergy incomes. In this collection of letters the best documented case is the chapelry of Wheatley for which Secker had rectorial responsibility. About ten parishes in Oxfordshire are mentioned in this context with evidence

here to suggest that he also took a particularly close and active interest in Chislehampton and Stadhampton, Beckley, Barford St. Michael, and Benson.²⁰

While bishop of Oxford, Secker was also until 1750 a notable Westminster rector, and then a dedicated dean of St. Paul's. He devoted much time to daily riding and family reading, and to his own scriptural studies. In addition, for example, he committed himself in bursts between 1749 and 1757 to the time-consuming supervision of Elizabeth Carter's editing of Epictetus.²¹ These activities add to our appreciation of his astonishing level of sustained energy, his patience, conscientiousness, persistence, and application of reason. Whether he was successful as in his dealing with the Office of Queen Anne's Bounty and in his avoidance of any quarrels with the university, or less successful as in his challenges to the continuance of the peculiars, admiration for him has to be acknowledged. The readiness with which his successor, Bishop Hume, was prepared in 1761 to sign away his claims to rights at Thame, over which Secker had struggled so hard, contrasts the average, or even mediocre, with the outstanding.²²

B. The Diocesan Clergy

On the evidence of these letters, and appropriately for a bishop, the principal object absorbing Secker's attention was his own clergy and matters arising from their stewardship of their parishes. Letters relating to this major area should be viewed in the light of his five visitation charges delivered between 1738 and 1753.²³ In part, the contents of the charges represent his accumulated understanding of the kinds of difficulty faced by the clergy, and in part they represent his vision of the life of the church which he wished the parish clergy to make their own, a vision incorporating both a reaffirmation of well-established ideals and new directions. There is advice *inter alia* on study, conversation and manners, attitudes to other denominations, preaching and teaching, the place of holy communion, the example of the early church, the need to support the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the evils of resignation bonds, the appropriate attitude to synodals and procurations, the proper stewardship of benefice income and church and charity property, the due observation of joint responsibilities with churchwardens, the maintenance of church fabric, and even the moral perils of unsupervised choir practice.

Thus, in gracious and flattering terms, Secker's standards and general expectations of his clergy were explicitly expounded in the charges. However, his correspondence often adds finer point and wider range to our understanding of his priorities. It is in the letters that we encounter his frequently intransigent demands concerning pastoral duties, and the extent of his regulation of the clergy. Paramount was full residence fulfilled either by the incumbent or by his curate, and from this followed Sunday duty, i.e. 'whole duty' which comprised two services including one sermon.²⁴ Where

this failed, Secker was inquisitorial in discovering the reasons, and uncompromisingly prescriptive in setting matters to rights.²⁵

With regard to the regulation of the clergy, Secker's sense of his rôle as diocesan was affronted when he discovered he had been unaware that an incumbent intended to, or had, employed a curate. This matter obviously led to some discussion among the clergy since the distinction between a curate and an 'assistant' was made in 1750 both by William Stockwood and Henry Whitfield.²⁶ Stockwood thereby maintained that a resident incumbent could employ the latter independently of the bishop. It is implicitly clear that Secker required all curates, however denominated, to be properly licensed or formally excused. Furthermore, he refused to allow clerics on more than a certain stipend to serve a second curacy.²⁷ Beyond this, he expected his clergy to have a high view of their calling; for example, he deeply resented them placing other commitments, such as sitting on Window and Land Tax appeal commissions, as in the cases of Thomas Leigh and William Stockwood in 1750, above their duty to the church and to him during his visitation.²⁸ Mention is made earlier of the reports submitted to him on the clergy whereby he could issue advice or instructions.

Diana McClatchey, in her *Oxfordshire Clergy, 1777-1869*, analysed their social, economic, administrative, political and educational rôles, as well as their pastoral functions and failings. These letters, covering the middle years of the eighteenth century, provide a range of illustrative, and, in some instances, case-study, evidence for clergy activity in comparable spheres. However, an issue which she raises poses more questions which deserve to be explored. They are entailed in her caveat on the university and diocese of Oxford, and relate to the clergy:

It would be misleading to regard [her] account as typical of the state of affairs in other rural counties. The existence of the university set the stamp of uniqueness upon the county of Oxford . . .²⁹

Let us set aside any questions about the dioceses adjacent to Cambridge and the remarkably small amount of material in this volume relating to most Oxford city parishes. With so many college livings and so many cases of college fellows acting as curates, the existence of the university added a number of dimensions to life for many Oxfordshire people. An advowson-owning college had numerous rôles: it regularly presented its own fellows to that living; it was occasionally a source of augmentation to benefice income; it might have responsibility for the upkeep of the chancel; it might be landlord to numerous husbandmen, as well as a regular purchaser of agricultural produce, not to mention the other aspects of manorial lordship often held by colleges, and the heads of houses' progresses through their estates with the accompanying dinners and entertainments. These factors sustained a mutually beneficial relationship. In most such matters the clergy

were the closest embodiment of a college's permanent and resident, but unofficial representative. Our questions relate to the cleric's rôle in these nexuses, how far he was conscious of a merging of his own being with that of the college which had provided for him as a student, fellow and then incumbent or curate, and how far he strove to promote good relations between his parish and his college. Another important point of connection was the number of college fellows who supplemented their incomes by riding out on Sundays as curates, just as James Woodforde describes himself doing in the 1760s.³⁰ Indeed, Secker regularly employed two such in his own parish of Cuddesdon and chapelry of Wheatley.

It is clear that Secker's clergy faced a familiar range of problems: low incomes, tithe disputes, tenant problems, dilapidated parsonages, decaying churches, clashes of temperament between incumbents and curates, disapproval of, and disagreements with, parish officers, strained relations with parishioners both on a personal level and over vestry issues, friction with other denominations, and the danger of the loss of parishioners to other forms of Christianity. A low income was probably the greatest bane of many incumbents at this time and the reason for some pluralism and the low pay of many curates. A good example of a response to these problems is found in the letters of William Welchman who held Dodford in Northamptonshire in plurality with Westcot Barton. Secker was dissatisfied with his level of residence and the performance of duty at the latter. This generated letters and a churchwardens' petition in 1739 and renewed correspondence in 1744, with Welchman remarking upon the poverty of the clergy in general and his sons' and his own in particular, and finally the financial details for the payment of a resident curate at Westcot Barton.³¹

One letter reporting to Secker and appealing to him for support illustrates a clutch of the other difficulties in vivid detail and at length: it is that of James Luck, vicar of Charlbury, dated June 21, 1756. Partly because of his own ineptitude Luck was almost overwhelmed by litigation, counter-litigation, the antagonism of other tenants and parishioners, the withholding of tithes, the hostility of his curate, and mutual accusations of incest.³²

The letters relating to the close but turbulent relations with dissenters in Witney, enlivened with snatches of reported conversations, are equally valuable as evidence for careful but sometimes unsuccessful attempts by the clergy to remain aloof from discord. The eruption of resentment over burial rights referred from both sides to the bishop provides a valuable aperçu of a dissenting supposition of a bishop's, or Secker's, impartiality in such disputes.³³

Such were some of the universal problems faced by eighteenth-century clergy. After what was perceived in retrospect to be an indulgent period under Bishop Potter, Thomas Secker seems to have come as an awakening shock to some in that he was prepared to allow very little indulgence towards the clergy in mollification of fairly widespread hardships. His

approach as diocesan was generally vigilant, exacting and authoritarian, indeed severe to backsliders. John Pinnell of Magdalen College concisely and obliquely captures Secker's manner in remarks on another cleric to 'whose regularity the most severe Discipline can have no Objection'.³⁵ While Secker did much to encourage and aid the clergy, for example in trying to better the incomes of impecunious incumbents and curates, it remains true that he exercised a censorious watchfulness over many who did not rise to the standards he prescribed. He was:

very careful of . . . the good behaviour of his clergy; and in some instances particularly inquisitive into their conduct and morals.³⁶

In general the letters reveal a deferential acquiescence in his right to admonish. However, three clerics in particular, James Martin of Heythrop, William Welchman of Westcot Barton and Gilbert Stephens of Noke, committed their responses to paper with varying degrees of feeling: Martin with irony and later the troublesomeness of a piqued gadfly, Welchman with laments for his lot, and Stephens with a vehement attack on Secker's supposed hypocrisy.³⁷ Those who fell foul of Secker can be contrasted to his favourites. Dr William Freind of Witney became dean of Canterbury in Secker's time there; Nathaniel Forster at Cuddesdon, John Baker at Beckley, and the shadowy Charles Linde, who in addition to having otherwise undocumented Oxfordshire connections, was Secker's curate at St. James, Piccadilly, received generous and advantageous treatment. This attracted attention in the latter two cases.³⁸ Of course, it may be that Secker was able to spy desert and reward it accordingly, or that his charitable impulses were moved in deserving cases. Alternatively, it may have been that subconsciously he felt a need to establish a party (figuring such prominent clergy as Burton, Pardo and Freind) in view of the coolness he experienced in his relations with much of the university,³⁹ and the impact which that inevitably had in the diocese. We can only guess how he responded to the attack of Gilbert Stephens on him in 1752, but that attack, from one of his own clergy, designedly relayed the hostile opinion of Theophilus Leigh, the distinguished Master of Balliol.⁴⁰

It would be misleading to imagine that the correspondence highlights all the major issues between the bishop and his clergy. While Secker did not shrink from unpleasant duties and delegated nothing proper to his own functions, another institution for clerical discipline was producing records in cases which do not surface, or only incompletely, in these letters. The consistory court act books provide this wider perspective. For example, Richard Ockleshaw, vicar of Stoke Lyne, unmentioned in these letters, was cited for neglect of duty and non-residence in 1737-8. Over twenty clerics were cited for failure to exhibit their instruments at Secker's primary visitation in 1738. In other instances we gain a wider understanding of the issues surrounding clerics who do feature in the letters, such as Christopher

Wells of Cogges, Henry Newcome of Yelford, and Joseph Butler of Alkerton.⁴¹

While these letters provide corroborative evidence of Secker's severity to many of his clergy, his instinct to improve their material conditions is also evident, as we see him pressing to maximise curates' incomes, excusing others from the burden of paying licence fees, and again flattering a senior and influential cleric by preferring an apparently deserving nominee to a curacy.⁴² However, we are still left with the need for a fuller explanation of his ambivalent behaviour. His ambitions for the church required him unyieldingly to forge a highly committed and principled body of clergy, but another feature of his life helps to explain the two poles of his manner, that is to say the strains imposed upon him by his wife's ill health and, increasingly, by the decline in his own health. Montague Pennington, to whom Secker extended preferment, frankly remarked

. . . Dr Secker's manners were not usually considered as prepossessing (one satisfactory apology for which may be found in his constant bad health . . .)⁴³

Parochial clergy who irritated their bishop may have taken the brunt of any outlet which circumstance or weaknesses in his constitution sought.

C. The Diocesan Officers

Secker's immediate and conspicuous subordinates within the diocesan administrative machine were Daniel Burton, chancellor 1742-75, John Potter, archdeacon from 1741 to 1767, and Herbert Beaver, deputy diocesan registrar 1736-68. To some extent the bishop's jurisdiction was interlocked with the archdeacon's since John Potter also held the post of diocesan registrar as a *sinecure* from the time that his father had been bishop. John Stewart, who was registrar to Potter as archdeacon, was also by virtue of Potter's registrarship the other joint deputy diocesan registrar.

The archdeacon's official, first Henry Brooke until 1752, then Richard Smallbroke briefly until 1753, and finally from 1753 John Bettesworth, was subordinate, though not directly, to Bishop Secker. Brooke's view of his rôle as archdeacon's official and hence a subordinate of the bishop as expressed in the opening of his letter of Oct. 7, 1739 is worth examining in this context.⁴⁴ In his thesis on the diocese of Oxford in the seventeenth century, Martin Jones outlined the sporadic dispute, originating in the sixteenth century, between the bishop's and the archdeacon's jurisdictions.⁴⁵ Early in the seventeenth century one complication lay in the chancellor and the archdeacon's official being the same man, and thereafter these two sharing the same registrar, but the principal points of contention were the archdeacon's unusual right to license marriages (deriving from the vast size of the diocese of Lincoln from which Oxford was taken) and the chancellor's right to visit every year. Jones states of the dispute that from

1738 'all remained quiet until 1782'.⁴⁶ Secker's correspondence shows that view to be in need of revision. While there is no evidence of litigation between the parties during his episcopate (only Burton's 1756 proposal), resentments festered throughout the period. Archdeacon Potter wrote on Sep. 14, 1753, that 'the Business of both Courts is so small that there always will be a Contention about it'.⁴⁷ In other words, fees derived from the bishop's and the archdeacon's courts were very limited and perhaps, except for business where the laity was still necessarily involved such as probate and marriage licences, declining. During the bishop's visitations when the archdeacon's jurisdiction was suspended by means of an inhibition and business conducted in the consistory court or by the bishop's officers, the archdeacon's officers suffered even more sorely.

By their nature the letters in this volume represent the diocesan side of the dispute better than its opponents'. Thus, we have the complaints which Secker received from Herbert Beaver and Daniel Burton that his inhibitions were ignored by the archdeacon's officers, and that this was 'a manifest Insult upon [the bishop's] Authority' and 'a high insult upon your Lordship's Authority'.⁴⁸ We, like Secker, have to rely upon Potter's letters for John Stewart's case. Secker investigated the matter and corresponded with Potter, but both men appear to have resisted entanglement and remained above the strong feelings generated. The archdeacon's remark that it would be disagreeable to be involved in any disputes between the two deputy registrars earns him respect for his restraint, all the more so since he was losing financially as diocesan registrar through the 'Piratical' actions of the archdeaconry officials.⁴⁹ The atmosphere may have been so sensitive that it affected attitudes beyond the immediate issue: hence Potter's further explicit statement in an otherwise undated letter of 1752 about a successor to Henry Brooke:

In the disposal of this Office it has been my chief desire to fix upon some Person that should be acceptable to your Lordship, to the University and to the Clergy of the Diocese.⁵⁰

The extent of the correspondence with these functionaries reflects Secker's characteristic desire to be kept abreast of matters as they arose. But that was not all, for he used both Potter and Burton to gather data which interested him. Since their letters, in part, take the form of reports, it is clear that Secker probably gave both men lists of clergy to be investigated during their respective visitations. Visitations were clearly of far greater concern to him than resentments and rivalries over court fees. This is confirmed by the reaction which Potter, senior as he was in the hierarchy, must have encountered when he tried, on the grounds that Secker had so recently visited the diocese, to be excused from his 1753 Michaelmas visitation. Not surprisingly Potter's next letter contained a promise to visit within the next two years, while Secker, rather wearily but emphatically, announced in his

1753 visitation charge, 'I have endeavoured to procure a parochial visitation from the archdeacon, which he hath promised'.⁵¹

The problems which Secker confronted in relation to these officers indicate that he allowed for compromise and expediency which he would not when concerning himself with pastoral and parochial matters.

D. The Laity

A considerable range of people, from Sarah, duchess of Marlborough, to a carpenter and a painter, corresponded with Secker on a wide spread of problems, from pew disputes to bigamy to unpaid bills. Secker's attitudes to different sections of the laity are clearly perceptible and are of some interest.

The bishop received information about difficulties concerning parish officers and their duties, about their unsuitability, and about their failure to apply monies appropriately, but such evidence as found here is perhaps unremarkable: Secker's views on the rôle of parish officers are expounded in his visitation charges.⁵² Correspondence relating to certain lay patrons of livings is of greater interest. Thus, while Secker remained unsuccessful in handling Earl Granville, he could rejoice over his dealings with Norreys Bertie who in 1742 built a new church at Weston-on-the-Green.⁵³ He developed a remarkable rapport with Thomas Stonor of Watlington. In ensuring both the bishop's and his entire satisfaction, the chancel at Watlington was rebuilt twice. Their warmly expressed relationship was the more unusual in view of Stonor's being a Roman Catholic.⁵⁴ One short paragraph is significant in interpreting Secker's priorities *vis à vis* lay patrons.⁵⁵ The patronage of Fringford previously exercised by the Brooke family lapsed and fell to Secker in 1756. Despite Fulke Greville's threat of a Chancery suit, Secker did not forgo the opportunity to add a living to his scanty episcopal patronage.

Secker was himself patron of the living of Welford in Northamptonshire, and proved surprisingly solicitous of the wishes of the Payne family, substantial farmers and tithe tenants in that parish, when it came to the selection of an incumbent in 1747. He might have chosen to gratify any of his noble London connections, or selected one of his own acquaintance, but instead he preferred, in the absence of any resident gentry, to allow a local family belonging to the same social stratum from which he had originated to exercise choice on his behalf.⁵⁶

Approaches by humble members of the laity are chiefly interesting in that such petitioners sought aid of the bishop and received it. The best examples are the case of Mary Millar, whose husband had bigamously married the daughter of James Martin, rector of Heythrop, and that of Thomas Bishop and Thomas Adeane who had waited twenty years to be paid for painting and carpentry work at Ewelme. Secker may have relieved Mary Millar from his own pocket, while the latter case was actively pursued by the archdeacon at the bishop's request.⁵⁷

Secker's interest in detail and in increasing the reputation and honour of the church, as well as his remarkable energy and efficiency, seem generally to have made him appear to his lay, local and non-Anglican contemporaries both accessible and fair. Only about the Quakers among dissenting denominations did Secker articulate strong reservations.⁵⁸

Secker was only twice sufficiently exasperated to threaten litigation in this correspondence. First, Thomas Bushel, who inherited the Fettiplace estates and name, held monies in trust for the Fettiplace Charity but did not disburse them as required. Secker as a fellow trustee, after a remarkably forbearing series of letters from 1750 was by 1756 threatening action in Chancery. His true opinion of Bushel, expressed to his regular attorney, Samuel Seddon, was of:

an honest, well-meaning Man: but ignorant & indolent, and unwilling to be put out of any way of thinking or acting, which he is got into. . . . Writing Letters is . . . very irksome to [him] . . . you should write him a Letter, as short as possible, for if it be long, he will perhaps not take the trouble to read it, or however will not have Attention enough to understand it.⁵⁹

Secondly, Thomas Sims, a neighbour of Secker's, who, on finding his open field land at Denton ploughed into on one side, had taken a compensatory slice from Secker's on the other, and promptly found himself threatened with legal action.⁶⁰

Although one letter, seeking to mollify Secker who was threatening to withdraw his education charity, discloses something of a village *furor* at Wheatley,⁶¹ his behaviour to the laity was almost invariably urbane and flattering. Without condescension, Secker was evidently nurturing an environment in which the laity could identify its own importance and rôle in the life of the church. The Paynes of Welford furnish an excellent example. Thereby he was likely, and probably intended, to disarm or minimise tendencies towards anticlericalism and thus strengthen the church.

E. Secker's Special Interests

By the end of his career Secker's contemporaries had had sufficient opportunity to assess his general views on the place of the church in the life of the nation and the North American colonies. It had become clear that he wanted the Church of England, links mended with most protestant dissenters, to assume a dominant rôle in the affairs of the nation. Nevertheless, those views and actions remained the subject of very active analysis for some years after his death. For example, *The Gentleman's Magazine* carried a piece in 1775 stating:

Archbishop Secker's politics (whatever were his real principles) led him to exalt church authority to the highest pitch, and rigidly to enforce conformity to everything established.⁶²

Corroborating this view, but with a tinge of malice, Horace Walpole saw Secker's unwearied attendance at court and regular presentation of bodies of clergy to the king as evidence that the archbishop was flattering himself in the first days of George III's reign 'with the idea of becoming first minister in a court that hoisted the standard of religion'.⁶³

Earlier in his career as bishop of Bristol and Oxford, Secker had been laying the foundations for a rebuilding or reinforcement of the church and its influence by attempting to integrate it more deeply into the lives and consciousness of ordinary people. He worked hard to elevate the clergy by encouraging them to present a self-consciously worthy life-style to society, a life of service. Again, he zealously pushed the clergy into scouring their parishes for all potential confirmation candidates, not only for the spiritual benefits but also, arguably, to heighten lay consciousness of belonging to the church. Secker's almost obsessive persistence in this matter led Henry Powell of Witney to remark that despite efforts to find candidates Secker 'had so frequently of late years confirmed at Witney, Burford, and Bampton, that they had not then Any of a proper age'.⁶⁴

Secker's efforts at strengthening the church at parochial level included the distribution of very large numbers of tracts at his own expense and strong encouragements to improve the cleanliness and beauty of places of worship; this latter, the fabric of church buildings, was a matter very close to Secker's heart. Several letters indicate his characteristically close attention to detail in matters of building, rebuilding or repair work.⁶⁵ He did not merely express his concerns from the comfort of his drawing room or study; one letter provides evidence that he made a personal visit to the church at Lower Heyford on July 30, 1739, a non-visitation year. The survival of this letter is a mere chance, but it and a remark elsewhere about Watlington make it likely that Secker was also inspecting other places of worship.⁶⁶

In his keenness to reverse what Browne Willis saw as a decline in veneration for churches and thus to enhance the respect for them that would derive from their 'proper dignity and grandeur',⁶⁷ he again recruited the labour and authority of his archdeacon. Secker's charge for his 1753 visitation is heavily concerned with responsibilities relating to church fabric, and to this he appended a short paragraph stressing the archdeacon's visitation rôle in this context.⁶⁸ As a result, there exists a series of archdeacon's visitation records for the years 1755-9 containing reports and directions, *inter alia*, on church fabric. A hundred or so churches in consequence were enjoined to clear their exteriors and interiors, and/or make structural improvements. Only a tiny minority were commended on their excellent state of repair. Recommendations for internal decoration strongly favoured Secker's own preferences, influenced by early church practices, such as painting chosen sentences from the Scriptures upon the walls.⁶⁹

The application of his astonishing energy, efficiency, attention to detail,

and commitment to the church went far beyond confirmation and church fabric, and left few aspects of church life which Secker could be criticised for neglecting. However, Abbey's judgment that Secker was 'a good, industrious, and conscientious man, but of no striking ability, or much originating power',⁷⁰ while inadequate as a general assessment, may convey a modicum of reality in terms of certain ecclesiastical institutions. While, for example, Secker recognised the value of the reintroduction of rural deans (in the work of monitoring church dilapidations), a measure taken by his close colleague, Martin Benson, bishop of Gloucester, he hesitated and proceeded no further.⁷¹ Likewise, despite the administrative muddle and ill feeling at the diocesan registry, no steps were taken towards any reform. This would have been difficult to accomplish in an age when office was still regarded as property. Nevertheless, the lack of evidence that he addressed himself to a scheme is significant. His strength lay rather in ensuring that existing machinery worked. In this context it is noteworthy that in 1744 and 1756 Secker involved himself in the preliminary clerical administration of visitations by dating the 'visitation processes' personally.⁷² This suggests that he was more in his element when concerned with detail, and less at ease with the prospect of large scale institutional innovation.

Finally, neither the word 'methodist' nor its cognate forms occur in these letters, even by 1758, nor is there any oblique reference to Methodism. Nevertheless, Secker shared the almost unremittingly pessimistic views of those early Methodist leaders on the contemporary extent of irreligion. In his visitation charge of 1738 he wrote of 'this torrent of impiety', and that 'an open and professed disregard to religion is become . . . the distinguishing character of the present age', while in 1753 he commented 'I am perfectly sensible, that both immorality and irreligion are grown almost beyond the reach of ecclesiastical power'.⁷³ While such statements doubtlessly represent Secker's true opinions, they also convey his sense of urgency about the needs for a revival of morality through religion. His perception of the grave dangers arising from the disintegration of social values provides further explanation for Secker's rigorous enforcement of his expectations upon his clergy.

CONCLUSION

Secker left a remarkable quantity of business papers. Already published and cited above are his 1738 visitation returns, some of his Wheatley parish correspondence, part of his Bristol speculum, his autobiography, and during his lifetime and in later editions, his sermons and visitation charges. This volume presents more. Worthy of publication are his Canterbury speculum, his correspondence concerning the Fettiplace charity and his Welford estate and advowson, his account books, and, should it be found,

his Oxford speculum. Such quantities of sources are always a magnet to historians, but too great a wealth of material can lead to as much distortion in interpretation as too little. However, Secker's meticulous amassing and preservation of information is itself symptomatic of his significance, and even, in certain respects, of his greatness. While historians may perforce ignore bishops contemporary with Secker on the grounds of lack of sources, it is difficult to dismiss an archbishop of Canterbury. Thus Secker has always attracted attention, but it seems that, beginning with the work of Professor Norman Sykes, he has been emerging as a figure of greater importance than had hitherto been allowed.

Secker presents something of a paradox. Despite his current pessimism about religion, he was supremely a man of the Enlightenment. Except for an implicit assumption about the high authority inherent in his episcopal office, he approached issues raised in these letters with a rationalist's open-mindedness. He was a man who dealt with problems upon the basis of firmly established fact, no matter how much energy needed to be spent on scouring documentary sources for necessary evidence.⁷⁴ Consequently it may not be surprising, though herein lies the paradox, that his arguments and instructions are almost invariably devoid of claims to divine sanction. His letters to Lincoln College were conspicuous for appealing, as an argument of final resort, to the law of Christ,⁷⁵ but what makes this point even clearer is a resisted temptation to use such a sanction in other contexts. That is evident from his drafting, where he scores out a reference to God, inclining to carry his point by an appeal to secular reason.⁷⁶ This may have been compounded by a striving, amid contemporary trends in church life, to avoid a reputation for 'enthusiasm'. In many other respects he behaved in ways typical of his milieu. He relished aristocratic company and was an intimate of such families as the Greys, the Yorkes, the Talbots and the Hardwicks, not to mention his alliance with the duke of Newcastle. Moreover, his account book shows very clearly that he spent generously on wine (with a consequent severe gout problem), that he put his money out on mortgages, and invested in privateers and lotteries.⁷⁷ However, his life-style was neither that of a self-denying ascetic, nor yet overly self-indulgent. Nevertheless, when he died he left a surprisingly small fortune. His account book gives a reason, listing the names of numerous recipients of his charity: beggars and paupers, poverty-stricken clerics, clergy widows, religious refugees, hospitals and societies such as the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. His will shows considerably greater generosity. The charitable impulse that so depleted income and savings is a factor in understanding this rather complex personality.

Whatever the origins of the evangelical revival, Bishop Secker (along with other eighteenth-century bishops such as Martin Benson of Gloucester and later James Yorke of Ely) undoubtedly contributed impetus and arguably some of the initiative during his years at Oxford.⁷⁹ In this context attention

has to be drawn to his sense of the need to reclaim people from their irreligion, his emphasis upon preaching, his stress upon psalmody, his frequent allusions to the practices of the primitive church which he encouraged the clergy to adopt, and his practical charity.⁸⁰

In giving him credit for the uplifting of pastoral standards and for the impact that he intended that this should have upon the laity, we can understand his presentiment in 1755 that the children of men among whom he lay would grow cooler rather than hotter. Furthermore, as the late Professor Greaves pointed out, his deep concern to raise the educational level and spiritual welfare of candidates for holy orders gave him an important place in laying the foundations for the enormous changes which became so obvious in the following century.⁸¹

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- ² *Porteus*, i, pp. i-lxiv.
- ³ *Autobiography*.
- ⁴ The data for these rough calculations is based upon the 'List of the Archbishops and Bishops of England' found in each edition of *Crockford's Clerical Directory*.
- ⁵ B.L., MS. Add. 39311, f. 37.
- ⁶ The occurrence of a £500 manorial entry fine at Hook Norton enabled Secker to be translated without financial loss: *Autobiography*, p. 18.
- ⁷ L.P.L., Archbishop's Papers, Secker MS. 7, ff. 92-3.
- ⁸ Secker's endorsement at i.104v. 'Enterd', and the two lists endorsed 'Catechising Extracts from my book abt it' and 'Villages in the black Book wch are not Parishes' entered in Oldfield, 'Index to Mun. at Cuddesdon Palace re Oxf. Dioc. and Episcopate' (O.R.O.), are evidence for its former existence.
- ⁹ J.H. Plumb, *England in the Eighteenth Century* (Pelican ed., 1950), pp. 42-5.
- ¹⁰ For the subtlety of his advice on money matters, see vi.1-2, (Feb. 1, 1749/50).
- ¹¹ ii.118, iii.4; Secker set out his case clearly at i.77-8.
- ¹² ii.127-33, iii.45-6.
- ¹³ iv.35v.
- ¹⁴ i.97.
- ¹⁵ ii.61, 62, 90-1, 96.
- ¹⁶ ii.6v., 68v., iii.1r.-v. in particular.
- ¹⁷ *Carter*, i, p. 102, ii, p. 186.
- ¹⁸ *History*, pp. 402-11.
- ¹⁹ i.87.
- ²⁰ iii.37-38a; iii.67; iii.109, 144a; iii.191a, 192, 194.
- ²¹ *Pennington*, i, pp. 159-213 *passim*; *Autobiography*, p. 36.
- ²² iv.35.
- ²³ *Porteus*, v, pp. 305-422.
- ²⁴ *The Gentleman's Magazine*, liii, p. 1032.
- ²⁵ As, for example, in the case of James Martin, i.5.

²⁶ iii.30v., 35v.

²⁷ *The Gentleman's Magazine*, loc. cit.

²⁸ iii.24, 25–9.

²⁹ *McClatchey*, p.v.

³⁰ To Wootton: W.N. Hargreaves Mawdsley, *Woodforde at Oxford, 1759–76*, O.R.S., n.s., vol. xxi, pp. 177, 181.

³¹ i.58–9, 60–1, ii.39, 52–3, 54–5, 56–7, 58. The direct evidence in this volume and the implications of Secker's considerable efforts to raise the lowest clerical incomes seem to support Peter Virgin's conclusions in *The Church in an Age of Negligence* (1989), that the poorer beneficed clergy (not to mention curates) were far worse off than Norman Sykes had allowed. On the other hand, those who already had often received more, as in the case of William Freind who held the rectories of Witney and Islip.

³² iii.198–210.

³³ i.118, iii.115, 117, 136–7, 138.

³⁴ For example, i.5, ii.61.

³⁵ ii.62.

³⁶ *The Gentleman's Magazine*, loc. cit. The case of Joseph Butler of Alkerton illustrates this point, for which see ii. 67v.–68, 87–8, 89.

³⁷ i.7; ii.54 and v.; iii.71–2.

³⁸ iii.70, 71–2; ii.54v., n.3.

³⁹ A case in point may be the double refusal of William Holmes, President of St. John's, from whatever motives, to oblige Secker: i.2, 92. A further example may be Secker's cavalier treatment at the hands of the fellows of Lincoln College: iii.97.

⁴⁰ iii.71.

⁴¹ O.R.O., O.D.P. c.2137, ff. 23v.–36 *passim*; ff. 44v.–78v. *passim*; c.2139, ff. 9, 23, 170, 195v., 197v., 199; ff. 20, 22, 46, 185v., 188, 191v.; f. 38.

⁴² i.75; Account Bk., 126v., see also ii.61, ii.147, iii.79; iii.67.

⁴³ *Pennington*, i, p. 161. On Catherine Secker's health see *Autobiography*, pp. 11, 17, 16, *Porteus*, i, p. xix, and on Secker's, *Autobiography*, pp. 21, 25, 26, *Porteus*, i, pp. xlvii–xlviii.

⁴⁴ i.62.

⁴⁵ M.D.W. Jones, 'The Ecclesiastical Courts Before and After the Civil War in the Dioceses of Oxford and Peterborough, 1630–75' (unpublished Oxford B.Litt. thesis, 1977), appendix 3, pp. 239–44.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 242.

⁴⁷ iii.108, 160.

⁴⁸ iii.106v., 158v.

⁴⁹ iii.105, 107–8; iii.106v.

⁵⁰ iii.68–9.

⁵¹ iii.105, 108; *Porteus*, v, p. 412.

⁵² *Porteus*, v, p. 400 et seq. Charge IV relates in some detail to churchwardens' duties.

⁵³ iii.45–57; i.113–16.

⁵⁴ ii.8–11v.

⁵⁵ iii.176v.

⁵⁶ O.R.O., O.D.P. c.2160, Oct. 10, 1747.

⁵⁷ iii.104; ii.146, iii.32; iii.104, n.3; ii.147v.–148.

⁵⁸ *Porteus*, v, p. 381; see also *Autobiography*, pp. 16–17.

⁵⁹ O.R.O., O.D.P. Box 44, Aug. 20, 1756.

⁶⁰ viii.45, 50.

⁶¹ vii.2 (February 11, 1746/7).

⁶² *The Gentleman's Magazine*, xlv, p. 217.

⁶³ H. Walpole, *Memoirs of the Reign of King George III*, ed. G.F. Russell Barker, (1894, republ. New York 1970), i, p. 16.

⁶⁴ iii.195. W.M. Marshall has explored Secker's administration of ordination, confirmation and visitation, in 'Episcopal Activity in the Hereford and Oxford Dioceses, 1660–1760',

Midland History viii, 1983, pp. 106–120.

⁶⁵ i.76; Account Bk. f. 166; i. 113–16; ii.8–12; iii.152–6 and accompanying items at iii. 150–1, 157; iii. 188, 187b–c.

⁶⁶ vii.1 (Aug. 24, 1739), but see also *Vis. Retns.*, p. 81, and ii.8.

⁶⁷ i.126; *Porteus*, v, p. 395.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 412.

⁶⁹ O.R.O., O.A.P. d.13/1–3; *Porteus*, v, p. 410.

⁷⁰ C.J. Abbey, *The English Church and its Bishops, 1700–1800*. (1887), ii, p. 45.

⁷¹ *Porteus*, v, p. 413.

⁷² O.R.O., O.D.P. c.149–50.

⁷³ *Porteus*, v, pp. 306, 401, and for Catherine Talbot's 1751 echoes of these views: *Carter*, ii, pp. 10–11.

⁷⁴ Although George Ballard, the antiquary, is not mentioned in these letters, Secker seemed to be paying him 2 guineas p.a. between 1748 and 1753; whether for undertaking research or for his material support is unclear: Account Bk., ff. 42, 60, 94, 124.

⁷⁵ iii.7, 8, 89, 90.

⁷⁶ i.76v.

⁷⁷ Account Bk., f. 175v., where he states of wine 'I use somewt more than 2 bottles a day . . .'; ff. 36, 38v., 41, 176, 143v., 176; 13v., 100v., 103v.; iii.174.

⁷⁸ Account Bk., *passim*, and *Porteus*, i, pp. xlviii–ii.

⁷⁹ E.G. Rupp, *Religion in England, 1688–1791*, pp. 325–490. On James Yorke, see D. Owen, 'James Yorke, Bishop of Ely, 1781–1808', pts. I–II, in *The Annual Report of the Friends of St. George, Windsor*, 1967–8, pp. 371–80; 1968–9, pp. 433–9. Yorke was a member of the family on such intimate terms with Secker. It is tempting to speculate on the influence Secker may have had on the young James Yorke, and further upon the network by which episcopal ideas and methods pertinent to the evangelical revival spread. The application of Namier's prosopographical method to such people might yield valuable information.

⁸⁰ See iii.71–2, n.2.

⁸¹ See above, n.18.

EDITORIAL NOTE

A survey of mid-eighteenth century episcopal diocesan correspondence appears to show that Oxford is unusual in having so much. Such sources for other dioceses are far less extensive and coherent. The survival of the Oxford correspondence, most of it found at Cuddesdon Palace rather than in the diocesan registry, is a tribute to Thomas Secker himself who so systematically folded, endorsed and, presumably, arranged it all in bundles. The collection largely comprises in-letters, but there are about fifty draft or copy out-letters which he kept to preserve a record of his handling of a contentious, sensitive or important issue. Thus investigations of, and negotiations over, the ecclesiastical peculiars of Lincoln College and of the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral are represented from both sides, as are the 'sharp' reprimands delivered to clergymen such as James Martin and William Stockwood,¹ and the knotty legalistic problems surrounding Secker's visitorship of Worcester College. Furthermore, an apology, or as near as Bishop Secker ever seems to have come to making one to any of his clergy, is preserved in a letter to Joseph Butler.² Elsewhere one can reconstruct the likely contents of his letters from what we know of his obvious attachment to uncompromising standards, proper procedures, and an elevation of respect for, and the rôle and functions of, the church within society.

The quantity and the evidence for some kind of methodical arrangement of the in-coming letters might be reasons for assuming the integrity of the collection. However, internal evidence in some letters indicates the loss of others. On Apr. 21, 1745, for example, Daniel Burton referred to information in his last on matters at Hertford College, that is in a letter not now known to exist.³ Such a loss is the greater since his letters often contained detailed reports. A reference in a copy letter by Secker of Oct. 21, 1745, to another 'report' by Burton (usually in letter form, as stated), may indicate a further loss.⁴ An enclosed letter from Thomas Sympson mentioned by Browne Willis in his of May 31, 1743, may or may not have been returned to Willis.⁵ Furthermore, in view of the dozen or so letters which are preserved with the 1738 visitation returns, kept because of their factual content, one is inclined to wonder how many disappeared with the subsequent six sets of returns.⁶ Lastly, Secker may have destroyed unimportant letters such as simple acknowledgements since none such have come down to us.

As stated, most of this material came from Cuddesdon Palace where it had probably lain since Secker's time. While it was still there, during the

period prior to 1917, Canon W.J. Oldfield assigned himself the task of listing the diocesan records. The outcome was twofold. First, we have his two hefty MS. volumes of lists; most of what appears in this edition is entered in the volume devoted to materials specific to particular parishes under the subheading 'letters'. The second outcome is our uncertainty as to how far he rearranged these letters into the chronological order in which they arrived at the Bodleian in 1949. Thus, it is now difficult to say whether Oldfield preserved Secker's order, whether he preserved it but inserted items found elsewhere, or whether he imposed a chronological order upon an original arrangement by subject or place. Of course, it is conceivable that he found disorder introduced over the century and a half since Secker had left Cuddesdon, and thus found himself free to impose his own system.

Once at the Bodleian most of the seventeenth to early nineteenth century episcopal correspondence was arranged (with heed to Oldfield) and bound in chronological order; in 1984 all the diocesan records were moved to the Oxfordshire Record Office where they now remain. The printed order in this volume largely follows the Bodleian arrangement of the manuscripts. Secker's correspondence is now contained in three volumes, with three letters of 1758 and one of 1761 in a fourth. For convenience an abbreviated form of reference has been used here. These (MSS. Oxf. dioc. papers c.651-4) are here numbered (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv). Their filed order, chronological as Secker would have received them, has been preserved in this edition except where, for instance, a date seems to have been misinterpreted or where an enclosure has not been placed immediately after its original covering letter. This series relates to a very wide range of administrative and circumstantial matters, most noticeably, perhaps, to Secker's testing of the validity of various ecclesiastical peculiars. Groups (v) and (vi), letters found at Lambeth Palace Library (a part of Secker's bequest of his MSS. to the palace) and the British Library (part of the Forster family papers presented to the British Museum in 1837), are concerned only with augmentations to the stipend of the curacy at Wheatley, a subject akin to the contents of the basic sequence.⁷ Group (vii) comprises two letters, one in a Bodleian MS. and the other a letter from among the diocesan charity papers, containing important subject matter; as with groups (v) and (vi), these two have been added at chronologically appropriate junctures within the main sequence. Their references have been footnoted in the text. The last two groups, (viii) and (ix), also part of the diocesan records and from Cuddesdon, are unrelated to each other and to what precedes them;⁸ furthermore, they were evidently filed separately by the bishop. Accordingly, they are not incorporated into the principal sequence, but follow it. The first concerns problems encountered in the maintenance and administration of the episcopal estate in Oxfordshire, the second concerns issues arising at Worcester College of which Secker was one of three joint visitors.

Considerations of economy have meant that groups of letters concerning

the trusteeship of the Fettiplace Charity (not limited to Oxfordshire beneficiaries) have been omitted' from this volume, as has the correspondence about the episcopal estate and patronage in Northamptonshire.⁹ It is intended that an edition of the latter group will appear elsewhere, and hoped that the former may also be published.

The guiding principle in editing these letters has been to preserve as much as possible of their original character, in so far as typesetting costs permit; thus original spelling, capitalisation, and comprehensible abbreviations and punctuation have been retained. However, thorns and contractions indicated by suspension marks have been expanded. It has not been possible to reproduce superior letters in their original positions, and on the occasions where their incidence was marked by full stops in the middle of words, the full stops have been omitted. Original square brackets appear to have had no special significance, and have been rendered round; square brackets here indicate editorial interpolation. The use of [sic] has been sparing to avoid interruptions to the text. In line with common practice, underlinings in the original MSS. have been rendered in italics. Editorial ellipsis (. . .) has been employed to avoid repetitive, legalistic language; but such language only happens to occur after group (iv); prior to that, dots were employed occasionally in the original text. Signs for money denominations have been modernised.

The 'scrall' and 'scribble' of the letters of Browne Willis, the noted antiquary, who 'wrote the worst hand of any man in England, such as he could with difficulty read himself, and what no one but his old correspondents could decypher',¹⁰ has, to the editor's regret, caused defeat here in certain indicated instances.

Secker occasionally annotated and drafted letters in an adapted form of the Mason System No. 2. The original form was published by William Mason in *La Plume Volante*, London, 1707. These have been transcribed and published here, but it is regrettable that the location of seven further such letters listed by Oldfield is now unknown.

Groups of letters which have been reproduced elsewhere have in one case been summarily noted in their chronologically appropriate position, and in a second case left unmentioned since they occur in *Bishop Secker's Visitation Returns of 1738*, the sister volume to this.¹¹ The very occasional documents accompanying letters such as memoranda or, as in one case, a copy deed have been calendared. The sole plan (of Hampton Poyle church) has been noted and not reproduced.

In this edition each letter is introduced with the writer's and/or the recipient's name, the place, the date (indicating both old and new style where appropriate), and sequence and folio or piece references. Folio references are to recto unless given as verso (v.), and are marked in the text. Any evidence of the address to which a letter was sent is noted, along with Secker's own endorsements, at the end of each letter.

The footnotes are largely concerned with summary career details of the parish clergy. Principal landmarks in their university careers have been noted with the dates between which livings were held. The dates on which curates subscribed when licensed to a parish are also given, but these should be treated with caution since they sometimes bear no relation to the year in which a man entered upon his curacy. The sources for this data have been J. Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses* (occasionally J.A. Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses*), Canon W.J. Oldfield's 'Clerus Diocesis Oxoniensis', i.e. the manuscript lists of clergy available in the Bodleian Library, and the occasionally invaluable section 6 of each 1738 visitation return. Such obvious sources are generally not acknowledged in these contexts. Elsewhere, the notes seek to identify other individuals and to elucidate textual allusions.

SUMMARY TABLE OF THE CONTENTS OF THE TEXT

Abbreviated references used in this volume	References to original MSS.	Dates
(i)	O.D.P., c.651, ff. 1-44	1737-1742
(ii)	O.D.P., c.652, ff. 1-150	1742/3-1749
(iii)	O.D.P., c.653, ff. 1-211	1749/50-1757
(iv)	O.D.P., c. 654, ff. 1-3, 35	1758, 1761
(v)	L.P.L., MS. 1120, items 13-16	1745/6-1746
(vi)	B.L., MS. Add. 11275, ff. 99-104, 107-8	1749-1749/50
(vii)	Bodleian, MS. Top. Oxon. f. 50	Aug. 24, 1739
	O.D.P., charity records, unreferenced	Feb. 11, 1746/7
(viii)	O.D.P., c.2160, from between ff. 14 and 66	1741-1757
(ix)	O.D.P., not yet referenced, ff. 1-23	1743-1750

REFERENCES

¹ i.4-7; iii.25-30.

² ii.89.

³ ii.68v.

⁴ ii.89.

⁵ ii.23. Other references to received or possibly received letters are: i.33v., 97v., iii.8.

⁶ O.R.O., O.D.P., d.552, reproduced in *Vis. Retns.*, pp. 9, 18, 21, 31-2, 43, 49-50, 50-1, 55-6, 70-1, 74, 76, 81, 103-4; however, these include some visitation returns made in letter form, and amplifications upon returns, or relate to matters arising from visitation data.

⁷ L.P.L., MS. 1120, items 13-16 (letters dated January 11, February 4, February 10, 1745/6, May 8, 1746); B.L., MS. Add. 11275, ff. 99-104, 107-8 (letters dated June 4, 1749, Feb. 1, Mar. 2, 1749/50).

⁸ The reference to group (viii) is O.R.O., O.D.P. c.2160 (folios referred to in the text), and that of group (ix) O.D.P. not yet referenced but listed in Canon Oldfield's index of diocesan papers held at Cuddesdon.

⁹ O.R.O., O.D.P., box 44, not yet catalogued, and L.P.L., Archbishop's Papers, Secker MS. 7, ff. 1-79.

¹⁰ 'A biographical notice of Browne Willis', 1884: Bodleian, MS. Top. Bucks. c.4, f.377. Henry Purfoy wrote to him in 1745, 'If your amanuensis, or any writing master or such sort of person, would transcribe it for me from your manuscript as to what relates to Shalstone—I would satisfy them for so doing . . .': L.G. Mitchell, ed., *The Purfoy Letters, 1735-53*, (New York, 1973), p. 110.

¹¹ *Hassall*, pp. 77-81, and *Vis. Retns.* See n. 6.

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF BISHOP SECKER

From Browne Willis¹

(i.1)

Whaddon Hall, Bucks., Jan. 30, 1737/8

My Lord

I recd the favour of yr Lordships last night which I answer this melancholly day² after the Solemnitys are over, most gladly; & rejoyce I can transmit your Lordshipp anything worth yr acceptance, & so put down in the first place all the Houses in each parish in Oxford – there may be some very poor ones omitted[.] But as abt 15 Houses have been pulled down this year in Cat' Street I will put that on the Ballance³[.]

Houses in Oxford city Ao 1736 in the 13 parishes

-St Marys	82 Houses
-St Peters East	171
-St Crosses alias Holywell	115
-St Michaels	172
-St Mary Magdalens	183
-St Giles	94
-St Nicholas alias St Thomas's	142
-St Peters West alias in the Bayly	123
-St Ebbes	113
-St Martins	85
-Allhallowes	109
-St John Baptist alias Merton College Ch:	22
-St Aldates vulgariter St Toles	116
Total	1527

When I was a youngster I loved Bell Ringing & have been in all yr Market Town churches in number 13⁴ what is very remarkable of them, every one of them have six Bells except *Dedington*, where are only 4[.] There were but 2 in my Time & the other Two are an Addition; There was a very tall Spire at *Dedington* the most noted of all Oxfordshire & seen the farthest[.] This fell down Ao 1634 as I have remarked[.] The Bells were alienated I think cast into canon by K Charles the martyrs freinds: The Tower was began to be rebuilt but never finisht till after 1680 when it was adorned with large Pinacles. Tis seen still a great way: The Bells in the Market Towns are ancient of late date. In my Time some of these churches had but 5: The

famous Rudhall⁵ made six at *Charlbury* as did Bagley⁶ at *Woodstock & Banbury* – A notable Bell Confounder lived at Burford – I paid dear for a monstrous Bell of his which was unhappily purchas'd & brought to Stratford chapelle on the fall of Castle Thrupp Tower abt 6 years agoe It being by a Faculty permitted to be sold – I think his name was Neal & that there is a remarkable Epitaph for him in Burford chur which I am sorry I have mislayd⁷ – At Whitney Burford Bampton are high Spires – there are good Towers at all the other nine market Towns espc. at *Henley* as I remember, where were 5 good Bells spoilt abt 47 years agoe Ao 1692 as I have noted in casting them into six – Burford and Chipping Norton are corporations – If your Lordshipp putts down these things I should be glad to know that particular members compose these Bodies[.] There are at each of them [sic] There are said to be Two Bailiffs And A Recorder at Chipping Norton But I can goe no farther[.] Their Arms are at Burford a Lyon rampant & at Ch: Norton a castle[.] Henley was incorporate by Queen Elizabeth A Warden 12 Burgesses 24 Asistants Att Henley now; Att Whitney 2 Bailifs 2 Constables & 5 Wardsmen[.] Att Oxfd Woodstock & Banbury the accts printed & so I need not add them; & wish Burford and Chipping Norton could be supplied – I have of all these Towns Traders except Henley & Bampton⁸ – I am greatly endebted to Mr Dr Atwell for remembering mee & sending [f.lv.] a Dublin Trader which has this Legend *Mich: Willson of Dublin His Halfpenny 1672* wherein I have entered his name as a Benefactor as he [?] is – MS. torn] giving it⁹ – I wish I could get those of Exeter Plymouth & Barnstable & Totness Co: Devon – I hope Mr Taylor will be in Town this Winter & think of mee in this Respect – Mrs Cavell enrich mee with 4 Towns having added on the the [sic] exchange 8 not in Her Cabinet

I am very glad things have gone so at the Cathedral College of St Frideswides[;] that Saint wd not have liked Her Chaplains' marriages[.]¹⁰ I was zealously for the future Interest of the College tho: I could meet with no freinds there for my [? own elect – reading unclear] which I thank God I have a prospect of finding at the other College Sanctae & Individuae Trinitatis called in English in the Valor Christchuh as in that city of Bristol Christchur is calld in Latin S Trinitatis – I hope now my Lord Bp of Gloucesters preaching is over to enjoy the Honour of hearing from His Lordshipp¹¹ – He lay hear & is dayly doing new favours & wee wish wee could be put in a way of endowing Stratford Chapell a 2nd time – many tell me it cannot be done But wee hope it may & shall be glad to hear it can if your Lordshipp has any opportunity of informing us – I presume yr Lordshipp has Plotts natural History of Oxfordshire & Kennets incomparable Book of Parochial Antiquitys of Ambrosden & Burchester or Bisseter¹² – the Magna Britannia also of Oxfordshire wd be worth yr Lordshipp's perusal¹³ – A Brother Antiquary has drawn up about 15 years agoe the Epitaphs &c in all the Oxfordshire Churches I have labourd with him to make it publick by Himself or others[.] The E of Oxford¹⁴ has a MS of Dr Huttons¹⁵ of all the Arms & Epitaphs in Oxfd City checking & the Arms &c

in all the College Halls Librys Chapells &c. drawn up 1658 – this I took a Copy of but idly lent it & was cheated out of it & so it is irrecoverable lost – I hope under yr Lordshipps Patronage something of this may be in yr Preelacy published[.] yr leaving Bristol discourageth mee – the paper &c allows mee to add no more But with duty to yr Lordshipp & best Respects to my cosin¹⁶ & Mrs Talbot¹⁷ & Cosin Benson¹⁸ wishing my cosin a perfect establishment of Her Health which I am very glad to hear is so well recovd who am my Lord yr Lordshipps ever most obliged & devoted Servt to command

Bro: W[illis] – MS. torn]

Duty to my Lord of Gloster & service & thanks to Mr Dr Atwell – I hope for a Beverley Token from my Lords Yorkshire progress

[To Westminster and endorsed 'Mr Willis Jan 30. 1737.–8 Houses in Oxford Bells, Steeples, Corporations In Oxfordsh. &c'¹⁹]

¹ Antiquarian, 1682–1760; he was Secker's chief researcher in matters of jurisdictional contention. He was related by marriage to Secker through Bishop Benson of Gloucester.

² The anniversary of the execution of Charles I.

³ For the building of the Radcliffe Camera by James Gibbs, 1737–48.

⁴ See F. Sharpe, *The Church Bells of Oxfordshire*, O.R.S., xxviii, xxx, xxxii, xxiv (1949, 1950, 1951 and 1953).

⁵ Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester: *ibid.* xxviii, p.83.

⁶ William, Henry and Matthew Bagley of Chalcombe: *ibid.*, xxviii, p.35; xxxiv, p.451.

⁷ Henry Neale: *ibid.*, xxviii, p.66.

⁸ On his collection of tokens, see J.G. Milne, 'Seventeenth century tokens: the Browne Willis cabinet', *The British Numismatic Journal*, xxvi, (pt.3), 1951, pp.333–8.

⁹ Joseph Atwell of Devon, m. Exeter Coll. 1712 a. 16, M.A. 1718, Rector 1733–7, D.D. 1738.

¹⁰ Willis was known for his disapproval of clerical marriage.

¹¹ Martin Benson of Herefordshire, archdeacon of Berks. 1721–34, canon of Durham 1724, R. Bletchley, Bucks. 1727–37, bp. Gloucester 1735 to his death, Aug. 30, 1752. Secker married his sister Catherine in 1725: *Porteus*, i, p.vii.

¹² R. Plot, *The Natural History of Oxfordshire* (Oxford, 1677); W. Kennett, *Parochial Antiquities Attempted in the History of Ambrosden, Burcester and Other Adjacent Parts in the Counties of Oxford and Bucks.* (Oxford, 1695).

¹³ W. Camden, *Britannia* (1586). Edmund Gibson produced a translation published in 1695, 2nd. ed. 1722, reprinted in 1753.

¹⁴ Edward Harley, 1689–1741, 2nd earl of Oxford 1724: *Compl. Peerage*, x, pp. 263–6.

¹⁵ Matthew Hutton, 1639–1711, antiquarian, R. Aynho, Northants.

¹⁶ Mrs. Catherine Secker (née Benson), b. 1685, see n. 18 *infra*.

¹⁷ Secker in part owed his early advancement to Edward Talbot, son of Bishop Talbot of Durham. Edward Talbot died in 1720 leaving an expectant widow; on Secker's marriage to Catherine Benson in October 1725, Mrs. Mary and Miss Catherine Talbot took up residence with them on a permanent basis: *Porteus*, i, pp. iv–vii.

¹⁸ Presumably John Benson of the Customs House who seems to have been a regular visitor at the Secker household at Piccadilly. He was probably Catherine Secker's brother, b.1676, and was a citizen and girdler of London: Hereford & Worcester R.O., MS. index to Cradley baptism register; *Autobiography*, p. 139.

¹⁹ Secker compiled a now lost speculum which he termed his 'black book'; its Bristol and Canterbury counterparts have survived.

From the Revd. Dr. William Holmes¹

(i.2)

Major Bolton's in Bath, Apr. 8, 1738

My Lord

Yr. letter finds me at Bath, not very well, and in a place, where I can not conveniently prepare my self for the honour, Yr. Lordship designs me. I am likewise obliged to attend the School Election in London,² upon the eleventh of June, and did propose to set out from Oxford the beginning of the month, with my Sisters, that they might have three weeks time to spend there, being obliged to return home before St. John's day. I therefore humbly beg Yr. Lordship wou'd excuse my preaching the visitation sermon, or reserve me to some other opportunity, which will greatly oblige.

My Lord, Yr. Lordship's most dutifull humble Servt.

W. Holmes.

¹ Of London, m. St. John's Coll. 1707 a.18, M.A. 1715, D.D. 1724/5, President 1728-48, Regius Prof. Modern Hist. 1736-42; V. North Leigh 1725-6, R. Hanborough 1729-48, dean of Exeter 1742-8.

² See M.G. Jones, *The Charity School Movement: a Study of Eighteenth-Century Puritanism*.

From the Very Revd. Dr. Edward Willes¹

(i.3)

Lincoln, June 28, 1738

My Lord,

I thank yr. Lordship for the Favour of your Letter, the Contents of which I have communicated to our Peculiars within yr. Lordship's Diocese, and shall be obliged to your Lordship for extending your Confirmation to the proper Persons in those Places.² I am with very great Regard,

My Lord, Your Lordship's faithful and obedient Servt.

E. Willes.

¹ D.D., dean of Lincoln 1730-43, bp. St. David's 1742-3, bp. Bath & Wells 1743-73.

² The peculiars of the dean and chapter of Lincoln within Oxfordshire were Banbury, Cropredy, Horley & Hornton, Langford, Great Milton, and Thame.

To the Revd. James Martin at Heythrop¹

(i.4)

Oxford, Aug. 8, 1738

Sir

The morning I left Chipping-Norton, I sent to speak with you (above an hour and a half before I left that place - scored through). But you did not come to me, though you came before I was gone, to another person in the house where I was. Unless you can give some good acct of this behaviour, I must look upon it as an instance of disrespect. In the mean time I send this letter to tell you, that the smallness of your Congregation ought

not to hinder you from performing Divine Service in your Church twice every Sunday, and that your having Popish families in your Parish makes it particularly requisite.²

I also apprehend that you would do much better to reside amongst your Parishioners though you have no parsonage house than where you are now.³ But if you can find no other convenient place of residence than somewhere at Ch. N. I must remind you [f.4v.] of the care you ought to take that your behaviour be in all respects prudent and more especially that you ought to avoid whatever may give any countenance or occasion to the growth of Popery, of which there is no small danger there, and to do every thing in your power to prevent it. I send you these admonitions that by discharging my duty towards you I may shew my self

Your affectionate brother (and servt – scored through)

TO

¹ Of M'sex, m. Corpus 1709 a.18, New Coll. M.A. 1716; R. Heythrop 1724–70, C. Little Rollright 1730.

² 'For most of the 18th century there were 7–10 houses in the parish': *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xi, p.133.

³ For Roman Catholicism and non-residence at Heythrop see *ibid.*, pp. 141–2.

From the Revd. James Martin

(i.5)

Chipping Norton, Aug. 13, 1738

My Lord,

I receiv'd the Honour of your Lr. But therein the explicit or implicit Imputation of *ill manners, ministration, morals, principles*, give me no small concern; wch. nothing can alleviate but this opportunity of clearing my self; I beg to be heard; I'll be as short as I can.

I hate ill manners, to superiors especially, as much as any man. *Not to wait on Your Lordship when sent for, & when in the house*, wou'd have been a very rustic setting out, and a sorry congratulation of your Lordship's arrival among us. But there is a residing here another (one Hudson) Martin;¹ Curate of Wigginton, 4 miles hence, where there is a parsonage house; to him, being very near the White Hart, I suppose Your messenger went: I solemnly declare, he was neither seen nor heard of at or near my house.

Your Lordship's worthy Predecessor, strict as he was, did not insist on my *residence, & whole service at Heathrop*;² as knowing, both were impracticable. A Yard of habitation is not to be had there at any rate: the better sort, being either Papists or Anabaptists, will not furnish me with a lodging, the poorer cannot.³ And I think 'tis better to have the sermon there in the afternoon, when, by the help of the neighbourhood, a sufficient audience will come, than in the morning, when it will not come: not so much as the number three. To get four to a Sacrament, is an extraordinary Effort; wch. they will not put forth [sic] on a common Sunday. For these reasons service was never known or attempted there in a morning. But my other

Cure, little Rollright, will not be servd but in a morning: that Church no Incumbent can serve but my self.

If, by Your Lordship's caution, That *my conduct shou'd be prudent*, be hinted, that it is not so at present; I guess this is owing to the restless extensive malice of a Freethinker & Arrian here; who is a Lier; even to a proverb; and make's slander his business, as much as the trade of his shop. But, were I either a Murderer, Adulterer, Drunkard, or Thief, (as he has invented and spread of me; crimes wch. are not very consistent with my constant Family-devotion) I shou'd not have the face ever to enter a Pulpit again. I fear he has injur'd me among some of my friends: but their being too hasty to believe an ill report, is, I think, almost as great a fault as deserving one. Believe not every tale, say's Solomon. And, a greater than Solomon, Judge not, that ye be not judg'd.

From the same foul spring has issued *my being a friend to or giving countenance to Popery*. I hope, before I die, if God give me health, to convince the world in print, that I am as little attach'd to Rome, and as hearty a well-wisher to the Church of England, as any member of it. And, since the same malicious person has likewise given out, that I can't make a sermon; (if Your Lordship please's, pray, my humble service to Dr Barton;)⁴ give me leave, since I am in some measure constrain'd, to speak for my self, and acquaint You, That they were my papers sign'd H. O. (ie Heathrop Oxfordshire) wch. silenc'd and sent out of the Kingdom, that notorious Upstart and insolent Freethinker, who lately, in the Gentleman's Magazine, under the disguise & Cypher of *Ignoto*, with great artifice denied a Providence & a Judgment, and cast contempt on the Attributes, Scriptures, Sacraments, Clergy, &c.⁵ I knew him at Oxford, & his whole strength & compass, & thought my self obliged to attack him. Thy servant slew that Lion or bear; and our Adversarys of Rome shall be as that uncircumcis'd Philistine, who defy'd the armies of the living God.

That Your L.p. may, and will, daily encrease, & reign more & more in the hearts of your new Clergy; is the Wish & Presage of

My Lord Your most dutiful & obedient Servt.

James Martin.

I forgot to mention, in my answer to the Enquiries, the necessity of Terriers in the Registry; for want of wch., every new instituted person is at a loss (as I am still) for the Dues Profits & Emoluments of his Living: the country fellows, tho' courted & cares'd, delight to keep their Pastor in the Dark.

¹ Of Somerset, m. Jesus 1728 a.17, M.A. 1734; C. Wigginton: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 171.

² John Potter of Yorks., m. Univ. 1688 a.14, Lincoln Coll. M.A. 1694, D.D. 1706, canon Ch. Ch. 1707-37, Regius Prof. Hebrew 1707-37; R. Newington 1708-37, royal chaplain, bp. Oxford 1715-37, archbp. Canterbury 1737-47.

³ For Anabaptists at Heythrop see *Vis. Retns.*, p. 82.

⁴ Philip Barton of Worcs., m. New Coll. 1712 a.17 D.C.L. 1733, canon of Ch. Ch. 1733, d. 1765. Secker was staying with him: *Autobiography*, p. 139.

⁵ *The Gentleman's Magazine*, vi (1736), pp. 64–5, 327–30, 596–7; vii (1737), pp. 16–19, 135–8, 204–7, 332–7.

To the Revd. James Martin

(i.6)

Oxford, Aug. 15, 1738

Sir

I am satisfied concerning the reason of your not coming to me & your not residing at Heathrop. But since by yr own acct you have in your parish three families & pt of a fourth who come to Church I do not see why you may not have a congregation in the morning as well as the afternoon though possibly the latter may be the properer time for a sermon[.] I shall enquire into the case of little Rollright and then determine concerning this matter[.] As to the remainder of your letter whenever I charge any of my Clergy with faults I will not fail to do it explicitly & to give them an opportunity of making their Defence[.] But I shall always think myself at liberty to caution them privately agst Dangers without always telling them whether I apprehend those dangers to arise from any thing in the persons themselves or only from the Circumstances in which they are placed[.] And I hope when you have thought again of the matter you will make a much better use of my admonitions than inveighing agst a person whom I never heard of before or sending messages by me to one who for ought I know may never have heard of you. Let these things, to mention no others in yr letter persuade you that there may be some occasion for exhorting you to prudence & believe me when I assure you that both this letter and my former have proceeded entirely from the good will of your affectionate brother

Tho Oxf.

[Endorsed 'To Mr Martin of Heythrop Aug 15 1738']

From the Revd. James Martin

(i.7)

Chipping Norton, Aug. 24, 1738

My Lord!

I am sorry to find my Lr. has displeas'd You: to offend, was very far from my thoughts. I don't apprehend, how, endeavouring to clear my self from suspected slanders, & invalidating the authority of the inventor, can be call'd imprudent: and desiring my service to a Gentleman that know's & wishe's me well, & under whose roof you are pitch'd, & whome you are like to see; this, I presume, is not ill manners to Your Lordship. Homo sum, humani a me nihil alienum puto, say's Ter. And, *Remember You are a Man*, said the servant to King Philip, by his own order.

I beg Your Lordship will let things go on in their old channel, wch. both

my parishes are pleas'd with, & the late Bp. was not uneasy: The people of little Rollright respect me for my service; & have lately adorn'd the pulpit for me in a handsome manner. But to be torn away from Them, & sent on a Sunday-morning to Heathrop, to read to the Church-walls; (wch. I am sure will be the case, the Clerk only excepted;) this, my Lord, is to me a melancholy consideration. (For however, Your Lordship may make a collection of the families; I do assure You, we have at Heathrop, out of the whole 7 houses, of fix'd inhabitants that are call'd Church-goers, only two men; the Clerk one, who is forced to be Churchwarden; & two old women, who are very infirm, one of whome come's not above once a month, the other once a Qr.: and never All together. And tho', at my first coming, I made several attempts; *I seldome cou'd raise two in a morning. Let what will be said to them, nothing, but the company from other parishes in the afternoon, will entice them out.*) Nor will reading to the walls be the worst of the case. I am already forced to be obliged to the Papist at Heathrop, for a stable to put up my horse on a Sunday: If I am set 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 else can dine me:) That will draw on something of an acquaintance; & that acquaintance will draw upon me a fresh censure of *countenancing Popery*: So that Your Lordship's alteration, instead of mending matters, will make them worse.¹

I am not the only person that has two churches on his hands: will Your Lordship strip every one that has two? two cannot be serv'd the same morning: & yet the late Bp. obliged me to take out a Licence that I might be in a capacity of serving little Rollright together with Heathrop: and Your Lordship, at the Visitation, insisted on my being furnish'd with it. But must I not, after being at the charge, receive the benefit of that Licence? I am told that that cannot be set aside, where there is no just complaint against the Curate. Turning me out of my Curacy for nothing, cannot be said to *proceed from good-will*: and doing it in opposition to a Licence make's it worse. Shou'd You, however, resolve to do it by main force; I shall be All Passive Obedience, and only sigh to my Brethren and the Neighbourhood. But, as such arbitrary and violent proceedings cannot get any one the good will of a Diocese; (I venture to speak that, in good will to Your Lordship;) so, as I am in narrow circumstances, & a bad state of health, they will soon finish the days of

Your desponding servant

James Martin

[Endorsed 'Mr Martin Heythrop']

¹ Gilbert Talbot, 1672/3–1743, 16th earl of Shrewsbury 1718, lived elsewhere, but his understeward, Mr. Baskerville, and bp. John Talbot Stonor (d.1756), vicar apostolic of the Midland Division, lived at Heythrop: *Compl. Peerage*, xi, pp. 724–5; *Vis. Retns.*, p. 82; *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xi, pp. 134, 142.

From the Revd. Thomas Middleton¹

(i.8)

Bampton, Aug. 21, 1738

My Lord

I have the Honour of Your Lordship's & hope the following will be a satisfactory Answer.

Mr. Shephard is Vice-Principal of Edmund-Hall, where he lives, & also Second Master of Magdalen-school.² He is not licens'd. The Reason, why Clanfield is serv'd every third Sunday in the Afternoon only, is, because Mr. Shephard does Duty at the Chapel of Shifford that Morning, where there are Prayers & Sermon, as there are also that Afternoon at Clanfield. The other two Sundays there are Prayers & Sermon in the Morning & Prayers in the Afternoon, at Clanfield, & an Exposition of the Church-Catechism one of those Sundays. My Parish being but a Mile from Bampton, I am ready to perform all occasional Duties in it. The true Reason of my residing at Bampton is my being Master of the Free-school there, & where I had liv'd upwards of two years, before I had the Curacy, the Statutes of the School so requiring: which, I hope, will obtain me your Lordship's Dispensation. My Vicarge House at Clanfield is indeed a very mean One, but in good Repair & inhabited. I shall carefully observe Your Lordship's Directions & personally exhort my Parish to a better Observation of the Lord's-Day & if Any shall continue refractory, shall present 'em in Your Lordship's Court.

I am My Lord Your most Dutiful & obedient Servt.

T. Middleton

¹ Of Oxford city, m. Queen's 1721 a.16, B.A. 1724/5; V. Clanfield 1731-82, C. Bampton 1743.

² Henry Shephard of Somerset, m. Magd. Coll. 1723/4 a.18, Usher 1728-39, M.A. 1730; C. Clanfield 1733.

From the Revd. John Lord¹

(i.9-10)

Cottisford, Aug. 22, 1738

My Lord,

It was with my Consent & Desire that Mr Smith inform'd you of my not being licenc'd, who never willingly represent things otherwise than they are in fact & reality;² but since I have had a Licence deliver'd to me at Your Lordship's Visitation. I shall be always ready to use my utmost Endeavour to contribute to any Reformation, but espeacially in those under my Care, & in a Point so necessary as that of Catechising; but the Parish I supply consists of but few Inhabitants & those chiefly illiterate & indigent Labourers; So that their Parents have it not in their Power to instruct them themselves, nor the Means of procuring the Instruction of a common School-Master: Their labouring under these Misfortunes prevents my being

so usefull to them as I otherwise wou'd; but I am as industrious as I can [be] in Supplying this Defect, by frequently choosing Catechetical Subjects, & publicly instructing them in the Principles of their Religion. The Papist is a Substantial Farmer's Daughter lately settled here in a Farm with her Brother, whose Father lives in another Farm in the Neighbourhood; and the reason of her professing that Religion is (as I have heard) an Agreement made before Marriage between her Mother a Papist, & her Father a Protestant; that in case they shou'd have any Children, all the Sons shou'd be brought up in his, & all the Daughters in her Way: This I believe to be so, because she has other Daughters with her of the same Profession: And I have great Reason to think that this, who lives here, quietly enjoys her own Way of Worship, without insinuating any of her Tenets into any of the Family; for her [f.9v.] Brother & all the Servants that live with them are constant Attendants of me, & often the Father & other Sons.³ And Your Lordship may be assur'd (that if any thing shou'd happen to the Prejudice or Disrepute of our Church, but espeacially in a case of Perversion to Popery) either of being inform'd of it your Self, or that I will be sure to acquaint some of the Superior Agents in your Diocese of the Rise & Occasion of it, & the Means by me us'd to prevent it.

I am your Lordships oblig'd & most Obedient Servant

Jno. Lord

¹ Son of Lawrence Lord of Cottisford, arm., m. Hart Hall 1732 a.17, M.A. 1738; C. Cottisford 1735. *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vi, p. 114 suggests that he was not of the Lord family which held the manor of Cottisford; see also *ibid.*, pp. 105-6 and *Vis. Retns.*, p.47.

² James Smith of Lances., m. B.N.C. 1710/11 a.18, King's Camb. M.A. 1724; master Stoke Poges hospital, Bucks., R. Cottisford 1727-68: *Vis. Retns.*, p.47.

³ The Roman Catholic Fermor family were absentee landowners in the parish: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vi, p.105; *Vis. Retns.*, p.47.

From the Revd. Daniel Wardle¹

(i.11)

Fringford, Aug. 30, 1738

My Lord

I am sorry that my Answers to your Lordships Enquiries concerning the Parish of Frinkford are not satisfactory.² Not being in Priests Orders myself I omitted to mention the usual Number of Communicants, which are about thirty. Mr. Warren the Curate of Heathe always administers the Sacrament for me.³ I intend to offer myself to your Lordship a Candidate for Priests Orders at Christmas Ordination, which I had done before now, but was prevented by the Death of my Father at a great Distance, & a Multiplicity of Business which I was thereby involved in, being left his only Executor.⁴ I ask your Lordships Pardon for not mentioning the Explanation of the Church-Catechism, to the Children, but I expound it to them during the Season of Lent in the most easy & familiar Manner that I am able. As to the

Popish Woman & the man that neglects the publick Worship, I do assure your Lordship that the best of my Endeavours have not hitherto, nor shall for the future be wanting to convert the one & reform the other; but if all that I can do is insufficient, the Church-Wardens intend to present the Man.⁵ I am, my Lord,

your Lordships most dutifull and Obedient Servant

D Wardle

¹ Of Staffs., m. Magd. Hall 1731/2 a.17, M.A. 1741; C. 1739/40 and R. Fringford 1753-6; on Wardle see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vi, p.132, and on Secker's attitude to the advowson *ibid.*, p.131.

² See *Vis. Retns.*, pp. 134-5.

³ John Warren of Devon, m. Exeter Coll. 1710 a.18, M.A. 1718, student Middle Temple; R. Hethe 1725-32.

⁴ Also Daniel Wardle of Leek, Staffs.

⁵ A baker's wife and 'Nat: Chester': *ibid.*, p. 65.

From the Revd. Joseph Goodwin¹

(i.12-13).

Shipton-under-Wychwood, Sep. 1, 1738

My Lord

I ask pardon for not mentioning Drayton which is within the Peculiar Jurisdiction of Dorchester, and Erasmus Dryden. M.A. is the Curate.²

The Charity Money belonging to Leafield is at present £28, the Interest of which is annually distributed to the Poor, I hope Your Lordship will excuse my omission (which was not wilfull) in not mentioning it in my answer to Your Lordships Enquiries.³

The Chapel of Leafield, as I am informed by the Inhabitants, is first to be repaired out of the Land and Houses, the Remainder Mr Arundel receives, to which the Inhabitants add by a Voluntary Subscription so much as will make it 5s. a Sunday;⁴ The Sacrament is administred in it Three times a Year, on the Sundays following the three great Festivals.

At Ascot likewise it has been always usual to administer the Sacrament on the Sundays following the three great Festivals, on which three Sundays (which I forgot particularly to specify in my answer to Your Lordships Enquiries) Divine Service is performed at Shipton only in the Afternoon.

The Remainder of the Rent of the Houses at Ascot, as the Feofees assure me, is to be disposed of for the Benefit of the Poor according as the Majority of the Inhabitants in Vestry shall approve of, and the Method they have commonly chosen is to Apprentice Poor Children; tho' for near twenty Years last past, the Money has been chiefly applied to the Church, which before that time was too much neglected, and must be so I beleive for some time longer.⁵

[f.12v.] There is no considerable Estate at Ascot but what belongs to the Dutchess of Malborough and the other Trustees to the Duke's Will Who have the Manour likewise:⁶ The Earl of Clarendine has the Manours of

Leafield, Ramsden and Langly, and a good Estate in the Liberty.⁷ The Whole Freehold of Lyneham and Merry Court with the Manour is vested in the Lady Walter for Her Life, Who resides at Weybridge in Surry.⁸ Rowland Lacy Esqr: of Pudlicot in the parish of Charlbury has the Manours of Shipton and Milton with an Estate in both Towns. Sr Thomas Read and Colonel Read have Estates in the parish likewise.⁹ The Freehold of the Parsonage of Shipton, which includes the major part of the Tithes of Ascot is in the Professor of Law in the University of Oxford for the time being, but Leased out to Richard Morgan Esqr: who lives at Wallis near Epping in Essex.¹⁰

These I beleive are the only Proprietors of Land from Whom any thing can be expected, and of These I have only the honour to know the Professor and the Gentlemen in my Neighbourhood, with Whom I have often consulted about procuring the Queens Bounty, and if there is any likelihood of succeeding will not fail to acquaint Your Lordship with it.

I am very sensible (altho' the Sacrament is administred at Leafield Chapel and the people of Ramsden which is four long miles from the parish Church are indulged to receive the Sacrament at Wilcot which is within half a Mile of them) that the Number of Communicants is very small, and have endeavored to remedy it, not only by publick & private exhortation, but by lending to several Families those I esteem the Best & plainest Books upon the Subject: I will continue my endeavors to encrease their Number, and in all other particulars to obey Your Lordships Instructions and am

Yr Lordships most Dutiful Son and Humble Servant

Joseph Goodwin

¹ Son of Joseph Goodwin of Shipton-under-Wychwood, m. Lincoln Coll. 1720/1 a.17, M.A. 1727; C. 1725 and R. Shipton-under-Wychwood 1727-73.

² Of Westminster, m. Ch. Ch. 1725 a.15, M.A. 1732, B.D. 1746.

³ For details of Sir George Fettiplace's bread charity and Joyner's and Tanner's gifts see *Vis. Retns.*, p. 135, and *Oxon. Charity Reports*, p. 180/448.

⁴ William Arundel of Witney, m. Trinity 1704 a.17, B.A. 1707/8; C. Minster Lovell and chapelry of Leafield 1731/2.

⁵ For details of Ascott charities see *Oxon. Charity Reports*, pp. 245-7/413-15.

⁶ Sarah Churchill, 1660-1744: *Compl. Peerage*, viii, pp. 495-6.

⁷ Henry Hyde of Cornbury Park, 1672-1753, 4th earl of Clarendon 1724: *ibid.*, iii, pp. 268-9.

⁸ Elizabeth Louisa, wife of Sir Robert Walter of Sarsden, 4th bt., died 1740: *Compl. Btage*, ii, p. 142.

⁹ Thomas Read of Shipton-under-Wychwood, c.1684-1752, 3rd bt. 1692, M.P. Cricklade 1713-41, 1741-7, m. Jane Mary dau. Sir Ralph Dutton: *ibid.*, iii, p. 173; *Hist. Parl.*, ii, p.380. George Read of Shipton-under-Wychwood, 1687-1758, M.P. Tewkesbury 1722-34, colonel 9th Dragoon Guards: *ibid.*

¹⁰ Richard Morgan of Warlies, Essex, d. by Nov. 1740: *V.C.H. Essex*, v, pp. 154-5; W. Winters, 'Historic Notices of Warlies' (Unpubl.: Essex R.O., T/P 153.).

From Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough

(i.14-15)

Woodstock, Sep. 5, 1738

My Lord

I hope I don't do any thing improper in sending Your Lordship the Enclos'd Papers; for I would not for a great deal do an Act that should displease you; who, I think, as you can judge what is right of every thing, will easily by reading the Enclos'd Paper see, whether the Groveses have any Reason, or Right, in Support of the Demand they make.¹ And now I am writing, I desire your Leave to acquaint you with all I ever did concerning this Dispute. The Groveses at first apply'd to me, and made a very wrong Representation of the whole Matter. Saying, "that the Town of Woodstock were so cruel, as to turn out two Sisters, who had sat in a Pew many Years; and therefore they would Contest it with the Town of Woodstock, but not with me:" And concluded with a great many Expressions, and Compliments. To this I Answer'd very Naturally, "that I hop'd no body would turn them out, and was sure I never would." And indeed I thought it must proceed from some Quarrelsome, and ill-natur'd People in the Town, to turn two Women out of a Pew in a Country Church. But I had afterwards a true State of the Matter from Mr Ryves; who I have known many Years, has a good Character, and is, I think, a Man of good Sense.² And upon further Application from the Groveses I said, "they had ma[de? – MS. torn] a wrong Representation of the Case to me, that if the Pew in Dispute belong'd to the Marlborough Family, it was not in my Power to give it away. And if the Right was in the Town, they might do what they pleas'd, for I would not oppose them, or to that Purpose." After the true State of the Matter came to my Knowledge, and that the Pew in Dispute held 13 People in a Church where Room was wanted, and was desir'd for two Women [f.14v.] (who are not to make Use of it themselves, but to sell it to some Stranger who may buy the House) I think my having said I would not oppose them is no Manner of Engagement. They seem to think now I have no Right, and yet they Claim under my Lord Litchfield who had £12,000 when he parted with Woodstock Park.³ And when that was settled by Parliament on the Duke of Marlborough's Family, if my Lord Litchfield had any Right, I must have the same. And not only the same, but a much stronger. And as I present to the Living, I think I should have been Consulted before Application made to any Court. And it would be a very odd thing, when any of our Family is settled at Woodstock, that this Pew in Dispute should be sold to any Stranger, and the Duke of Marlborough's Family want Room in Woodstock Town. I am assur'd the Facts in Groves'es Paper are false, and that the Allegations can't be Prov'd. I am told, that Ninety People have Signed the Case of those that Object. And that one of those who have Sign'd Groves's Case has no Right, as he pays no Tax. I am likewise told, that if I would settle the Pew in any other Manner, there is no Doubt of a Majority in the Town of Woodstock to

comply with it. But I desire only to have it determined according to Right and Reason. As to the first, I can't pretend to judge of that. But for the Reason, I think it is very plain, that so great a Family, as the Duke of Marlborough's will be, should have a Pew in that Church. As it is, that Lord Litchfield could have no Right, but from being Master of that Park, or the Corporation of Woodstock's giving it him: Which they did by Act of Council. And it don't appear that my Lord Litchfield transferr'd that Right by Deed; nor indeed that he had a Power of doing it when he left that Place. And I remember myself that after the Duke of Marlborough came to Woodstock, many of His Gentlemen-Servants sat in that Pew. This long Letter and Cases is too much to trouble You with; who, I wish if it were possible, might never [f.15] have any, being with the greatest Truth and Esteem

Your Lordship's Most faithful and most oblig'd humble Servant

S: Marlborough

[To 'His House near Oxford' and endorsed 'Duchess of Marlborou[gh] – MS. torn] Sept 1738 Woodstock']

¹ Anne and Amy Groves; their pew dispute case can be followed in the consistory court register: O.R.O., O.D.P. c.2137.

² Edward Ryves was town clerk of Woodstock, steward to the duke of Marlborough, and clerk to the lieutenancy: *ex. inf.* Dr. D.M. Barratt; *V.C.H. Oxon*, vi, 155–6, xii, *s.n.* Ryves, Edward.

³ Edward Henry Lee, 1662–1716, 2nd earl of Lichfield, 1674: *Compl. Peerage*, vii, pp. 644–6.

To Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough

(i.16–17)

Oxford, Sep. 10, 1738

Madam

I humbly thank your Grace for the honour of your letter and am heartily glad to see this mark of your being in tolerable health. The petition of the Groves doth not come before me personally; but before the Chancellor of the Diocese who I doubt not will do justice upon the occasion much better than a person so little versed in these matters as I am.¹ But I will frankly tell your Grace my Opinion so far as I can form one from the papers which your Grace hath been pleased to send me. It doth not appear whether the Corporation apprehend they had a legal right to the two pews which stood in the same place with that now in question. If they had such a right, I presume they could give Lord Lichfield permission to sit there. But whether they could give any person a property there I know not, unless the Ordinary concurred in it. And whether even with the help of the Ordinary they could give Lord Lichfield a property I very much doubt. For [f.16v.] unless he possessed some house in the Parish I think he could have no pew. And Woodstock Park, as I take it is extra-parochial. But whether it was a

right or a permission only that he had, he seems by the words of the Order to have had it only for himself personally. And therefore if the Corporation had any property in the two pews, I apprehend they have now the same in the one pew that is erected in the same place. And it may be such a Property for ought I know as the Ordinary cannot take away from them. At least I see no reason why he should, so long as they make a proper use of it. But supposing the Corporation to have no property in the pew, yet neither the possession which the Groves have had of it nor their having repaired it will intitle them to it. Nor doth it seem a reasonable petition that the Ordinary should give them a title to it exclusive of other persons considering that they are but two and the pew is said [to] hold a dozen and it is alledged that several parishioners of good fashion want room as well as they. Indeed if it be no persons property at present, they may I think reasonably claim such a share of it as may be consistent with accommodating other Parishioners. For undoubtedly Parishioners ought to be accommodated as far as they can, and should not be denied seats upon a general plea of leaving room for strangers. Your Grace may probably have houses in the Parish that may intitle you in strictness to the name of a Parishioner and then you have a right to demand a Pew whenever there is any to be had. But if not, yet such a family in the neighbourhood [*f.17*] ought certainly to have all possible regard paid it in this respect as well as every other. Indeed when any of the family are at Blenheim I presume they will always have service in the Chapel. But at other times it may be a great convenience to the servants of the house to have room in the Church. And to secure them this convenience I think your Grace may justly endeavour to defeat any extravagant demands of the Groves. Nor ought your promise of not opposing them to be understood otherwise than on supposition of their making reasonable requests. However, after the petition which hath been presented to the Consistory Court against them I fancy your Grace may leave the affair to take its own course especially as it is conducted by a person of Mr Ryves's character of whom I find the whole Country hath the same opinion that Your Grace hath.

I hope to wait upon your Grace in town before the end of next month[.] In the mean time I beg to assure you that I am with the greatest sincerity & respect, Madam,

Your Graces most obedient & most obliged humble servt

[TO]

In transcribing the letter wch I sent some few alterations were made but none material

[Endorsed 'To the Duchess of Marlborough Sept 12 1738']

¹ Thomas Tenison, m. Corpus 1711, LL.B. 1713, adm. Clare Hall, Camb. 1716, Trinity Hall LL.D. 1726; archdeacon of Carmarthen 1729, chancellor diocese of Oxford 1734-42.

From the Revd. Benjamin Holloway¹

(i.18-19)

Middleton Stoney, Oct. 10, 1738

My Lord

As your Lordsp was pleas'd to mention to me the Affair of the Pew in dispute at Woodstock, I presume to trouble your Lordsp with a few Lines on that Subject. Mrs Groves's mov'd for a Faculty for this Pew about 20 Years ago' & were oppos'd by the same Persons that oppose them now: Meeting with some difficulties from Suggestions that were not true, They dropt the Matter then. But lately when Mr Price sued for a Faculty for a seat in the Chancel, these Gentlewomen (reasonably judging they might as well expect a Faculty for a Pew they have been so many years possessd of, as Mr Price just then come to the Town had for one He never had the Use of) requested Me to move the Affair for them; which I readily undertook to do, as knowing the Objections formerly offer'd to have been frivolous, or worse; & that there were no better Objections to be offer'd now. And accordingly I laid the Matter before Mr Chancellor first by Letter, & afterwards in Conversation, representing to him some of the Merits of these Ladys to the purpose of the Affair in Hand; wch Mr Chancr. order'd to be inserted in their Petition & repeated in the Intimation, adding, that if no Legal Objections were offer'd in 2 Court-days, the Faculty wd be decreed: wch I mention not as laying Claim to a Promise of Mr Chancr's made out of Court; For it had been the same if no such Thing had been said; Because Admitting their Petition implied the same; &, accordingly was it inserted, as usual, in the Intimation, viz: that, no legal Objection being made, the Faculty wd go out. However, after the Publishing of the Intimation, a great Part of the Town was spirited up by 2 or 3 of the old Adversaries to oppose it, & (as they carried in their Superscription) *by way of Petition*: But if they are Petitioners, I think they are of a very sturdy kind, having in their Petition set forth, among other Things, that they always look'd upon the Right of disposing of the Seats in the Church, to be, not in the Ordinary, but in the Corporation: And upon this, I know, they intend to go: If the Ordinary grants a Faculty, they think to get His Decree revers'd by the Temporal Courts, as presuming [f. 18v.] it will appear that the Ordinary has even no such Power as that of granting Faculties for Seats in Churches. But, had this Petition been conceiv'd uniformly in the most Petition-like Terms, I humbly conceive it cd. not reasonably be admitted by the Judges because the Gentle-Women are His Petitioners before, Friendly to his jurisdiction and accepted by Him as such: After which, surely, other Opposite Petitioners are not to be admitted: If they will oppose, they are to shew some Rights to bar the Ordinary's Faculty, without which all other offers are Impertinencies or Insults: wherefore I suppose these Petitioners being doubtfull of their Cause did since move Her Grace of Marlborough to claim this Pew for Blenheim: But I think Her Grace now declines to interpose in this Bus'ness: And indeed had I not been satisfied from the first, that neither

Her Grace, nor the Town, had any Claim, I wou'd not have mov'd a Step in the Affair: I wd never be so mad as to go about to Mislead the Ordinary, or to help Others to rob my Patroness of Her Rights, or to Usurp upon those of the rest of my Parishioners. The Town indeed seems to have one plausible Objection, from the Number of the Inhabitants and the Fewness of the Pews in the Church. But I do assure your Lordsp, that, were the Pews & Galleries they now have rightly disposd of, they wou'd commodiously hold near 100 Men & Women more than do now ever come to the Church. So that upon the whole I cannot but think the Faculty must be decreed for the Ladys, because (besides many other Reasons) if such Suits as this of theirs be rejected only for the Sake of Opposite Petitions, None will ever sue to their Ordinaries for Faculties, & so this part of their Jurisdiction will drop by Non-User.

I have proceeded on your Lordsp's Encouragement to the Erecting of the Barn, of wch I told Your Lordsp, at Bladon; and, as it is so much for the Good of the Place, I hope your Lordsp will remember to speak to My Lady Dutchess to obtain Her Graces Consent, & also otherwise give Direction for Securing me with other proper Authorities. I am with the greatest Regard, My Lord, Your Lordsp's

Most dutifull & Obedient Servant

B. Holloway

[Endorsed 'Mr Holloway Oct 10 1738']

¹ B.H. sr., of Beds., adm. St. John's Camb. 1707/8, LL.B. 1713; R. Middleton Stoney 1724-59, R. Bladon 1736; the latter passed to his son, B.H. jr., in 1739.

From the Revd. John Tucker¹

(i.20)

Cornwell, Sep. 8, 1738

My Good Lord

I had the honour of yours this day dated the 18th. of Aug. where it has been all the while I cann't tell; but there must be a neglect somewhere. Your Lordship has been pleas'd to ask my reasons for omitting a Sermon on the Sacramt. Sunday in answer to wch. I had heard that my people wod. sometimes complain of being too tedious att Sermon tho perhaps rarely exceeding half an hour upon this I have shorten'd my discourses wch. keeps them more constant & omitted preaching on communion days lest it shod. be an hindrance[.] However as my flock will I hope come gradually to think religion lest wearisome so I design God Willing not to omitt preaching on sacrament days & if your Lordship shall advise me immidiately it shall forthwith be done. I & I think my Brethren have great reason to Bless God, for so vigilant a Governour as your Lordship[.] I humbly crave your prayers & Benediction And am with all bounden duty My Good Lord

your obedient son & humble Servt

J Tucker

¹ ? of Somerset, m. Wadham 1696 a.15, B.A. 1699/1700; R. Cornwell 1730-58, C. Churchill 1749.

From the Revd. Charles Huggins¹

(i.21)

[? Chinnor], Sep. 14, 1738

My Ld.

Yr Letter ('thô dated the 1st of this Month) came not to hand 'till yesterday; you therein desire to know the reason why none of the People of Chinnor were confirm'd: I assure Yr Lordship there was no neglect in me, for upon the first notice of a Confirmation I sent my Clark round the Parish to tell them it was the duty of Parents & Sponsors to see that Children took upon themselves their Baptismal Vow, & in order to it were to enter their names with me, I also exhorted them from the Pulpit, but not one came near me. Tis the same as to catechising, I have given notice for Children to attend & be examin'd, but not one ever came; but the poor children are taught to read & say their Catechism at my expence, I do not expound upon it, but very frequently make it the Subject of my discourse. I read Prayers twice a Sunday & Preach once. I do not read Prayers in the Week Days for Chinnor is not a Market-town & consequently I shou'd not get a Congregation. There is no Chappel in the Parish.

As you did not approve of my former answer to your Enquiries, I hope this will be much more satisfactory from

My Ld. Yr Lordship's most Obedt Servt

Cha: Huggins.

¹ Of London, m. Magd. Hall 1717 a.17, B.C.L. 1727/8; R. Chinnor 1727/8-50; for further details see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, pp. 72, 75.

From the Revd. Henry Taylor¹

(i.22)

Wheatfield, Sep. 19, 1738

My Lord

I Recd: the honour of Your Lordship's dated the 28th: of last Month, but not being able to send Your Lordship a more particular Account of what I imagin'd most material I imprudently neglected to answer Your other Enquiries till the present Rect: of your Ldships dated the 18th: instt: I am asham'd of my Neglect & beg Your Lordships pardon.²

I only assist my Neighbours when occasionally absent not any one particularly & when I preach for any one in an Afternoon, have no prayers at my own Church. I do intend to Catechise as soon as I can get a Competent Number ready. I shall officiate on Xtnas day & Good Fryday according to Your Lordships directions: On other days can expect no Congregation.³ I assure Your Lordship I have enter'd into no Engagements at all concerning my Income, & hope I shall always perform my Duty to

Your Lordships Satisfaction. I shall give Your Lordship a more particular acct: of the £4 per year when further inform'd myself⁴

I am My Lord Your Lordships most Dutiful Son & Obedt: Humb Servt:
Henry Taylor

¹ Of Essex, adm. Queens' Camb. 1727, M.A. 1735; R. Wheatfield 1737-?: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, p.271. The terminal date of his incumbency is not clear: Venn states 1753, Oldfield 1746.

² He is presumably referring to his visitation returns: *Vis. Retns.*, pp. 168-9.

³ *Ibid.*, p.169.

⁴ *Ibid.*

From the Revd. Henry Taylor

(i.23)

Wheatfield, Oct. 19, 1738

May it please yr: Lordship

I have mention'd the Affair of the 4 Pounds a year to Mrs. Rudge who will speak to Mr. Rudge about it when she finds a proper time;¹ wch. I hope may be a means to conclude the dispute in an amicable manner. Upon this Account I have not wrote to Mr. Archer, nor do I intend till I hear from Mrs. Rudge unless your Lordship shall think it necessary, taking it as a great favour to be honour'd with Your Lordships Directions. I thought proper to mention this to Yr. Lordship that you might not think me dilatory in not sending a more particular Account

I am yr: Lordships Dutiful Son & Most Humble Servt.

Henry Taylor

¹ Elizabeth, dau. Matthew Howard of Hackney, wife of Edward Rudge, 1703-63, patron of the living and F.R.S., M.P. Aylesbury 1728-34, Evesham 1741-54, 1756-61: *Hist. Parl.*, ii, p. 395; *Bacon*, p.789; see also *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, p. 267.

From the Revd. Henry Taylor

(i.24)

Wheatfield, Mar. 15, 1738/9

May it please yr Lordp.

Thus the case stands at present with regard to the £4 a year Charity due to the poor of this Parish - To demand Mr. Rudge answers Ist. That there are no such lands in the Parish as those mention'd in the Deed. - The land is describ'd in the Deed as follows, 'My - Tenement Orchard & Close thereunto belonging commonly call'd - 'Cooper's Close containing - 4 Acres - Now in the Tenure of Eliz: Lybb'.

Tis true there is no Close in the Parish call'd by that name, nor can I find that any one remembers that name. But it is well known where this Eliz: Lybb liv'd & that her Orchard & Close did contain about 4 Acres. And I am told that That land did always pay the money by its Tenant till Mr. Rudge paid it himself.

2. Mr. Rudge answers that the land wherever it be in the Parish was settled by Sr. Th: Tipping upon his Lady before he sold it to his brother who left the Charity.¹

The proof of this does not appear. On the Contrary it seems very unlikely that Lady Tipping & her descendants would have paid this money if the poor had not had legal Title to it.

3. Mr. Rudge answers My Estate was bought free from all Incumbrances, & consequently the persons to pay this Money are Messrs. Sandys & Archer Executrs. to Lady Tipping.² I have wrote to them & rec'd for answer that inform'd as they are they don't think they have any thing to do in it, that neither of them were privy to the Bargain between Lady Tipping & Mr Rudge.

[f.24v.] On the Contrary Mr. Ridges Father assures me that he has a writing declaring the Estate sold free sign'd or witnessed (I don't remember which) by both Mr. Sandys & Archer and this I had also from his Attorney. Both these assertions may be true, because Mr. Rudge bought the Estate by a third person. If Mr. Ridges 1st & 2d answers be of no weight as I beleive they will prove, it no way concerns me what demand he may afterwards have upon Messrs. Sandys & Archer, He ought to pay the money. I can give yr: Lordship no further light in this matter, but shall be ready to follow yr. Lordsp. Directions.

I am Your Lordships Obedt. Son & Humble Servt.

Henry Taylor

¹ Sir Thomas Tipping, 1st bt. d.1718; Sir Thomas Tipping, 2nd bt. d.1726, lords of the manor of Wheatfield: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, p. 267.

² Samuel Sandys, 1st baron Sandys, d.1770, m. Laetitia dau. Sir Thomas Tipping 1st bt., 1725: *ibid.*, p. 265; *Compl. Peerage*, xi., p. 449.

From the Revd. William Arundell¹

(i.25)

[n.d.]

My Lord

I here transmit to yr Ldsp. the last deed of feoffment of Leafield as yr Ldship seemed to desire, I have heard something of the very old one of all, in whose hands that lies, if I can get it I shall communicate that also to you, that by comparing both together, there may be a true judgmt. formed whither the trusts are duly answered. Yr. Ldshp. will observe one thing, that by this new one, the repairs of this *antient* chappel are thrown upon the endowment; as we have a Chappel Warden, and briefs come to us De Quære. Whither this does not put the repairs upon the same footing as a parochial Church? The last Surplice that was bought, the endowment paid for it. These things sink the endowment to nothing. It is given by Sr Henry Untons will² for divine Service the first Sunday in every month, and no

more, the people subscribe a small matter, and so all the Summer half year I serve them every Sunday constantly, and once a fortnight in the winter. Dr Friends servant (by whom I send this) is in hast [sic] or else I should have writ more.³ If yr. Ldsp. has any thing further, let me know

Yr Ldps. most obedient &c

Will: Arundell

¹ See *Vis. Retns.*, p. 103, for details of his family background and employment as a schoolmaster at Witney.

² Of Wadley Manor, Faringdon, Berks., 1553–96, founder of Leafeld chapel in 1590: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 135.

³ Robert Freind of Northants., m. Ch. Ch. 1686 a.19, M.A. 1693, D.D. 1709, Canon 1737; R. Witney 1711–39, headmaster Westminster School, archdeacon of Windsor, d.1751. His son William did not receive his doctorate until 1748.

From the Revd. George Sheppard¹ to ?²

(i.26)

Charlbury, Dec. 19, 1738

Sir

I receiv'd Yours, & return You a great many thanks for Your trouble of writing to His Ldship. – I should be very Glad to know particularly when His Ldship will be in the Country, & most at Liberty, for then I would waite upon Him, – His Lordship seems to suspect the Gentleman presenting to be a Trustee for a Papist,³ how the Bill of Sale from Henry Fermor⁴ to John Sutton⁵ for the Rectory of Hardwick & several others bears date the sixth of August in the tenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King George the Second 1736, which Bill of Sale was Acknowledg'd the same Day before Anty. Allen by Henry Fermor Esq, & enroll'd in His Majesties high Court of Chancery the same Day being first duly stamp'd according to the Tenor of the Statute made in the sixth year of the Reign of their late Majesties King William & Queen Mary, by Stephen Downer. if You would be pleas'd to communicate this to the Bishop You wd oblige me, & if His Ldship shou'd not be contented with this, Mr Sutton will waite upon his Lordship in Person, when He is in the Country, with the Original Deed.

I am Sir, Your most obedient humble Servant

George Sheppard

¹ Of Charlbury, m. Ch. Ch. 1726/7 a.17, B.A. 1730; C. Charlbury and R. Hardwick 1738/9–84: *Vis Retns.*, p.37.

² The letter may have been written to the chancellor or registrar.

³ James 'Farmor' presented in 1709 and James [sic] Sutton in 1738: *Bacon*, p. 792.

⁴ Henry Fermor of Tusmore, 1714–46/7: *Vis. Retns.*, pp. 135–6; for the family and Roman Catholicism see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vi, pp. 172–3, 299.

⁵ 'Esquire' John Sutton of Charlbury had a Roman Catholic wife: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 37.

From John Sutton

(i.27-8)

Charlbury, Jan. 20, 1738/9

My Lord,

Mr Sheppard brings with him a presentation to the Rectory of Hardwick in your Lordship Diocess, that I had an undoubted right to present to that Church, Your Lordship will plainly see, by the Originall Bill of Sail, which I have sent by him.¹

Whether the Liveing is Lapst, or not, I know not, but leave that intirely to your Lordship better judement [sic] to determine. If it should be your Lordships opinion that it is Lapst, I hope your Lordship will be so kind as to take no advantage of it, but to admit Mr Sheppard by that presentation.

The reasons for asking this favour, will not be improper in this place, Mr Sheppard holds this liveing for a young Gentleman now att Oxford [f.27v.] with the addition of a Sine-Cure of about the same value, when it falls, & to continue them together for the future, by which means there will be a decent provision for a Clergyman.

I am, My Lord Your Lordships most Dutyfull & obedient humble servant

John Sutton

[Endorsed 'Mr Sutton Jan 20 1738.9 Hardwick']

¹ George Sheppard.**From the Revd. Ralph Church¹**

(i.29-30)

Pyrton, Jan. 31, 1738/9

My Lord,

I must beg pardon for appearing so remiss: The Two Papers enclos'd were, by some accident, mislaid. I believe 'em to be Genuine Copies; & do suppose (as I found 'em amongst some other Papers relating to the Vicarage) that they have been handed down for many years. Your Lordship will please to take the trouble to peruse them, & will readily perceive that the Present State of the Alms house differs from the First Institution enough to justify me in giving your Lordship this Trouble.²

The Names of the Persons now belonging to it are as follow.

John Nayler.	Resident:
Thomas Stevens.	The Reader, nonresident; living at Nettlebed.
Henry Johnson.	Resident:
John Barnes.	Nonresident; Roman-Catholick, living with his Mother at Assenden.
Sarah White.	Resident:
Mary Matthews.	Nonresident; Roman Catholick, living at Ickford.

widow Harding.	Resident; Roman Cath:
widow Broadway.	Resident:
Anne Dean.	Nonresident; Roman Cath: living with Mr Stonner.
Rebecca Cooper.	Resident; Roman Cath:

[f.29v.] Their Present Allowance is Two shillings paid weekly, once in Two years The Men have 4 yards & $\frac{1}{2}$ of Cloth for a Coat; The women 4 for a Gown.

Each Person has 50 Babbins yearly for Firewood, and at Christmas one Bushel of wheat. Besides this, Mrs Stonner gives to Each of them (of Her own free Gift) at Christmas, Two shillings & Six Pence & Eight Pounds of Beef.

Thomas Stevens who succeeded in the Place of the Last Reader (about Eight years agoe) has always liv'd at Nettlebed; so that there have been no Prayers read to them at least in all that time.

The Book too is either lost, or (as I rather fear) wilfully destroy'd. I'm inform'd that the Ten shillings (as 'specify'd in the Institution) never was paid to Thomas Stevens, but cannot say how tis appropriated.

Not to trouble your Lordship with any observations upon this affair, I only beg leave to add, that if your Lordship shall please to make any farther use of my Service, you may command

My Lord your Lordship's most dutifull & most obedient humble Sert.
Ralph Church.

[Endorsed 'Almshouse at Pirton (Assendon)']

¹ Of Westminster, m. Ch. Ch. 1725 a.17, M.A. 1732; V. Pyrton 1735-87, V. Shirburn 1748-87.

² For details of the almshouse at Assendon founded by Sir Francis Stonor in 1620 see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, p. 177; *Vis. Retns.*, p. 125.

From Paul Welles¹

(i.31-2)

Cuddesdon, Apr. 16, 1739

My Lord

Mr: Jackson² being in Hampshire Mr: Ward³ has acquainted me with the Import of your Letter to him Relating to the Proposition made by Mr: Jackson (in a late Letter to your Lordsp:) of my being Elected Church warden of this Place at Easter next and upon having some discourse with Mr: Ward he thought that I could best Represent the nature of the thing. I therefore humbly presume (and more especially as I once was premitted [sic] the honour of your Company) that your Lordsp: will be inclined to excuse my doing it – Thomas Armbrough the present Churchwarden has held the office two Years at Easter which is as long as the generality of Persons in this Place do continue it⁴ – It was his turn to serve as Overseer of

the Poor for the last Year but thinking it not so convenient that those two offices should be invested in any One person (where Inhabitants are plenty) I served it my Self because none of the Neighbours were willing to do it out of there turn nor I dare say will be so which was one Reason my Lord of moveing the affair to you yet I Referr it eintirely to your Lordsp: better Judgement and shall very readily submitt to it – Here is another little affair my Lord which offers to me Viz: There has been kept in this Place for many Years past an unlicenced Ale house by a Person deservedly [f.31v.] of a very bad Reputation and in opposition too to your Lordsp: Predecessor and does behave in a very Insolent manner to the neighbourhood who would be very glad to promote another house in order to surpress this and the chiefest of the Inhabitants maketh vice of Richard Ley your Lordsp: Clarke of our Parish if your Lordsp: should approve of it. – He is a Person pretty far in Years and of a sober Conversation his wife is an honest Industrious woman and has lately endeavoured to get her bread by keeping a little shop but finds it does not turn to Acct. therefore would be very glad to be in a better way[.] I would not be thought my Lord that I endeavour to multiply Alehouses in the Town but am of opinion that the present Ale house would fail of course if there was another[,] if not I apprehend there are methods to be used that will entirely surpress it.

I am sorry I should take up so much of your Lordsp: time in such trifling affairs yet I hope at your leisure to have the favour of a line or two in answer which will be highly esteemed by

Your Lordsp: most Dutiful Sert:

Paul Welles

Please to direct to me to be left at the Turn pyke at Whately Bridge by Tedsworth Bagg

[Endorsed 'Cuddesden Mr Welles Apr 16.1739']

¹ Landowner of Chilworth and Tiddington; for further details see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, v, p.12.

² Gilbert Jackson sr. of Cuddesdon, receiver for the Wriothesley estate, Hants. 1723–40: Hants. R.O., 5M53/1098, 1198–1217. 'The rectory [of Cuddesdon] came to the Jackson family in the late 17th century and remained with it until 1809.' *V.C.H. Oxon.*, v, p. 114. See also iii.168–9 & n.1 *infra*.

³ Walter Walker Ward of London, m. Ch. Ch. 1719 a.18, M.A. 1726, D.D. 1740/1; C. Cuddesdon 1737, d.1755.

⁴ A Thomas Amborough received 87a. on the enclosure of Cuddesdon in 1813: *ibid.*, p. 111, while a Thomas Armsborough of Cuddesdon and freeholder of Wheatley is listed in the county poll book of 1754.

From the Revd. Walter Walker Ward

(i.33–4)

Christ Church, Apr.16, 1739

My Lord,

I have said nothing that can make it at all requisite either to turn out or continue Mr Amborough in the Churchwardenship.

If Your Lordship had not writ to me about this matter, I should have enquired who was willing to have made some alterations in the Church, & was determin'd to have chosen the Man whom I could best have relied upon, but, upon equal Terms, I should by choice have continued Mr Amborough.

Since I writ to Your Lordship last, I have learnt that the three Churchwardens have equal power, & therefore find that the answer of Mr Amborough, referring me to the Vestry for alterations in the Church, which did not then satisfy me, because I thought He was not willing to do what He could, was given with caution & prudence.

I am entirely of Opinion that when Your Lordship has done what You intend to the [f.33v.] Chancell & has had an opportunity of talking with the Parishoners, Your Example & Authority will induce them to do much more than they would do of themselves. Yet if Mr Amborough should whitewash the Church forthwith, perhaps they would, after an interval of time more cheerfully agree to further improvements.

I humbly offer my conjectures as they arise without the least intension to biass Your Lordship's Judgment. I have not spoken one word more either to Mr Smythe or Mr Amborough about the matter.¹ I have not the least regard to persons, I wish only to see the Church put into decent repair; I wish my zeal in this matter may not have made me express too much indignation in my last Letter against the backwardness of the Country people to contribute to so laudable a work.

Mr Jackson is gone out of this Country, I communicated Your Message to [f.34] Mr Wells yesterday morning, He said He should be willing to undertake the office next Year, with the same disposition He is in this; He came to me again in the Evening, offer'd a reason why Mr Amborough should not be continued another Year; because He ought to have been Overseer of the Poor last Year, which office Mr Wells supplied for Him; this Year Mr Amborough must take it upon Himself, & Query whether it be fit Mr Amborough should have so much power in his hands at once.

I presumed to assure Mr Wells that if He would write to Your Lordship, that liberty would not give offence.

I deliver'd the Message to the Gardiner concerning the Hams.

I am, with respects to Yr Lady & Family, Your Lordship's, Most dutiful Son & obedient Servant

W:W: Ward.

[Endorsed 'Mr Ward Apr 16. 1739 Abt Cuddesden Church']

¹ Sebastian Smythe III, d.1752, held the manor of Cuddesdon: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, v, p. 102.

From the Revd. Walter Walker Ward

(i.35-7)

Christ Church, Apr. 25, 1739

My Lord,

I have nominated Mr Welles Church Warden for this Year, according to Your Lordship's directions. Last Sunday Mr John Bigges observed at Mr Smythe's Table that there was likely to be much dissention among the parishoners concerning an Overseer of the poor for this Year, which gave me an opportunity of acquainting them with Your Lordships designs. I told them that That affair would be made easy, because Mr Welles had inform'd Your Lordship how that matter stood & that it was not usual for the Churchwardenship to be held by the same person longer than two Years. That You judged it proper Mr Amborough should now take the place of Overseer of the poor, for such reasons as are contain'd in Your Letter. & that You thought Mr Welles a proper Person to be appointed Churchwarden.

[f.35v.] Mr Smythe said nothing in opposition. He certainly can have no pretence to interfere in these matters, & when I consulted Him this time two Years, He avoided as much as possible all appearance of influencing me; He would have been better pleased perhaps to have seen Mr Amborough chosen again; & had I been left intirely to Myself, He would probably have expected that, on the account of the civilities He shows me, I should have taken a slight Hint to do what might be most agreeable to his Humour. But I have not discover'd the least reason to imagine He expected Your Lordship should consult Him in any thing of this nature. Mr Amborough shew'd no fondness for the Office of Churchwarden, & seems thoroughly to acquiesce in the reasonableness of his being Overseer. & Mr Smythe I doubt not, must do the same, how proper soever He might otherwise have thought it that Mr Ambrough should be continued Churchwarden a third Year. I have lately looked into the [f.36] Churchwardens account Book & find that a great many have held the office but two Years, many three Years, & several, among whom Mr Welles, four Years.

The Vestry have agreed that the Church shall be whitewashed, & a pair of Stairs made to the Pulpit instead of the present Ladder. The first will be done forthwith. They were doubtful whether it be necessary to have the Kings Arms in the Church, because that alone, they said, would cost as much as all the Whitewashing. As to the necessity I could not resolve them. I question'd whether some people might not look up [sic] the omission of the Kings Arms, as want of Loyalty. It was agreed the old Arms should stand as they do till Your Lordship comes down. I desired them to defer the alteration of the steps to the Pulpit till they could have Your directions, meaning thereby only to reserve a possibility of getting the reading desk made more commodious at the same time, if You shall think it needful.

[f.36v.] Last Thursday about eight in the morning a Fire broke out in an Outhouse, which the Clark of Cuddesden had lately turned into a blacksmith's shop for his Son, the House being thatch'd & having no Ceiling

took fire from the sparks. Had the wind been high, the whole Town had been in great danger, I find it is the opinion of the Neighbours that the damage is about 12 or £14. It is design'd to make some collection for the sufferers. Mr Welles has drawn up a Petition in a formal manner, much like a Brief, which was brought to me to sign, wch I have declined for several reasons, not knowing but it may be unlawful to sent [sic] about such a Petition without the hand of a Justice of peace, & the Oaths of the Workman computing the Loss & of the Persons testifying the same. & because I am not thoroughly perswaded of the Facts contained in the Draught, the Loss sustain'd being represented as upwards of £20, & the little place destroyed being stiled a Smithshop, with another House adjoining besides Tools, Wearing Apparel & several out-houses, meaning two Foricæ & a Pigstie. If Your Lordship is [f.37] acquainted with the necessary Forms to be observed in sending about such Petitions, I should be glad to be informed of them. The Petition for the Inhabitants of Wellingborough has not been sent to me as yet, but I have seen one of them, which makes me so cautious in this case.

I am Your Lordships most dutiful son & obedient servant

W: W: Ward.

From the Revd. Dr. Francis Astry¹ to Henry Sisson

(i.38-9)

June 5, 1739

Sr.

In answer to your Enquiry about the Lectures at Orset & Chadlington I here send You the Words of the Appointment:² The Feofees of each of the said Parishes are "*To pay ¼th of the Rents towards settling & maintaining of a Lecture in the Parish Church of Orset for every Lord's day in the Afternoon & ¼th to the Poor of Orset, & so for Chadlington.*"

The Practice at Orset in my time & from the time that this Gift towards a Lecture took Place has been to have a Sermon every Afternoon from Lady-day to Michmas; for which the Rector provides as he receives ¼th of the Rents; However to give my Opinion in this Matter, I do apprehend that the Rector is not obliged by the Terms of the Donation to do so much, nor indeed to preach the Lecture by himself or Curate at all if he declined taking what is given *towards* it, which is not more than £6 a year or thereabouts.

I am not to take upon me to say any thing in particular about Chadlington, but I hope what You have above is a full Answer to what You have been desired to ask me.

I am Sr Your most humble servant

Fra: Astry

[To 'Mr. Henry Sisson']

¹ Of London, m. B.N.C. 1692 a.15, Merton M.A. 1702, D.D. 1715; R. Cornwell 1705–15/16, R. Orsett, Essex 1717–66.

² For details of the 'Anset Lecture' see *Vis. Retns.*, p. 36.

From the Revd. George Sheppard

(i.40–1)

[f.41] Charlbury, June 29, 1739

May it please Your Lordship.

When I was inducted into Hardwick, I made diligent enquiry for a Person to serve that Church, I offered it to Mr Lord of Cotsford but He refused it;¹ I desired him to recommend a Neighbouring Clergyman, He told me, that He knew of none, who would accept of it, but Mr Fletcher,² who now serves the Cure the first Sunday in every Month, as it was, during Mr Clackson's time,³ & the Salary is as usual, a Crown a Sunday. –

I will be carefull to prepare as many of the Parishioners as I can against Your Lordship comes to Charlbury.

I am Your Lordship's most Obedient & dutifull son

George Sheppard

[Endorsed 'Mr Shepard June 29 1739 I wrote him a sharp letter upon this and he hath since been with me & promised to have service every Sunday']

¹ John Lord.

² ? Theophilus or Theodore Fletcher of Stoke Lyne, m. Magd. Coll. 1734 a.17, B.A. 1737; C. Stoke Lyne 1738.

³ Thomas Clarkson or Clackson of Lancs., m. Queen's 1708 a.23, M.A. 1714; R. Hardwick 1709–38/9.

From the Revd. William Asplin¹

(i.42–3)

Bouthrop, Gloucs., June 30, 1739

May it please your Lordship!

I did by no means forget the Promise I made your Lordship to look for the Account I had relating to the Peculiar of Banbury &c, & particularly with regard to the Right of Institution therein; but, after frequent Search, tho' I verily believe it is still amongst my Papers, it has not yet occurred. However by an Abstract I on some occasion made it appears to have been wrote about the year 1640, upon the death of the famous Mr. Wheatly, who is therein calld the last Vicr. of Banbury, and expresly said to have been instituted by the Bp of Lincoln, as his 3 Predecessors appear by Records to have been:² nor can we see (says the Account) that the Bp of Oxon: ever instituted any there: And the Vicr. of Banbury hath refusd Subjection to the Bp of Oxon: his Summons & Commands as being in a Peculiar out of his Diocese.

Also that there being Other Parishes within the County of Oxon: in the

same Jurisdiction of Lincoln, the Bp of Lincoln doth likewise institute into these Churches, as at Horly & Tame.

Likewise that thò the Bishoprick. of Peterborough was taken out of that of Lincoln as well as the Bpck. of Oxford, & with the *same Grants*, yet that the Bp of Lincoln institutes into the Churches within the peculiar Jurisdictions belonging to the Dean & Chapter of Lincoln within that Diocese.

But, says the Account, there rests one Precedent on Record that the Bp of Oxon: did give Institution [f.42v.] to the Vicaridge of Cropredy thò a Peculiar belonging to the Dean and Chaptr. aforesd. . . . Wch. is thus accounted for, viz. 'That in Dctr Lloyd's time, whilst he was Surrogate for the Dean in all his Peculiars in the County of Oxford,³ the then Bp of Oxford claim'd the sd. Peculiars to belong to his Bck., and there was a great deal of Monies spent in Law, & the Bp was cast in the Suit:⁴ but that *pendente Lite* the Vicaridge falling to be presented, the Archbishop (by vertue perhaps of his Option) presents, & directs his Presentation to the Bp of Oxford, the Thing being then in question, and the Bp of Ox: gives institution for that time. So that I conceive (says the Writer of the Account) that Living to be in the Lapse if the Incumbent hath not gotten some help since'.

To this I have to adde that my very good Lrd. his Grace of Cant. whilst Bp of Oxford did once shew me a Precedent upon his Books of one of his Predecessors collating to the Vicaridge of Banbury: but I have this also to observe, that from thenceforth that Living laps'd, so that after 1662 no one was presented to it till I accepted it from the Crown in 1717: when upon mature Deliberation amongst the learned in the Law the Right of Institution was unanimously agreed to rest in the Bp of Lincoln, who also was advis'd with, & claim'd it as the undoubted Right of his See, accordingly I was instituted by his Lordsp now Bp of London.⁵

That your Lordship may be yet farther apprisd what has passd in this Contest heretofore, I shall subjoin (tho' somewhat tedious) a Paragraph wch. upon some other [f.43] occasion I had also transcrib'd out of the Account aforesd. viz. . . . 'The Town of Banbury having from the King's gracious Predecessors an Assistant granted to help serve the Cure there, the sd. Assistant to be licensd & nominated by the Ordinary of the Diocese or the Ordinary of the Peculiar there; the Bp of Oxon by his Authority sent an Assistant, & the Dean & Chtr. appointed another: The Bp of Oxon his Assistant was put by, and the Assistant appointed by the Dn. & Chtr. was put into the Place. The Bp of Oxon proceeded by his Authority to make an Act to excommunicate the Assistant appointed by the Dn. & Chtr. if he did officiate within his Jurisdiction: the sd. Assistant hath notwithstanding continued to officiate in Banbury as being out of the Jurisdiction of the Bp of Oxon: and stood to justify the same it being a Peculiar in the Jurisdiction of the Dean & Chtr. of Lincoln'.

I take this Opportunity, my Lord, to join the Publick in my most sincere Thanks for your Lordship's late incomparable Discourse before the H. of

LS.,⁶ wch. by the favour of my good Neighbour Sr. Jn. Dtn.,⁷ I have just now perusd: and must own myself infinitely taken wth. the surprising Frankness, Judgment & Spirit of the Piece: wherein your Lordship copies after no man, and are Yourself I fear inimitable: however 'tis a happy Instance that neither the English Language nor Oratory was yet past its Zenith, since all impartial Judges will allow both have receivd new Graces peculiar [f.43v.] to your Lordship. That it may please God long to preserve your Lordship an Ornament to the Pulpit, a Support to the Church & Blessing to the Nation is the hearty prayer of

My Lord Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant

Will. Asplin

P.S. I should be glad to hear what is like to become of the Answer proposd to the Qkr's. Charge so far as Oxfordshire is concern'd.⁸ As to my own part, by reason of the Remoteness of the Justices from my Parish, & the great Uncertainty of their Meetings, I have not yet been able, after many troublesome & expensive Messages, to get my Dues, thô now near seven years in Arrears, & on Lammass-Day next will amount to about six pounds.

[Endorsed 'June 30 1739 Horley & Hornton']

¹ Of Worcs., m. Trinity Coll. 1703/4 a.15, St. Alban Hall M.A. 1710, Vice-Principal; V. Banbury 1717-34, V. Horley & Hornton 1723, R. Bouthrop, Gloucs., 1733, d.1758.

² William Wheatley was presented by the crown to the vicarage of Banbury and instituted by the bishop of Lincoln Jan. 18, 1611; a mandate was issued to the dean and chapter of Lincoln to induct: Lincs. R.O., PD 1611/39.

³ Oliver Lloyd LL.D., dean of Hereford 1617-25, official or commissary of the dean and chapter of Lincoln in their Oxfordshire peculiars Sep.18, 1605 probably until his death in 1625: *ibid.*, D & C Bij/2/5 f.96v.; Peyton, pp. 200, 248.

⁴ John Bridges, bp. 1604-19 and John Howson, bp. 1619-28.

⁵ Edmund Gibson bp. Lincoln 1716-23, bp. London 1723-48.

⁶ Presumably *A Sermon Preached Before the House of Lords on May 29 1739 . . . the Anniversary Thanksgiving . . . for the Restitution of King Charles II*, delivered in Westminster Abbey: B.L. Catalogue, 694.h.8 (18).

⁷ Sir John Dutton of Sherborne, Gloucs., 1683-1743, 2nd bt. 1720 or 1721: *Compl. Btage*, iv, p. 104.

⁸ Though late, this may refer to the case histories of severe tithe prosecutions presented to Parliament by Quakers in 1736. Thereafter certain clergy made returns concerning any prosecutions they may have undertaken; such returns were mostly made during 1737 or early 1738: *ex inf.* Dr. M. Mullett. For fuller details see *Autobiography*, pp. 16-17, 97.

From the Revd. John Arrowsmith¹

(i.44)

Charlbury, July 9, 1739

My Lord;

May it please yr. Lordship, I take this opportunity by Mr. Sheppard to return yr. Lordship thanks for yr. kind Letter & likewise to acquaint you that the Dispute betwixt the parish of Chadlington & me is adjusted; Mr. Rollinson desir'd me to inform yr. Lordship of it, & that he shall always

have a very gratefull remembrance of yr. Civility in so readily complying wth. his request of interposing to settle it.² – I recd. a Letter. of Mr. Beaver³ concerning yr. Lordships intentions of confirming here on Sunday the 22d. of this Instant in the Afternoon, together wth. Directions upon that Occasion, all wch. & other yr. Lordships Instructions it shall be my Endeavour faithfully to execute, who am wth. all Duty & Submission

Yr. Lordships most obedient Son & humble Servt.

Jno. Arrowsmith

Doctor Haywood is now at Charlbury & sends his Duty to yr. Lordship & will be very glad if you wd. please to dine wth. him.⁴

[Endorsed 'Mr Arrowsmith']

¹ Of Lancs, m. B.N.C. 1724 a.17, B.A. 1728; C. Charlbury 1732–60, R. Wilcote 1733/4–61, C. Chadlington & Shorthampton, referred to in *Vis. Retns.*, p. 36, but not listed as subscribing until 1755.

² William Rawlinson was given as a parishioner of note at Chadlington: *ibid.*, p. 36.

³ Herbert Beaver of Hants., m. Corpus 1709 a.19, M.A. 1715/16, accountant and registrar at Corpus, registrar to the bishop of Oxford 1736–68.

⁴ Thomas Haywood of London, m. St. John's Coll. 1694 a.16, M.A. 1702, D.D. 1714; V. Oxford, St. Giles 1721, V. Charlbury 1726–46.

From the Revd. Devereux Wheeler¹

(i.45–6)

North Moreton, Berks., July 10, 1739

My Lord:

in answer to your Lordships Letter, which I received not till Last Saturday, I will give you the best information I can of the Living of Clifton. the great and smal Tithes are impropriated; Mr Robert Hucks the present Member for the Borough of Abingdon, being the Impropiator at this time who is the person that appoints the Curate, and pays him.² for the first three years I served the Cure Mr Hucks allow'd me ten pounds per Annum, since that he has been so kind to augment my salary, not that he is oblig'd to allow (as I have been inform'd) above eight pounds. if your Lordship would be pleas'd to mention this affair to him, no doubt but he is able to give you farther satisfaction concerning it. –

I am my Lord your Lordships most dutiful and most humble Servant

Devrx Wheeler

[To 'Cuddesden' and endorsed 'Mr Wheeler July 10. 1739 Clifton' Hampden]

¹ Of Berks., m. Oriel 1712 a.19; V. North Moreton, Berks. 1739, C. Clifton Hampden 1748.

² Robert Hucks, M.P. Abingdon 1722–41 (concerned with the endowment of the Anglican church in Georgia): *Hist. Parl.*, ii, pp. 156–7.

From Christopher Tilson¹

(i.47)

Treasury Chambers, Aug. 3, 1739

My Lord;

Being honoured with a Letter from your Lordship dated the 1st. Instant, relating to the Church of Hampton Gay, I presume to acquaint your Lordship that Hampton Gay (as I take it) is Extra Parochial,² And that which Your Lordship is pleased to term a Church is a free Chappell belonging to Mr. Hinde, and exempt from all ordinary Jurisdiction.³ What Contribution has at any time been made for performing Divine Service there I am utterly a Stranger to, but shall at all times be ready to receive with pleasure Your Lordships Instructions what is fit for me to Contribute in case the Hinde's (whose Chappell it is) can be brought to do any thing towards the same. In the mean time I remain with great Duty and Respect

My Lord, Your Lordships most faithfull and Obedient Servant*

Chri Tilson

[In the hand of an amanuensis to *]

¹ Owner of the estate at Hampton Poyle purchased of the West family, and uncle of John Tilson of Watlington Park, he died on Aug. 25, 1742, '... one of the four Chief Clerks of the Treasury, worth above £1000 *per Ann* which place he had enjoyed 58 years.' *Gentleman's Magazine*, xii (1742), p. 444; *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vi, p. 162.

² For further details see *ibid.*, pp. 158-9.

³ John Hinde who held the manor of Hampton Gay from 1718 to his death in 1743: *ibid.*, p. 155.

From the Revd. Thomas Lancaster¹

(i.48-9)

Dorchester, Aug. 9, 1739

My Lord

The Church of Dorchester is only a Donative, the Income of which is certain, paid by Sr George Fettiplace Impropiator of the Tithes, and the Trustees of Dr South's Benefaction.² Sr George pays thirty two Pounds per Annum, at sixteen Pounds each half Year. The Trustees of Dr South's Benefaction pay ten Pounds pr Annum at five Pounds each half Year.³ There are no Easter Offerings or any Subscription paid by the Parish to

My Lord, Your Lordships most dutiful and most humble Servant

Tho: Lancaster

[Endorsed 'Mr Lancaster, Value of Dorchester 1739']

¹ Of Westmld., m. Queen's 1708 a.18, B.A. 1713; C. Dorchester 1714.

² Held the manors of Swinbrook and Dorchester d.1743: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vii, p. 43; 'By the second half of the 18th century [the minister] was receiving £26 a year from the Fettiplaces and by the mid-18th century £32.' *ibid.*, p. 55.

³ Robert South canon of Ch. Ch. 1670, R. Islip 1678-1716, left a bequest of £10 p.a. *inter alia* to the minister of Dorchester: *ibid.*

(i.50-1)

The Names of the Trustees for Dorchester Church.

The most Reverend Father in God John Lord Archbishop of Canterbury,¹ the Right Honourable Mountague Earl of Abingdon,² and George Earl of Macclefield [sic],³ the Right Honourable Simon Lord Viscount Harcourt,⁴ the Right Reverend Fathers in God Edmund Lord Bishop of London,⁵ Thomas Lord Bishop of Oxford, Thomas Lord Bishop of Sarum⁶ and Richard Lord Bishop of Lincoln;⁷ Micajah Perry Esqre Lord Mayor of London,⁸ Sir John D'Oiley,⁹ Sir George Fettiplace¹⁰ and Sir George Oxenden¹¹ Baronets; John Lenthall,¹² John Dewe, Alexander Ready, Francis Haywood, Lawrence Lord, and Jonathan Bush¹³ Esqres; the Reverend Theophilus Leigh Doctor of Divinity Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford,¹⁴ John Smith Doctor of Divinity, Provost of Queens College Oxford,¹⁵ Phanael Bacon Doctor of Divinity,¹⁶ Henry Luff Batchelor of Divinity,¹⁷ the Reverend John Billingsley Rector of Newington in Oxfordshire,¹⁸ and the Reverend Thomas Lancaster Minister of the said Parish of Dorchester and the Minister and Church Wardens of the said Parish for the Time being; Richard Gosford, Vincent Cherrill, and Hilborne Withy Gentlemen.

With Power to any five or more of them &c

[Added in Secker's hand in pencil 'Mr Applegate Schoolmaster hath the Account of the proceedings of the Trust']

Endorsed 'Trustees for Dorchester Church']

¹ John Potter.

² Montague Venables Bertie, 1672-1743, 2nd earl of Abingdon 1699, lord of one of the Dorchester manors: *Compl. Peerage*, i, pp. 46-7.

³ George Parker, 1697-1764, 5th earl of Macclesfield 1732: *ibid.*, viii, p. 334.

⁴ Simon Harcourt, 1714-1777, 1st Earl Harcourt 1749: *ibid.*, vi, pp. 300-1.

⁵ Edmund Gibson.

⁶ Thomas Sherlock, bp. Bangor 1727-8, bp. Salisbury 1728-48, bp. London 1748-61.

⁷ Richard Reynolds, bp. Bangor 1721-3, bp. Lincoln 1723-44.

⁸ Lord Mayor 1738-9, M.P. City of London 1727-41.

⁹ Of Chislehampton, 1670-1746, 2nd bt. 1709: *Compl. Btage*, iv, p. 34.

¹⁰ Of Childrey and Swinbrook, 1668-1743, 5th bt. 1725: *ibid.*, iii, p. 183.

¹¹ Of Deane, Kent, d.1775, owner of property in Dorchester, 5th bt. 1720: *ibid.*, iv, p. 100; *V.C.H. Oxon*, vii, pp. 43-4.

¹² Of Burford Priory, d.1763; *Vis. Retns.*, pp. 32-3.

¹³ Of Burcot House and impropiator of the tithes in 1776 at the time of enclosure: *V.C.H. Oxon*, vii, pp. 65, 68-9.

¹⁴ Of Adlestrop, Gloucs., m. Trinity Coll. 1709 a.15, Corpus M.A. 1715/16, Balliol D.D. 1727, Master 1726-85, V.C. 1738-41.

¹⁵ Joseph Smith of Westmld., m. Queen's 1689 a.18, M.A. 1696/7, D.D. 1708, Provost 1730-56; C. Iffley.

¹⁶ Of Reading, m. St. John's Coll. 1715 a.16, Magd. Coll. M.A. 1722, D.D. 1735; C. Toot Baldon 1723, R. Marsh Baldon 1736-83.

¹⁷ Of Somerset, m. St. John's Coll. 1712 a.17, M.A. 1720, B.D. 1729; P.C. Warborough 1737-56.

¹⁸ Unidentified. Philip Billingsley son of John, of Dover, m. Queen's 1749 a.19, later becoming R. Newington and Swyncombe 1756-72.

From John Hindes

(i.52)

'P: Marston,' Aug. 9, 1739

My Lord

My Ancestors, I am told did formerly support and maintain a Minister to officiate in the Church of Hampton-Gay out of their own Generosity; For there is no settled provision for that purpose as I can find at all; And as for my self, I have not been long of Age and have now but a small annual income out of the Estate. For my Mother has her Jointure in a great part of it. My Father left me incumberd with large Debts. Besides, I have labourd under the misfortune of having a vile Guardian and have been pester'd with him in Chancery these several Years; All wch incapacitates me from following the laudable Example of my Predecessors who were in full possession of not only Hampton-Gay but a large Estate besides, should I ever once be so happy as to extricate my self out of the perplexities that I am at present involv'd in and be enabled to reside at my Mannor House in a capacity like my fore Fathers; I hope I should not degenerate from them, This is all that I am Capable of acquainting Your Lordship, which is from
Yr Lordships most obedient and Dutiful Son

John Hindes

[To Cuddesdon and endorsed '[MS. Torn - Hamp]ton Gay Mr Hindes Aug 9. 1739 &c']

From the Revd. Haviland John Hiley¹

(i.53)

Reading, Aug. 11, 1739

My Lord,

That I may be a little instrumental towards assisting yr Lordship in your kind Concern & Regard for the Welfare of your Clergy; I beg Leave to inform yr Lordship, that Mr: Allen, who was possess'd of the great Tithes of Goring, sold them in the year 1679 to Mr: Lyford; but withal charged the Purchaser & his Heirs & Assigns for ever with the Payment of thirty Pounds a year to the Minister for the Time being; & gave also a Dwelling House to the Minister, which I let for three Pounds a year. This is the whole Endowment of Goring, except Surplice Fees & Offerings, both which amount to about forty shilling a year at most. If therefore it shall lie in your Lordship's Power, as I am sensible it does in your Inclinations, to procure an Augmentation to it, you will do an acceptable Service to the Church, & thereby much oblige, My Lord,

Yr Lordship's most dutiful humble servant

H: Hiley

¹ Of Gloucs., m. Balliol 1705 a.16, M.A. 1714; C. Goring 1722, master of Reading Grammar School: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 69.

From the Revd. Benjamin Hill¹

(i.54-5)

Charlton-on-Otmoor, Aug. 11, 1739

My Lord.

Your Lordship shou'd have heard from Me long before this Time, in Answer to your obliging Letter; wth. Regard to the Disposition of some Money amongst the Poor of the Parish of Charleton upon Otmore, had I not waited for an Account how this Money was dispos'd of by my Uncle, before I came to his Parish.² The true State of wch. Case I find, by consulting Him, & the old People of the Parish to be this. The Money (viz twenty Pounds) wch. J. Harris complain'd to your Lord-ship about, *was bequeath'd in the year 1695 by William Halton Clerke, Vicar of Probus in the County of Cornwall, to the Church-Wardens & Over-Seers of the Poor of Charleton for the Time being, to be a Stock to set the Poor of that Town on Work.* The Money was employ'd according to the Donor's Will, till the Year 1724. When the Rector, Church-Wardens, & Overseers of the Poor making up their Accounts, found some Part of this Benefaction entirely lost: And no Person any longer dispos'd to keep it as a Stock, to employ the Poor: By Reason that the Poor when so employ'd in Spinning, did their Work in such a Careless Manner, that the Father of John Harris the Complainant, who till that Time employ'd the Poor upon this Fund, was almost ruin'd by it. The Town out of their own private Collections, made up, what the Complainant's Father had sunk, & wth. the Money so made up purchas'd a House for the Poor-People to live in. 'And since that Time, Three of the poorest & largest Families in the Town, have lived *Rent-Free*, till the year 1736. Since which Time their Families being pretty well grown up, & in some measure able to acquire a Livelihood for Themselves, They have paid Rent to the Town; wch. Rent has been dispos'd of to all the Poor at different Times [*f.54v.*] in Bread. And notwithstanding the Complainant, was pleas'd to inform your Lord-ship, that He never remember'd but of one 5s. given away in Bread, for 5. or 6 years. Yet I can assure your Lord-ship that I have given this very Person, who has no Family, two shillingsg & six Pence in Bread for His own share, wthin 4. Years last past: & proportionably to near twenty more Families in this Town.

As Mr. Halton intended that this Money, shd. be a Means of keeping the Poor from being burthensome to the Town, The Persons in Trust for the said Charity, thought They acted very equitably, in making such a Purchase, & employing the House in such a Manner.³ The Reason of this Complaint I take for granted to be this, that the Benefit of this Legacy is confin'd to a small Number of our Poor: But this I think may very easily be excus'd, if the Poor People wd. but consider, that when Ever any of Them

were unable, either by Reason of Sickness, Want of Employmt. or any other Cause, to pay their own Rents, the Town has constantly paid it for Them.

This, my Lord, is a just Account of this Affair, as far as I can speak either from my own Knowledge, or the Information I have had from the Neighbourhood. And it will be a very great Pleasure to me, to find yr. Lordship rest satisfied, wth. this Distribution of Mr. Halton's Legacy, from the year 1724. to the year 1736. But if your Lordship think that the Town cannot be justified in what They have done, They are very willing to submit, to whatever shall be your Pleasure in this affair.

I am, My Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble Servt.

B. Hill.

[f.55] We whose Names are underwritten formerly Church-Wardens, and Overseers of the Town of Charleton, do know this Account of Mr. Halton's Legacy to be true.

Edmund Alley gener
Christopher Sheewes
Robtt Gesett
Hen Kirby

[Endorsed 'Charlton upon Otmore Mr Hill Aug 11. 1739 abt Charitable Legacy there']

¹ Of Westmld., m. Queen's 1721 a.15, M.A. 1730, B.D. 1744; C. Charlton-on-Otmoor 1730-4 (but subscribed the *Vis. Retns.* in 1738).

² John Hill of Westmld., m. Queen's 1693/4 a.18, M.A. 1701/2, B.D. 1718/19; R. Charlton-on-Otmoor 1721-45; see also *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vi, p.90.

³ For details see *Vis. Retns.*, p. 40 and *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vi, p.92; Timothy Halton, archdeacon of Oxford, was R. Charlton-on-Otmoor 1685-1704.

(vii, no. 1)

'The Bishop of Oxford's Letter To the Church Wardens of Heyford Bridge'¹

Aug. 24, 1739

Having view'd your Church on Monday July 30. I find the following Things out of Order.

The Porch in Danger of falling
The West door & Church Gate very Bad.
The Tower & Walls over run wth. Ivy &c.
The Paving uneven & broken
No Seat or prayer-Book for the Clerk.
The Bible imperfect & out of Binding.
A new Register Book wanting.
No Paten for the Communion Table.
The Pews in a ruinous Condition many of them not boarded.

The Boards that support the Lead, rotten & fallen down in many places.
The Top of the Window over the Western Arch on the South Side wants
repairing.

The Walls want white-washing.

It is my Duty to see that these Things be rectified. And I give you this Notice, that you may avoid the Expende of a Prosecution. Your Minister hath pleaded for you, that you are not able to do a great deal at once. But I expect that you begin immediately, & do what you can every year, & do it well, & certifie at each Visitation what you have done.

Tho: Oxford

Let this Paper be deliver'd to your Successors.

¹ The original of this letter is presumably lost, but a copy from which this version derives survives in Bodleian MS. Top. Oxon. f.50, pp. 360-59rev. It arose from a letter dated June 27, 1738 of Thomas Leigh B.D., R. Lower Heyford 1728-44, which accompanied his visitation returns: *Vis. Retns.*, pp. 80-1. Its interest lies in Secker's personal viewing of the church as well as in the state of the church fabric. A report on the latter in 1757 is to be found in O.R.O., O.A.P. d.13/2, f.33. (I am indebted to Dr. D.M. Barratt for drawing my attention to this item.)

From Witting Colton¹

(i.56)

Odiham, Hants., Aug. 31, 1739

My Lord

Being at some Distance from Reading I had not the Favour of your Lordship's Letter 'till yesterday - As I have none of the papers here belonging to the Chancellorship, I can only say at prest., that the Tithes of Fyfield, Idbury & Swinbrooke are under One Lease;² the Lessees are to Provide Ministers to do the Duty; but no particular Salary is Appointed them in the Lease - At my Return, wch. will be abt. the middle of Octr., I will send your Lordship the Words of the Instrument, so far as they relate to this Affair; & give you the best Account I can.

I am, My Lord, with all due respects, Your Lordship's most dutiful, humble servant

Witting Colton

¹ Adm. Trinity Coll. Camb. 1716 a.19, M.A. 1723; chancellor diocese of Salisbury 1727-55, incumbent Reading, St. Giles 1730-55.

² The advowsons of Fifield, Idbury and Swinbrook were attached to the chancellorship of the diocese of Salisbury: *Bacon*, p. 805.

From Witting Colton

(i.57)

Reading, Nov. 3, 1739

My Lord

I have underneath sent your Lordship a Transcript of an Old Lease (having no Counterpt. of the Last) of Swinbrooke, Idbury & Fifield, so far

as relates to those Curacies; wch. is all I can find in my Papers of that Matter.

I am, my Lord, with all due Respect, Your Lordships, most dutiful & humble servant

Witting Colton

And the sd. John Loggin & Edmd. Fettiplace for themselves, their Heirs, Exrs., Admrs. & Assigns do Covenant & Grant by these Prests. to & with the sd. John Earles & his Successors, that they the sd. John Loggin & Edmd. Fettiplace their Heirs, Exrs. & Assigns shall & will at their own Costs & Charges find Sufficient & Able Ministers to Serve the sd. Cures, & to Minister the Sacraments & Sacramentals to the sd. Parishes During all the sd. Term.

From the Revd. William Welchman¹

(i.60-1)

Westcot Barton, Sep. 20, 1739

My Lord

That I may not incur your displeasure, or my conduct be misconstrued as contempt for yor Authority, I desire to know what residence you expect, & insist on. It is true that I promised to reside here *bonâ fide*, but I never meant by that expression a total perpetual constant residence; which is not only utterly inconsistent with my Health, Liberty, & the Duty I owe to my Parish in Northamptonshire but also to that proper & prudent care I ought in the present distress of bad times to take of my wordly concerns; in a word such a residence as this tends directly to my ruin. I beg of your Lordship not to mistake my words, but to interpret them with Candour, & equitable allowances. I think a person may be said to reside *bonâ fide* in any place, that makes that place his chief home, as that place hath been to me for a considerable time past. Mr Bruere declared once to me that he would not reside here for the value of the whole living.² & Mr. John Taylor affirms under his hand that for him to reside here is a thing impossible to be done;³ how hard then must my lot be to be doomed here to a perpetuall residence? My residence here hath been so close, & strict, that although it hath not been Total, & Constant, yet it may equal if not exceed the residence of many Clergy men who are deem'd constantly resident. But as I cannot without the utmost inconvenience my self, so I never expect to provide any Curate here that upon any terms will be constantly resident here in a strict & literal sense[.] I naturally love Silence, & retirement, but being no sports man, a constant solitary sedentary life my constitution will not bear, neither will my Sons.⁴ I have been at great expence in buying household goods, in repairs & decorations of this place, & have at length but with great difficulty in getting workmen fitted up a convenient apartment for my self, which had not been done, had I not been resident[.] But forasmuch as a considerable arrear of rent due from Tenants last All hallow tide still

remains unpaid, & my late expences here much [f.60v.] aggravated by placing a Son Commoner in Oxford, I must look out for fresh Supplies of money, & therefore I beg Yor Lordship not to be offended if I return into Northamptonshire to attend most important concern [sic], & in my absence shall send my Son regularly to supply the Church, if not every Sunday, yet for the greater part of the Sundays I may be absent, which may be absent five. I can depend upon Mr Blake⁵ & Mr Lampet⁶ to take care of occasional duties should any chance to happen in that Little Cure, & Mr Lampet a person acceptable to this Parish will supply those Sundays on which I or my Son chance to be absent. My Lord I desire that this house may be cleared of the present Family placed here by the Tenants, for the Woman of the House being a fruitfull teaming woman bears children so fast, that I am much pestered with the crying of children & their nusances, but this grievance I have hitherto complained of *in vani* & neither I nor my Son can brook such inconvenience. I am sensible I am surrounded with Enemies, who would gladly make a prey & booty of me, & would sacrifice my ease & interests to their own little ends & who carry on that design by whispers & clandestine accusations, but I comfort my self with a passage I have somewhere met with Si Accusasse sufficiat, Quis erit Innocens? In the mean time I could largely recriminate on all or any of my accusers if I delighted in such dirty work. The first Letter Your Lordship favoured me with seems to tend & intimate that if I make the parish easie, You will be so also. I hope the Paper I send herewith will prove Satisfactory to Yor Lordship, if not I desire to know Yor Lordships peremptory, & final pleasure. The late bad weather prevented me from paying my Personal duty to Your Lordship, & therefore I take this opportunity to return you many & hearty thanks for yor very acceptable present, a discourse very [? usefull – MS. overwritten], & highly seasonable to remedy the present corruption of Christians. I intreat Yor [f.61] Lordship to indulge me this favour of a short absence on urgent occasions, which I am sure many Clergy men usurp without asking, & thereby you will much Oblige

Yor Lordship's most Humble & most Obedient Servant

Will: Welchman.

Dodford Sept 25th 1739

P.S. I returned hither yesterday sooner than I designed I desire not to give yor Lordship the trouble of an answer, unless the contents are not intirely to Yor satisfaction

¹ Of Banbury, m. Merton 1692/3 a.15, St. Alban Hall M.A. 1699; R. Westcot Barton 1712–49, V. Dodford, Northants, 1707–49.

² John Brewer of Bucks., m. Trinity Coll. 1724 a.17, M.A. 1731, B.D. 1744; V. Steeple Barton 1736–41, R. Oddington 1746–76; for details of his situation at Steeple Barton see *Vis. Retns.*, p. 150.

³ Held the manor of Steeple Barton from 1732: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xi, pp. 63, 72.

⁴ John Welchman m. Trinity Coll. 1731 a.18, B.A. 1734, Christ's Camb. M.A. 1738; C.

Westcot Barton 1735, R. Dodford, Northants. 1749–1800, and William Welchman m. Trinity Coll. 1739 a.18; it has not been possible to trace his later career.

⁵ ? John Blake of Somerset, m. Balliol 1732 a.18, M.A. 1742, or of Somerset, m. Wadham 1734 a.18, M.A. 1740. C. Sandford St. Martin and R. 1750–84, R. Westcot Barton 1749–60: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 130.

⁶ Lionel Lampet of Oxford city, m. Exeter Coll. 1728 a.18, All Souls M.A. 1736; C. Great Rollright 1732, C. Steeple Aston [1738] 1745 where he kept a grammar school, C. Great Barford (St. Michael) 1754, C. Duns Tew 1756–91: *ibid.*, p. 148; *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xi, pp. 55, 57.

From John Buswell and Thomas Dandridge, churchwardens¹

(i.58–9)

Westcot Barton, Sep. 19, 1739

To the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Oxford

Whereas Mr Welchman the present Rector of the Church of Westcot Barton doth represent to us, & we believe with truth, that a constant, perpetuall residence in the deep solitude, is inconsistent with Health, Liberty, the Duty he owes to his Cure in Northamptonshire, & his other important concerns: We the Church Wardens of the Church of Westcot Barton doe humbly beg leave to represent to Your Lordship Our desire that Mr Welchman may not be confined to such a residence, which we conceive this little Parish doth not strictly require. And forasmuch Mr Welchman doth declare his sincere intention, if not prevented by unavoidable accidents, to reside here at least half the year, & disposes his strict & close residence here in such a manner as to be usefull not only to his own Parishioners, but to those of Steeple Barton also, & also designs to send his son regularly to supply O[u]r Church, in his absence as oft as we can reasonably desire, or expect, so that there shall be no just ground, or occasion of complaint on account of any material neglect. We reckon our selves in Duty & Gratitude bound to petition Yor Lordship to acquiesce in these measures, which we believe will be so far from being prejudiciall to this parish, that it may possibly turn to it's benefit & advantage both in the present age, & ages to come. We are sensible that we are under the Oath of God to discharge the Duty & Trust reposed in us as Church Wardens of the Parish & are determined by God's assistance so to doe; And doe hope for the sake of preserving peace & a good understanding in this Parish that Your Lordship will not give ear to any clandestine complaints against Mr Welchman, but only such as shall be in an open, & legal manner offered by us who are the proper Officers to present any material neglect & which, as we are in Duty bound, will not fail to doe.

What we now humbly represent to Yor Lordship, attested under our hands, We [*f.58v.*] are verily persuaded will be unanimously done by the whole body of the Parishioners of this place, when required so to doe

Witness our Hands this 19th day of September 1739.

Jno Buswell

Thomas Dandridge

} Church Wardens

[In the hand of William Welchman and endorsed 'Westcote Barton Mr Welchman 1739']

¹ Thomas Dandridge 'a Batchelor, who is possessed of one 3rd part of the Parish nearly related to the Family of . . . Mr John Buswell [who] is the Lord of the Manour . . .': *Vis. Retns.*, p. 166-7; see also *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xi, p. 78.

From the Revd. Dr. Henry Brooke¹

(i.62-5)

Bath, Oct. 7, 1739

My Lord.

As That Branch of Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction in Which I have the Honour to be concerned in Your Lordships Diocese does confessedly flow from Your Lordship's Episcopal, and Ordinary Authority, I shall ever think it my Duty, in the Exercise of This subordinate Power, to communicate to the Fountain-head Whatever accrues [sic] to Me Which seems worthy of Your Lordships Notice (especially such Things wherein Your Lordships Authority may be concerned) and to request, and pursue Your Lordship's Commands therein.

About Nine or Ten Years ago, when I had the Honour to act (as Substitute to Lord Talbot)² more immediately under the Bishop of Oxford, I received His Lordships Commands to call upon Many excrement Curates in His Diocese ('Bp. Potter' interlineated above 'Diocese') to take out proper Licences for serving Their respective Cures, and thô This Regulation was universally expedient, Yet, as the Neglect to take out such Licences had been for Many Years connived at by the preceding Bishops of Oxford, His Lordship, to burthen his Clergy as little as possible, was pleased to limit His Commands at That Time to such Curates in His Diocese Who served Churches of which there were no Instituted, incumbent Rector, or Vicar, of which sort I think there are more than Thirty subject to Your Lordships Jurisdiction, and surely Nothing cou'd be more reasonable than such Regulation, with out which it was impossible for the Bishop Himself, with Certainty, to know what Individuals were responsible for any Neglect of Duty in all, or Any of These Parishes.

[f.62v.] My obedience to His Lordships Commands at That Time will appear from the Licences extracted by Curates (Under These circumstances) and, as I presume, Duely entered in the Books remaining in the Chancellor's Office, Amongst the rest of the Curates then called upon were Those of All Saints, and St. Miles in the City of Oxford, and Combe (or Coom) in the Deanry of Woodstock, upon which the then Rector of Lincoln College

Dr Morley was pleased to call upon Me at All Souls, and to tell Me in very plain Terms that "These Curates shou'd not comply with My Lord Bishop's Order concerning Licences, for both They, and Their Churches were legally exempt from his Jurisdiction"³ – *I replied that My Lord apprehended that This Claim of Exemption was by no means well founded, and that if He woud be pleased to let me into the Foundation of such Pretentions, I woud faithfully communicate My Intelligence to His Lordship, and wait His further Commands*, whereupon the Rector was pleased to give Me a Sight of an Old Latin Instrument (the Authority of which I really cannot at This Time recollect) importing *That These three Churches* (and the Church of Twyford in Bucks) *et Earum Omnia Jura Prosima et Emolumenta* (or Words to that Import) *shou'd be forever inseparably annex to the Headship of Lincoln College, and that the Rector of That College shou'd take Care that They were, from Time, to Time, supplied by proper Curates of His Appointment, Which Curates, shoud be* – *ad Nutum Rectoris Amotivi*, and on This single Clause, I am very confident, the whole of This Claim of Exemption is built [f.63] for He concluded by saying – now, Sir, You see that I have Power to remove These Curates when I think fit, And I shall ever think it a just Reason for My exerting this Power, when any of Them submit to take a Licence from the Bishop of Oxford, I took the Liberty to ask Ist Whether He as Rector of Lincoln College laid Claim to a Peculiar Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction over These Churches, and These Parishes? to Which He answered No. 2ly – Whether He apprehended That These Churches were subject to any Peculiar Jurisdiction whatsoever? to which He made the same answer, – I then concluded, with Reason, that, "as These Churches, and their Curates must of Necessity be subject to some Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, it cou'd be none other than the Ordinary Jurisdiction of the Diocese, and that the Rector of Lincoln's Power to remove These Curates at Pleasure (if He had such Power) could not authorise Them to officiate in Their respective Churches without a Licence from the Bishop, and much less devest His Lordship of his Ordinary, legal Authority to silence, suspend, or otherwise Censure such Curates for a Manifest Breach of the general Ecclesiastical Laws." the Substance of This Conference was by me reported to My Lord Bishop, Who was pleased to tell Me that *I was undoubtedly right*, – and the Rector in an Error, and was (I perticularly remember) pleased to add that *if the Curate of All Saints shoud preach Heresy in that Church, both He, and the Rector of Lincoln shoud find that He had Power to punish him for it.*

[f.63v.] During Lord Talbots Time I was never honoured with the Bishops Further Commands in This Matter; and the Dispute has, I beleive, slept from the Time of My Conference with Dr Morley, to this Time, these Curates never having appeared at the Bishops, the Chancellors, or the Archdeacons Visitation, and having hitherto, as I think, remained uncensured for Nonappearance.

T'is highly probable that What I have here presumed to Communicate to Your Lordship may fall short of Your own previous Knowledge of These

Particulars, and yet This I thought necessary in Order to introduce an Information concerning a Grievance, at This Time, resulting from This groundless Claim of Exemption from the Ordinary Jurisdiction made by the Present Curate of All Saints, Which I am perswaded must call for Your Lordship's Attention, not only as it strikes immediately at Your Authority, but as it manifestly impedes the Progress of Justice, and affords a Protection to a shameless, and Notorious Offender. the Fact, My Lord, is This.

At the latter end of last Term an Excommunication was by Me decreed against One *Johnson*, a Bailiff, or Writ:server of the Parish of all Saints in Oxford, for having refused (after due Execution of a Process against him) to appear in the Archdeacon's Court, to answer to certain Articles concerning the Crime of Incontinence by Him Committed, and attended with uncommon, and [f.64] shocking Circumstances of Impiety, Treachery, and Villainy, When I left Oxford in the Vacation I left Orders with the Proctor for the Office, and with the Registrar that Letters denunciatory of This Excommunication should go out under Seal, to be published (debitis Modo, et Formâ) in the Parish Church of Allsaints, a Matter of Form quite necessary in This Case, from which Publication The Forty days of Contumacy commences at the Expiration of which I proposed to have certified Your Lordship, in due Form, of These Facts, and to have prayed Your Lordships Significavit to the Crown, in Order to have obtained His Majestys Writ de Excom Cap:, all Which I was determined to do, at My own Expence, to make an Example of This offender.

I am now informed from the Office that when These Letters denunciatory were offered by a Proper Mandatory to the Curate of All Saints, He peremptorily refused to receive, or Publish them in his Church, alledging That *as He was not Subject to the Jurisdiction of the Bishop, or Archdeacon, He would not read in his Church Any Instruments directed to Him from either of Their Courts.* – thus affording (luxta ejus Posse) a General Amnesty to all Offenders of the same kind within his Parish, Who are either subject to Your Lordship's Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, or to none, the last of Which Propositions seems to be rather absur'd than otherwise.

My Lord, Whatever Power the Rector of Lincoln may have to remove [f.64v.] at His pleasure the Curate of All Saints, the Power of This Curate to Protect, and screen All his Parishioners from the Cogency of the general Ecclesiastical Laws will, I beleive, be not readily admitted by Your Lordship, and to Manifest the Weakness of such Pretentions I think it My duty to observe.

Ist. – That the Inhabitants of This Parish have ever been entitled to the Benefit resulting from Your Lordship's Ordinary Jurisdiction – Cuius est Commodum, Ejus est Incommodum, – They have, from Time, to Time, without Interruption, applied to the Ecclesiastical Court for *Marriage Licences, Probats [sic] of Wills, Letters of Administration &c.*, and shall it be said That they can not be reached by the Judicial Decrees of These Courts, and are exempted from the Pain of Ecclesiastical Censure? monstrous Absurdity!

2ly. – That the Church-Wardens annually appointed for This Parish have, from Time, to Time, appeared at the Bishop's, and Archdeacons Visitation, and there been sworn, and admitted into Their Office, in Pursuance of Which Oath, and Admission, They have, from Time, to Time, made Presentments to the Episcopal, and Archidiaconal Jurisdictions of such Crimes, &c as were Cognisable in the Bishop's, and the Archdeacon's Court, shall These Oaths, and These Presentments have none Effect, and all the Inhabitants of This Parish sin with Impunity by reason of This pretended Plea of Exemption from Your Lordships Authority, made by the Rector of Lincoln, and his durante bene placito Curate? – Surely Nothing can be more unreasonable.

[f.65] 3ly. – That Synodals, and Procurations have constantly been paid, by the Bursars of Lincoln College, for the Church of All Saints, to the Bishop, and to the Archdeacon of Oxford.

Lastly – (to fix This Point out of the Reach of Cavil) I engage to prove, from Antient, and Authentick Records, that pretty near Two Hundred Years ago the Archdeacon of Oxford's Court was usually held in This very Church of *All Saints*, the Doors of Which are now shut against the Bishop, and Archdeacon, and their respective Officers.

To remove all Grounds of Suspicion that in What I have here laid before Your Lordship I am actuated by any personal Resentment, Pique, or Prejudice, I think it proper to aver, upon My Honour, that I do not so much as know the Present Curate of All Saints against Whom I complain, and am far from being desirous of having any dispute with the Present Rector of Lincoln College, A Man of Learning, Dignity, and Candour sufficient to induce Me to hope that He will disavow his Curate in This Insult upon the Jurisdiction;⁴ but as the Exercise of Power in Our Selves or Exemption from the Power of others in Any Shape has Charms Which few Individuals resist, Dr Isham's Thoughts of This Affair may possibly be very different from mine, [f.65v.] in Which Case, My Peculiar esteem, and Friendship for Him must give Way to My Duty towards Your Lordship, and Your Archdeacon.

I hope, God willing, to be in Oxford by the Twenty-third, in the mean Time am very desirous of receiving Your Lordships Commands, Which shall be the Rule of My Conduct in This Affair.⁵

I hope for Your Lordship's Pardon for having taken the Liberty to make Use of My Servants Hand in an Address immediately to Your Lordship, but for some Time Past I have been so much indisposed, That My own *Hand* (and I fear Your Lordship will think My *Head* likewise) is unequal to My Duty on This Occasion.

I beg Your Lady's Acceptance of My Best Respects, And am, My Lord,* Your Lordships most dutyfull, and devoted, humble Servant.

Henry: Brooke.

[In the hand of an amanuensis to *]

¹ Of Chester, m. B.N.C. 1713/14 a.17, M.A. 1720, All Souls D.C.L. 1727, Regius Prof. Civil Law 1736–52, official to the archdeacon of Oxford, d.1752 (not 1742 as in *Foster*).

² Charles Talbot, son of William bp. Oxford, m. Oriel 1702 a.16, LL.B. Lambeth, chancellor diocese of Oxford 1714–34; solicitor general 1726–33, lord chancellor 1733–d.1737.

³ John Morley D.D., rector of Lincoln Coll. 1719–31.

⁴ Euseby Isham of Northants., m. Balliol 1716 a.18, Lincoln Coll. M.A. 1721, D.D. 1733, Rector 1731–55, V.C. 1744–7; R. Lamport and Haselbech, Northants.

⁵ The matter of these disputed churches is treated in V.H.H. Green, *The Commonwealth of Lincoln College 1427–1977*, pp. 312–18.

From Browne Willis

(i.66–7)

Whaddon Hall, Oct. 9, 1739

My Lord

I was so tired getting Home Saturday that I was not fit to write letters & yesterday being Dr Symonds's Birthday & our Court I was engaged till nine or ten at night[.]¹ But this day I cannot send post without paying my duty to Yr Lordshipp & tendering my own & daughters best thanks & acknowledgements [sic] to yr Lordshipp & yr Lady for our most kind generous Hospitable entertainmt at Cuddesden where I was very sorry I could not enjoy longer [f.66v.] & hope for an opportunity another time – I have still some thoughts of going to Bath & if I get to Oxfd at [the] end of the week & take Molly she will be very happy in spending another night under yr Lordships Roof[.] But I cannot determine till Wednesdy or Thursdy & am now today in hurry having several memorandums to enter & things to look over[,] however I do not forget my promise in sending the Patent att Twyford which never had any Vicar & has been carried ever since by the Rector of Lincolns Curate – In looking over some papers I also found a speech of Bp Fell² on his Visitation abt 1684 or 1685 which I made my daughter Alice copy while I went to the Court – It may be possibly a curiosity to yr Lordshipp – But I pray heartily that the old wills may be hunted after – I [have] gone thro' 2 Registers one begins 1527 & ends 1543 The other 1544 & ends 1551 – I flatter my self that those in succession will help [f.67] to more dedicating – I have lookt over the Chancellors of the diocese & in my Collections from Bp Kennet³ find mention of John Story being Chancellor of Oxfd a little while in Queen Marys Reign⁴ – In the Register of St Mary parr parish church Oxon I find the Burials <Anthony – erased> D.D. Blencos dequissimus praepositus Coll: Oriel Sepult Jany 29 1617⁵ – I hope to send some acct But will not hold this post [MS. torn] most I fear if I do not immediately conclude & subscribe my self with duty & repeated thanks for all favours & best Respects to my Cosin & Mrs Talbott, My Lord Yr Lordships ever obliged & devoted Servt to Comd

Browne Willis

[f.66]Pat Ao 15 Edw 4 pars prima membrana 5

Ad 1475 Rex dedit Licentiam Thome (Rotheram) Episcopo Lincoln Cancellario Anglie Quod Ipse Ecclesiam parochialem Beate Marie de Twyford in Co: Buks sue Collationis et dioc' cum suis juribus & pertinentiis quibuscunque dilectis nobis Rectori sive Custodi Collegii Beate Marie & omnium sanctorum Lincoln in Oxon et ejus Loci Scholaribus sive Sociis et successoribus suis appropriare universe & incorporare possit Habend in perpetuum dum tamen Ecclesia illa de sufficienti Vicario dotatur & quaedem Competens pecunie summa Inter pauperos parochianos Ibidem annuatim distribuntur Et hoc absque fine seu feodo ad opus nostrorum pro magno sigillo capiendo seu solvendo dat maii 14

[To Cuddesdon and endorsed 'Bp Fells speech (Twyford &c – erased) accts of Chancellors & of Bps Commendary Oct 9 1739']

¹ Thomas Symonds of Sugwas, Herefs., cousin to Browne Willis and a 'medical man, but not apparently a practitioner': *Jenkins*, pp. 96–7.

² John Fell, bp. Oxford 1675–86.

³ White Kennett, antiquarian and bp. Peterborough 1718–29.

⁴ Catholic martyr; Regius Prof. Civil Law 1546–53, principal Broadgates Hall 1537–42; chancellor diocese of London, hanged 1571.

⁵ Anthony Blencowe D.C.L., provost Oriel 1572–1617/18.

From the Revd. Dr. William Tilly¹

(i.68–9)

Albury, Oct. 12, 1739

My Lord.

I shall with some impatience wait for My Lord ArchBp's advice & yours what course I am to take in my Popish Parish of Godington.² I hope it will not be too lenitive, for the distemper grows, & requires a pretty rough remedy. The ulcer of Popery spreads there, & if not cut & lanc'd to the quick, I am afraid will fester into a Gangrene, & draw the sincerer part into the same corruption. I have courage enough to undertake it, Nor do I know that the Laws are dormant or asleep thô I believe some of the Law Guardians are, if not under a Coma or rather Lethargy; But I hope they will awake & apprehend their danger in time, lest they fall before they fear. If France or Spain knew the state of Popery in England, I am confident they would venture 1000 men if they could upon our English Shore and would quickly have 10000 to joyn them at a shot warning [f.68v.] from the beck of their Popish Spiritual Superiors; & that might give a terrible Shock, if not an overthrow to our constitution. Pardon me, My Lord, that I am so apprehensive in this matter, having occasion so often to converse amongst Papists, & knowing & seeing their dangerous resolutions. I am sorry I give you this trouble, but to whom must we have recourse of our Ecclesiastical Superiors, more properly? I thank your Ldsp. for your kind entertainment

at Cuddesdon, & wish you a good journey, when you go for London. I am,
My Lord in all Duty,

Yr most obedient Servt

Wm. Tilly

Yr Lordship will pardon my blots for my eyes are weak.

[Endorsed 'Godington Dr Tilly 1739']

¹ William Tilly of Somerset, m. Wadham 1689 a.14, Corpus M.A. 1697, D.D. 1711; R. Albury 1711/12-40, R. Godington 1714-40; see also *V.C.H. Oxon.*, v, pp. 13-14; vi, p. 150.

² There were 5 Roman Catholic families and a priest named Whitcraft resident at Godington in 1738: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 68.

From the Revd. Dr Euseby Isham

(i.70-1)

Lincoln College, Jan. 4, 1739/40

My Lord

I am much oblig'd to Your Lordship for the Honour of your Letter & for the inclosed;¹ tho I must own the Opinion did not agree with my Notion of the Case; when your Lordship is so good as to communicate the Sentiments of whom soever else you are pleas'd to advise with, I will then lay the Affair before the Society (who at present only know of my putting the Extracts into your Lordships hands) & hope to obtain from 'em the same open & generous Conduct as your Lordships Goodness has dispos'd you to shew to us.

I must only beg leave to intimate by the bye one thing, that as Dr Brooke's Letter seems to be in the nature of a Case drawn up by a Lawyer it must in general appear to have the Advantage of bare naked Extracts; but this however I should think would have little weight with Persons of that great Judgmt. whom your Lordship consults.²

[f.70v.] My Wifes & my best Acknowledgments are highly due to your Lordship & the Ladys of your Family for your most obliging Compliments, which we beg leave to return tho with frozen hands & Ink yet with the warmest Hearts.

My Lord, I am with a due Sense of the many Instances of your great Civilitys & Condescension to me,

Your Lordships Dutiful & most Obedient Servt.

Eus. Isham

[Endorsed 'Rector of Lincoln Jan 4 1739-40']

¹ See i.139.

² See i.62-5.

From Herbert Beaver

(i.72-3)

Oxford, Feb. 23, 1739/40

My Lord,

Mr. Macock's Receipt was deliverd to me this Day; which, together with Mr. Woods Note, I send inclosed to your Lordship.

It was about the latter End of your Lordship's last Residence at Cuddesden, when you was pleasd to Order me to make out Two or three Licenses for Curates; and one of them was for Mr. Gabriel, to serve the Cure of Watlington:¹ I immediatly prepared the Instruments, and gave Notice to the Gentlemen concernd: The Others soon either sent or came for theirs; But Mr. Gabriel (after having been long expected) has at last been with me to let me know, that he will have nothing to do with the License. And the Reason he gave me for it, was, That Mr. Toovey (the Vicar) would not permit him to take it.² I defer'd Acquainting your Lordship herewith, till I might have an Opportunity of talking [f.72v.] with Mr. Toovey himself: A few Days ago I saw him – He persisted in what Mr. Gabriel had told me; said, that if the Bp. insisted on putting Mr. Gabriel upon him according to the Terms of the License (£40 per annum) he would remove to Watlington and serve the Cure himself; That the Bishop used him very hardly, but that he was determind not to pay one peny more for the serving that Cure than the Law should oblige him to.

I relate, what is above mentiond, to your Lordship, not as Words of Heat or Vehemence, nor as Delighted with exposing the Indiscretions of Another. What Mr. Toovey said was cool and Deliberate; And when I asked him whether I might Report our Conference to your Lordship, He not only permitted, but desired me to do it.

I have been so unfortunate as to be Confind to my House with a Cold for these last three weeks: The Rest of my Family (I thank God) are pretty well; And among them, my Wife joins in her Duty and Service to your Lordship and the Lady's, with, My Lord, Your Lordship's most Obedient Servant

Herbert Beaver

[To Westminster]

¹ John Gabriel of Monmouths., m. Exeter Coll. 1735 a.17, M.A. 1744/5, D.D. 1768; C. Watlington 1741.

² Thomas Toovey of Watlington, m. Balliol 1702 a.26, M.A. 1709, B.D. 1721; V. Watlington 1711-56, R. Swyncombe 1723-56. In the case of Watlington, *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, p. 239 erroneously states to 1751.

From the Revd. John Gabriel

(i.74-5)

[f.75] Watlington, Apr. 12, 1740

My Lord

It was not without some surprize & sorrow that I heard of Yr. Lordship's displeasure, in regard to my neglect in calling for your Lordship's Licence:

But I am now very sensible of an offence given & therefore most humbly request your Lordship's pardon.

That yr. Lordship may be assur'd tho', that it was undesigned on my part, and perceive my motive for deferring the Acceptance of it for some small time, I beg leave to insert the state of the Case. In Novbr. last, according to yr. Lordship's Appointment, I call'd upon Mr. Beaver with an intention to take up the Licence; He told me, that it was prepar'd, but that it was mislaid in his Office, and desired me to call again, when I came next to Oxon: To which I consented.

In the Interim, my Lord, I had some conversation with Mr. Toovey in regard to the Licence and Stipend therein Assign'd by yr. Lordship: Who told me that he did not Apprehend that the Law could oblige him to pay a Stipend of £40 per Annum for serving so small a Benefice: And, if not, he would not pay it. To which I answered, that I was indeed unacquainted with the Ecclesiastical Law in this particular, but that I conceiv'd, that your Lordship would never have assign'd such a Sallary, if the Law had not provided means to force the payment of it.

After this Conversation, Mr. Toovey continuing his opinion, I began to think that the Licence would be of no service to me, unless I sued Mr. Toovey for the payment, which I was very unwilling for several reasons even to think off.

[f. 74v.] Upon this I told Mr. Beaver, that I should look upon it as a great favour, if He would let yr. Lordship know Mr. Toovey's Opinion, before I took the Licence of him, humbly conceiving, that yr. Lordship would have past a decisive Sentence, which would have rendred Mr. Toovey easy, and prevented any farther Disputes or quarrels between us, which, I much fear'd, would naturally have ensued.

That, My Lord, is the truth of the Case: And I hope you will not impute my neglect to any disesteem or disrespect for your Lordship.

I acknowledge my fault in not taking the Licence, without troubling yr. Lordship any more about it: but I deferr'd it out of tenderness of offending any party, and out of great caution herein, because my Acquaintance with such an Affair was very slender.

I have now, My Lord, received the Licence, and Mr. Toovey and I are at a perfect agreement about it; & I hope, that we shall never have an occasion of troubling yr. Lordship again, upon this or any other point.

Yr. pardon My Lord will be most graciously accepted by him, who is with all due submission, tho' once undesignedly offending, My Lord, Your Lordship's most dutiful Son & most obedient Humble Servt.

John Gabriel
Curate of Watlington

P.S. I thought it not improper to Acquaint yr. Lordship that my Neighbour, Mr. Edwards, Rector of Brightwell, died yesterday, after an illness of two days continuance only.¹

[To Westminster and endorsed 'Mr Gabriel Apr. 12 1740 Watlington']

¹ John Edwards of Oxford city, m. Corpus 1703 a.14 or 15, Merton B.A. 1707, S.E.H. M.A. 1710; C. Mongewell 1731, R. Brightwell Salome 1732–40 and Brightwell Baldwin 1734–40.

To the Revd. Dr. Walter Walker Ward

(i.76)

Apr. 3, 1740

Sir

When you meet the Parishioners of Cuddesden, you will of course continue Mr Wells Churchwarden (for the next year – scored through): (At your Parish meeting on Easter Tuesday I desire you will present my service to them all particularly Mr Smythe & Mr Wells – added above the first sentence) and I hope there will be no occasion to remind either him or them (any of my neighbours – interlineated) of going on with what they begun so commendably last year, putting the Church into a better condition. It is my duty (and shall be my endeavour – interlineated) to see that all the Churches of my Diocese be in good order: and I promise myself (the inhabitants of my own parish – interlineated) they will not desire that I should see that of my own Parish out of order, but set an example which may hinder both me and themselves from being reproached. I leave to their own Prudence what shall be done at present and would have them by all means proceed gradually, provided they do but make some reasonable improvements each year (as [for – scored through] indeed [they are wanted – scored through] there is [occasion – scored through] need for – interlineated). If I remember right, the doors are but bad, part of the floor very bad; [f. 76v.] the windows ill glazed and some of them half stopt up. The places where the Kings Arms and Sentences were, I think may for the present be white washed over (& the expence of new painting them postponed till other more necessary things are [done of necessity – scored through] taken care of – interlineated). But (the Surplice I think – scored through) a good new Surplice must be provided, for if the old one were better than it is, yet there will sometimes be occasion for two. I make no doubt (in the least – interlineated) but whatever is fixed on to be done will be done handsomely & well (as becomes the [house of God – scored through] place – interlineated) and therefore shall only add [sic]

My family [sic]

[TO]

[Endorsed 'To. Mr Ward Apr 3 1740 Cuddesden Church']

(i.77–8)

'A Copy of so much of a letter to Bishop Sherlock as relates to Lincoln College'

May 17, 1740

– The Question is whether the Churches & Parishes of All Saints & St

Michaels in Oxford are subject to the Jurisdiction of the Bishop or exempt from it as parts of Lincoln College: in the foundation of which your Lordship will see there is something particular. I have omitted to enquire whether Bishop Fleming in some part of his Instrument may not have saved the Episcopal Power to himself and his Successors:¹ nor do I know whether they exercised Jurisdiction here afterwards as Bishops and not as Founders or Visitors: Only Bishop Barlow² in a letter to the then Rector³ affirms that the Bishops of Lincoln attempted after the foundation of the College to subject these Churches to their Triennial Visitation; but the College refused to submit. [f.77v.] How far the Bps of Oxford have exercised any Power your Lordship will see in Dr. Brooks letter:⁴ to which I can add that in the Register of 1617 All Saints Church is said to be the usual place in which the Bishop's Court was held: that about 100 years ago one Curate of All Saints & two of St Michaels subscribed before the Bishop for licences to serve these Cures: that Visitations Episcopal or Archidiaconal were held at All Saints in 1578, 1579, 1635, 1641, 1666: that the Curate of All Saints was excommunicated for not appearing in 1582; and did appear in 1585, 1631, 1662, 1669, 1672, 1678, 1679: and that the Curate of St Michaels appeared ten times between 1585 & 1682. But to these Appearances it is objected, that either the Curate attended the Court as minister of some other Parish, or was there only out of Curiosity, and so was set down though he did not answer. There were also Ordinations at All Sts [f.78] in 1629, 1630, 1631: but there have been also at the Chapels of several other Colleges. Lincoln College hath its Chapel distinct from the two Churches in Question. The same Exemption is claimed for the Parish of Combe in Oxfordshire and Twyford in the Diocese of Lincoln, as having been united to the College also by the Bishop of Lincoln. The Curate of Combe appeared at the Visitation in 1585 and subscribed for a Licence and swore obedience to the Court in 1636 and is marked as appearing at a considerable number of Visitations since the Restoration. I cannot learn that the College hath ever exercised any Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, or appointed any persons to exercise any: only they have appointed and changed Curates. —

N B. The Paper sent me from Lincoln College & the inclosed Extract from the Foundation of the Bprick of Oxford & Dr Brooks letter were sent to the Bp. of Sarum.

[Endorsed 'Copy of part of a Letter to Bp Sherlock abt Lincoln College Curacies']

¹ Richard Fleming, bp. Lincoln 1420–31.

² William Barlow, bp. Lincoln 1608–14.

³ Richard Kilby, Rector 1590–1620.

⁴ See 1.62–5.

From the Rt. Revd. Dr. Thomas Sherlock

(i.79)

Wallington, Herts.,¹ May 18, 1740

My Lord.

The post is just come in, & is going out again. It is Impossible to consider the Subject of your letter so as to return you an answer this Inst. I set out to-morrow for Bury in Suffolk to make a visit to Mrs Fountayne;² I shall be here again the Saturday following & will trouble you with a letter by the post this day Sennight, directed to your house at London, wch, if you are gone, will soon find its way after you.

I congratulate Ld Chancellor on his Sons good fortune.³ The Bp. of Landaff I hope will soon be reconciled to his new prefermt –⁴

All here join in Service to yr. Ldship and the Ladys[.] I am My Lord Yr Lordship's most Aff: Br & humble Servant

Tho: Sarum.

¹ Stokes, p. 33, identifies which Wallington.

² Ann Fountayne of Melton, Yorks., Sherlock's mother-in-law, may have been at Bury for the sake of her health: J. Hunter, *History of Doncaster*, i, p. 367.

³ Philip Yorke, 1st earl of Hardwick, lord chancellor 1736/7–56; his son, Philip Yorke, 2nd. earl, married Jemima, granddaughter of the duke of Kent, on May 22, 1740: *Compl. Peerage*, vi, pp. 305–7; see also Stokes, p. 53.

⁴ John Gilbert, dean of Exeter 1726–40, bp. Llandaff 1740–8, bp. Salisbury 1748–57, archbp. York 1757–61.

From the Rt. Revd. Dr. Thomas Sherlock

(i.80–1)

May 18, 1740

My Lord

After writing the hasty letter I sent you by this post, I had time to look over your papers; and supposing that you may want the papers, and that, having no opportunity of making any search into these matters here, I shou'd not be able to give a better answer a week hence, than I am now, I thought it best to send you what occurred to my thoughts, that you might at least have yr papers again in due time.

You observe there is *something particular* in the foundation of this College: There is so; and thence I apprehend all the difficulty arises. There are many Instances of Collegiate Churches made out of one, or more, Rectory's – such was the College of Stratford upon Avon, such was the College of St Edmunds in Salisbury; wch colleges had not only the tythes impropriated to them, but had the service of the Church to perform by some of their community – Many religious houses had livings in the same manner, and served them by some of their own body; wch was the case, where Vicarages were not settled & endowed: and hence come our present perpetual Curacys – Now these kind of Colleges never were exempt from the Bp in virtue of their being made collegiate, tho' some might have particular Exemptions

from the pope – the Bp of Worcester visits at Stratford; the Bp of Sarum visits St Edmunds – and I doe not see in the Royal Charter or in Bp Flemmings foundation the least Colour for Exemption in this case. The Uniteing the Churches, or annexing them [f. 80v.] and incorporating them into one Collegiate Ch: is nothing to the purpose; for such Churches were allways visitable – The monasterys antiently appeared for their parochial Churches appropriated at all Visitations – Cathedral Churches doe, or ought, still to doe the same – The Dean & Ch. of Salisbury are cited to appear to answer for the Rectorys; appropriated to them, since the time {‘date’ interlineated above ‘time’} of their exemption, and wch are not therefore privileged.

By what appears to me as yet, I shou’d take Lincoln College to be in its first institution a *mere Collegiate Church*; and w’d probably have fallen with the rest of its brethren, if it had been founded any where but in a University, where Colleges, without distinguishing their kinds, found protection.

The Curates being *Remotivi ad nutum* alters not the Case – all Curates to appropriated livings were so, till Vicars were endowed – The reason was, because *not the Curate*, but the *Rector* : i.e. the Corporation was answerable to the Bp & visitable by him. The Rectory of St Thomas at Sarum is annexed to the Chapter, they appoint a Curate who has neither Institution nor Induction – but the Ch: is visited by the Bp, and he cites *not the Curate*, but the *Dean & Chapter* to appear; who constitute a proctor for that purpose – of wch there are several instances; thô this, as well as many other antient practices has been laid aside of late years: By wch means our Constitution is growing more & more unintelligible.

All bodys corporate that had livings appropriatd were by the Canon Law to settle Vicars, & allow them a share; but in [f. 81] L. Coll: case, and others of that kind, where the Rector and fellows were founded in the parish Church, and the Cure laid on them – they were considered as Rectors resident, and not bound to settle Vicars – and every *Resident Rector* may now, if he wants help, have a Curate *ad nutum remotivum*.

As to the Curates appearing at Visitations in yr case, surely it is great Evidence of the Bps jurisdiction; and probably their appearance was, by consent, admitted to discharge the College, (who ought to have appeared by a Proctor duly authorised.) and the rather because the statute says they have *curam parochianorum*.

The paying procurations is another great Evidence; wch wd have been discharged, or turned into a pension of *Indemnity* if the livings had been exempted. I see in the Archdeacons composition there is an *Indemnity* of 20 pence, over and above the procurations – I observe the procurations are paid on the old foot, & not in vertue of any new Contract – but the 20 pence is new *causa indemnitis*. These kind of paymts. are antient & frequently to be met with; thô very little understood – I wont promise you that no argumt shall be raised from the expression agst yr Jurisdiction, for I have met with

many who takes these paymts to have been no *Indemnity* [for] the *Church* agst the Archdeacons jurisdiction, or the Bp's, for more Bps have such paymts. But the case is truly this: When a Rectory was appropriated to a body corporate, it had an Incumbent that cou'd never dye – There was an End therefore of Institution fees to the Bp – of Induction fees to the ArchDeacon – to recompense these losses, it was usual to reserve out of the livings pensions, to the Bp, and to the ArchDeaconry – to Indemnify them for these losses.

[f.81v.] The General *Proviso* for Colleges in the patent erecting the Bp of Oxon; will help this College no more than others; who doe not, I suppose, claim all their Impropriated livings in your Diocese to be exempt.

The Reservation to the Bp of Lincoln is for four Colleges; but it is not a Reservation of his Ordinary Episcopal jurisdiction, but of his jurisdiction *ratione fundationis* sive *dolationis* Eorundem Collegiorum.

Thus, my Lord, you have (to borrow an Expression from Bp Burnet)¹ all my ready-money learning upon this Subject – It may be worth while to Enquire after some of the metropolitical Visitations – I remember in a Visitation of Warhams,² he called for Charters to justify all exemptions demanded, and there are entrys of them in his Register – and the Bp of London can tell you wether any thing of this kind reached Oxford –

I am My Lord your very aff: & Obedient Servt

Sarum.

May not this College be considered in a double Capacity – as a College of the *University*; under wch character they plead exemption from the ordinary – and are subject to their Visitor only

As a Collegiate *Church* & so subject to the Ordinary. I suppose this part of their Character is forgotten, wch makes the dispute for maintaining wch they resort to the other Character, and perhaps is the only-one they own.

¹ Gilbert Burnet, bp. Salisbury 1689–1715.

² William Warham, archbp. Canterbury 1503–33.

From the Revd. George Sheppard

(i.82)

Charlbury, Aug. 29, 1740

May it please Your Lordship

I am inform'd Your Lordship has forbid Mr Fletcher officiating any more at Hardwicke, this is to acquaint Your Lordship that Mr Wardell of Fringford will take care & supply that Church, if Approv'd of by Your Lordship. – I am very sorry Mr Fletcher imposed upon me as he did, He came to Charlbury last March & told me, he had been with Your Lordship & was in Priest-Orders, & that Your Lordship was very well satisfied, He

should supply the Church of Hardwicke. I hope Your Lordship will pardon me if I have any ways offended, in that Case.

I am Your Lordships most Dutifull Son

George Sheppard

My Humble Duty to Your Lordship.

From Thomas Sympton¹ to Browne Willis

(i.83-4)

Lincoln, Sep. 11, 1740

Honoured Sir!

I am to return You my Thanks upon a double Account, in the first place for your very kind and hearty Application to my Lord Bishop of Lincoln, who on Tuesday last was pleased to admit me a Proctor in his Consistory, as his Lordship told me he had given You a promise in my Favour: and in the next place, for the fine Edition of the Valor, which I received safe this Afternoon.² I cannot but wish that You had thought fit to have put your own Name to it, that the World might have known to whom it was obliged for so usefull a Book. I inquired of Mr. Chancr. Dr Reynolds whether your Letter was come to my Lords Hands, and he told me it was.³ The Bishop and he are gone down to Castle Howard, the Earl of Carlisles Seat in Yorkshire, to consecrate the fine new Chapell built by the late Earl:⁴ and are expected back next Tuesday. Mr. Chanter arrived here this Morning in perfect Health, but stays only the Audit Week which begins on Monday next.⁵ I never saw him look better in my Life. I am, with repeated Thanks for all Favours,

Sr. Your most obedient, and faithfull humble Servt.

T. Sympton

[To Whaddon Hall]

¹ Clerk of the works at Lincoln Cathedral from 1728 and librarian from 1743 to his death in 1750: J.W.F. Hill, *Georgian Lincoln*, pp. 41-2.

² Presumably J. Ecton, *Liber Valorum et Decimarum . . . an Account of the Valuations and Yearly Tenths of . . . Ecclesiastical Benefices*, ? 3rd ed., London, 1728. Ecton's *Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum* was not published until 1742.

³ Thomas Reynolds M.A. was chancellor of the diocese of Lincoln 1741-4; Charles Reynolds was chancellor of Lincoln cathedral 1728-66, and Dr. George Reynolds, archdeacon of Lincoln 1725-69, was also chancellor of the diocese of Peterborough 1721-69.

⁴ Charles Howard, 1669-1738, 6th earl of Carlisle 1692, and Henry Howard, 1694-1758, 7th earl of Carlisle 1738: *Compl. Peerage*, iii, pp. 35-6.

⁵ Chanter is probably a synonym for the cathedral precentor; between 1718-56 this post was held by David Trimnell, archdeacon of Leicester: J. Le Neve, *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae*, pp. 86-7.

From the Revd. William Vaughan¹

(i.85-6)

London, Sep. 27, 1740

My Lord,

According to the order you was pleased to send, I beg leave to acquaint you; that Mr. Bowles,² the Patron of North-Aston Vicarage (vacant by my Father's death) intends to present his Uncle thereto, who is an infirm Gentleman & in the Evening of life; & has been so good as to give me his promise of succeeding Him therein in case of his death.

As to my Character, my Lord, I have the honour of some small acquaintance with Dr. Tennison, & shall take care, if you will be pleased to admit me to wait upon you, to bring a testimonium of my life and conduct, since I left New-College, signed by Clergymen of reputation, & such as I hope your Lordship will approve of, & am,

My Lord, your most dutifull Son & Servant,

William Vaughan

[To 'Cuddesden House']

¹ Of North Aston, m. New College 1730 a.16, M.A. 1756; R. North Aston 1740-63, son of William Vaughan, R. North Aston 1711-40 and V. Fritwell 1729-40: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xi, p. 17.

² Charles Bowles patron of North Aston 1740 and 1763: *Bacon*, p. 807; 'In 1729 Charles Bowles arranged with the patron of Fritwell for [North Aston and Fritwell] to be held by a single incumbent to be presented by them alternately': *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xi, p. 16.

From the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(i.87)

Lincoln College, Nov. 17, 1740

My Lord

I think my self oblig'd to acquaint Your Lordship that I have not as yet communicated to our Visitor the Matter under Consideration between Your Lordship and Lincoln College; for the Society are of Opinion that such a State of the Case should be prepar'd as has had the Judgment & Opinion of a Civilian, which tis apprehended will be a means of giving less trouble to the Visitor in an intricate Affair, & more Satisfaction to the Partys concern'd. But if any Method could be thought of for accommodating this Affair without troubling the Visitor at all, we should like it still better, for Lincoln College is remarkable for having given little or no disturbance to their Visitors upon any Occasion, & not the least to the *present*.¹

My Lord, I am with my Wife's humble Duty to Your Lordship & both our Compliments to your Lady & Family,

Your Lordships most Dutiful & Obedient Servt.

Eus. Isham

¹ The bishops of Lincoln were visitors to the college.

From the Revd. John Hunter¹

(i.88-90a)

South Weston, Dec. 18, 1740

May it please Your Lordship,

According to Your Lordship's Orders I have sent Your Lordship a Transcript of my Predecessor's Acct. of the Lands, which go by the Name of Church-Lands, holden by Four of the principal Farmers in South-Weston, which I deferr'd the longer that I might the better inform Your Lordship what Answer the Persons concern'd gave, upon my urging them to give them up.

I told them, they cou'd not but acknowledge these Lands to be no Part of their own Estates, seeing they paid a small yearly Rent for them to the Church warden, to be laid out for the Use of the Church: And if Part of the said Lands was appropriated to the Church, I cou'd not see, what Reason they cou'd shew, why the whole shou'd not be so too.

But Reasoning, My Lord, in such Cases has no Manner of Effect upon such People, who will [f.89] hold fast, what they have once laid hold on, tho' by a sacrilegious Invasion, in spite of all it's force.

Their general Answer is, that, as there is nothg to be shewn, relating to the Donation of these Lands, they think, they cannot be oblig'd to give them up: And, that they look upon it to be the same thing, now they are in their Hands, as if they were given up, seeing they Four Possessors of them are at the Chief Charge in keeping the Church in Repair.

But this Reasoning is not good. For, My Lord, there is a great Difference between keeping a Church in Repair by a Rate, & having a Stock in Hand to do it. The one is look'd upon as out of the Parishioner's Pockets, the other to be done at no Body's Charge, & conseqtly. more readily laid out.

They do not seem very averse to the giving up of the aforesd. Lands, if it cou'd be made to appear by any Instrumt. or Deed of Gift, that they were ever given to the Church. Now if there be any such Instrumt. or Deed of Gift, it is likely, I presume, that it may be lodg'd in Your Lordship's Registry at Oxford, which, if it cou'd [f.88v.] be brought to Light, wou'd put an End to this whole Affr. at once.

With my Duty to Your Lordship & humble Service to Your good Lady, I beg Leave to make the Complimts. of the Season, & am, My Lord, Your Lordship's very dutiful Son & Servt.

Joh. Hunter

[f.90a] Church-Land belonging to South-Weston in the County of Oxon.

There are above 5 Acres & half of it, but not put to that Use, for which it was piously given: but instead of making the best of it for the Good of the Church, they share it among themselves, & pay for the Communion-Wine.

Francis Carter (now Richard—marginal addition) hath one Rood of Arable, & an Acre of Grass in a Ground called Red-Veal, for wch. he only pays per Year

0. 3. 0.

Thomas Cooper has one Acre, one Land, for wch. he pays yearly 0. 4. 4.

Mr Alnot (now Robert Stone – marginal addition) hath one Acre, one Rood, for wch. he pays yearly 0. 3. 0.

Wm. Stevens has one Acre of Pasture, & a Rood of Arable Land, for wch. he payeth yearly 0. 3. 0.

And there is one half Acre of Ground holden by the Church-Warden, for wch. he only payeth 0. 2. 0.

NB The Lands said to be in Red-Veal are in the Parish of Wheatfield, & all the rest in the Parish of S. Weston²

[f.90av.] [Endorsed in the same hand 'A Copy of Mr. Jackson's Acct. of the Lands, call'd Church-Lands, belonging to South-Weston in the County of Oxford.'³ and endorsed in Secker's hand 'South-Weston Church Lands']

¹ Of Cumb., m. Queen's 1706/7 a.18, M.A. 1715, B.D. 1728; R. South Weston 1727–52, R. Hampton Poyle 1728–52; for further details see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, p. 260.

² For details of the church lands and the farmers see *Vis. Retns.*, pp. 140–1, and *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, pp. 255, 257, 260–2.

³ Gilbert Jackson, sr.

From Owen Davies¹

(i.90b–c)

Little Cloisters, Westminster, Feb. 7, 1740

My Lord

Herewith I send your Lordship what you desired by your Servant yesterday.

The papers entitled *Order made &c* were printed by order of the Trustees, to be disposed of amongst the Clergy, that they may accordingly govern themselves by them. But the printed Clause in Dr. Busby's Will, is sent them only when they are appointed to read the Lectures, and their Appointment on the same paper is signed by me: thô I think it extremely right for your Lordship to have a printed Clause, that you may see the Duty enjoined.² The Number of Lecturers are now settled to be 20 in number in every year, Namely ten out of Lincolnshire, & ten out of the other 3 Counties. [f.90bv.] The Summe paid to every Lecturer, is £14 10s. which is 9s.8d. per Lecture. I shall take care of Mr. Airson,³ Mr. Carter,⁴ & gave entred them down as recommended by your Lordship.

The Trustees usually meet at my House in March in every year, generally about the middle of the Month, but there is no fixed day for it, and I my self seldom know above a week before they meet.

My Clerk waits upon your Lordship with this, & can answer any Questions relating to this Trust. Mrs. Davies joins with me in our very

humble Duty to your Lordship,⁵ & best Services to your good Lady, and I am

My Lord your Lordships most obliged & most obedt. humble Servt
Owen Davies.

[Endorsed 'Dr Busbys Lecturers']

¹ 1699–1759, receiver general of Westminster Abbey 1729–59: ed. J.L. Chester, *Westminster Abbey registers*, 1875, p. 394.

² ed. M. Fitch, *Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills*, xii, p. 65: P.A.B. 33, 1698. By his will he left £520 p.a. in trust for 'non-clergymen' who were to deliver thirty lectures: *D.N.B.*

³ ? Thomas Airson or Arison, m. Lincoln Coll. 1706 a. 23, B.A. 1710; V. Bicester 1715–52.

⁴ ? Richard Carter of Oxford, m. Ch. Ch. 1730 a.17, New College M.A. 1737, or Blacknall Carter licensed to Kidlington School 1753.

⁵ Mary Davies d.1778: J.L. Chester, *op. & loc. cit.*

From the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(i.91)

Lincoln College, Apr. 6, 1741

My Lord,

I had the Honour of Your Lordships last night & beg leave to assure You that my not writing sooner was by no means owing to any affected Delay or negligence in me; but to my not having yet receiv'd an Answer from Drs Commons as I have long expected, & have again renew'd my Application to the Gentleman concern'd for his Opinion, which I hope will soon enable me to send the Proposal to Your Lordship:¹ I should be sorry if this should not be time enough to fall in with Your Lordships Reasons for expecting it before You come into the Country; but if [it] should happen otherwise Care shall be taken that no Behaviour on our part shall affect the Point in dispute.

I am, my Lord, with humble Duty to Your Lordship & Compliments to Your Lady & Family from Mrs Isham

Your most obedient Servt.

Eus. Isham

¹ Dr. Henry Edmunds was chosen by the college; of Yorks., m. Lincoln Coll. 1712 a.17, Jesus M.A. 1724, Oriel D.C.L. 1736; student Inner Temple 1712, d. June 10, 1746.

From the Revd. Dr. William Holmes

(i.92)

Oxford, Apr. 7, 1741

My Lord

I receiv'd Yr. commands by Mr. Beaver, and shall always be ready to obey them with the greatest pleasure;¹ but, as the sollicitation of friends, and my present state of health, incline me to go to Scarbrô this summer, I

beg Yr. Lordship wou'd leave me at liberty to comply with them, and You will greatly oblige,

My Lord, Yr. Lordship's most dutifull humble Servt.

W. Holmes.

¹ Holmes had already once declined to preach the visitation sermon for 1738: see i.2.

From the Revd. Dr. James Edgcumbe¹

(i.93)

Exeter College, June 11, 1741

My Lord,

Dr Shippen² was with me yesterday from the Bp of Lincoln³ to consult Our Archives relating to an Ancient Composition between the Chancellor of the University & the Arch Deacon of Oxford concerning Jurisdiction. The Matter in Dispute was whether the Chancellor as ordinary of the University had not Jurisdiction over Drs & Masters who were Ministers: & the Determination or rather Agreement is that he the Arch Deacon should have the Jurisdiction provided they are Rectors, Vicars, or Parochial Chaplains. Whether this bears any Relation to the Jurisdiction now in dispute between your Lordship & Lincoln College, I cannot say: The Bp of Lincoln consulting this Instrument makes me think it hath. If your Lordship thinks with me I will send you a Copy of it as soon as you please. I am, My Lord,

Your Lordship's, most Dutiful & most Devoted Servant,

James Edgcumbe./.

The Instrument is almost 400. years old, but is only by way of Meml: no Seals to it, nor is it subscribed.

¹ Of Devon, m. Exeter Coll. 1722 a.17, M.A. 1729, D.D. 1739/40, Rector 1737-50; C. Kidlington 1736, R. Hethe 1732-49.

² Robert Shippen of Ches., m. Merton 1693 a.16, B.N.C. M.A. 1699, D.D. 1710, 'Master' 1710-45, V.C. 1718-23; F.R.S. 1706, d.1745.

³ Richard Reynolds bp. 1723-44.

From the Revd. James Edgcumbe

(i.94-6)

Exeter College, June 13, 1741

My Lord,

I have inclosed sent your Lordship a Transcript of that Ancient Instrument relating to Jurisdiction wch I formerly mentioned to you.¹ I am not aware that I have made any Errors thro' the Whole, & tho' the Last Sentence or two doth not seem to be quite intelligible yet I have written them just as I apprehend them to be in the Instrument itself[;] where there is a Blank in [the] last line but one. I could not well read the Word but I suppose it may answer to our english Words twice or Many times. (I find in an Old

Dictionary pluries wch Answers to MS. – footnote addition) If I can be any further serviceable to your Lordship in this Affair, I shall be glad of it.

I shall with a great deal of Pleasure wait on your Lordship at Heath; & shall accordingly go over to morrow Morning to acquaint my Parishioners & the neighbourhood with Your Lordship's Intentions.

I am, My Lord, Your Lordship's most Dutiful & most Devoted Servt,
James. Edgcumbe./.

¹ Folios 95–6 contain the transcript mentioned above, which differs in form but not in substance from the version used in A. Anstey, *Munimenta Academica*, Rolls Series, 1 (1868), 148–52. A search of Exeter College archives kindly undertaken by Dr. J.R. Maddicott failed to discover the original.

(i.97–8)

'Extract from a Letter, written by the Bishop of Oxford to Dr Bland, Provost of Eton,¹ July. 10. 1741.'

—I shall therefore tell you plainly, on what Grounds I apprehend, that the minister of Cogges ought to be subject to me, & trust to your Candour for the Reasons of your thinking otherwise.² As Bishop, I have the ordinary Jurisdiction throughout Oxfordshire, wherever an Exemption cannot be proved: & I can find no Proof of any in this Case. For having belonged to a Monastery is not a Proof. On the contrary, Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, in 1209, mentions the Church of Cogges, as belonging to the Alien Prior of Fiscamb:³ but at the same time ordains, of what the Vicarage shall consist: which shews his Jurisdiction. And H[enry] 6. grants it to Eton, only with the same Immunities, with which the Convent held it. I have not indeed found any Vicar instituted after this: which is the Case of many other Vicarages. But I find, upon a Complaint of the Curate against the College Tenant, which Dispute was afterwards made up, an Opinion of Sir. N. Brent, that the Curate should apply to the Lord Keeper for a Presentation.⁴ And I have by me above a dozen Instances, extracted out of the Visitation Books of different Years, [f.97v.] from 1585 to 1725, of Curates appearing; & 3 Instances within these 60 Years of persons subscribing for Licences to serve the Cure; & one older, 1630, of a person subscribing for a Licence to preach there: & more Instances of each sort, I suppose, may be found. The Churchwardens also have constantly appeared at Visitations, & do so still. These Proofs, Sir, I have: though I am not obliged to prove any thing, but that I am Bishop. If you will favour me with an Account of what induces you to think, that my Authority doth not extend to Cogges, I will either yield to it, or give you my Reasons, why I cannot. And as you will easily believe, that I am not fond either of Trouble or Expense, so I assure you sincerely, that though I apprehend my self bound to take Care of what belongs to my Jurisdiction, I do not care how little that Jurisdiction is. If

you desire Time to make further Inquiry concerning this Matter, you shall have as much as you please to let me know you shall want. But I beg the Favour of a present Answer to this Letter, such as you think proper to give. I hope it will be such as may bring this Affair easily to a Conclusion.⁵ But in whatever manner it may be requisite to carry it on, I shall always endeavour to shew my self in every thing

Your loving brother &c

[TO]

¹ Henry Bland, head master of Eton 1719, dean of Durham 1728–46, provost of Eton 1733–46.

² 'Cogges V. (St. Mary.) Eton College, Patr. and Propr. . . .': Bacon, p. 805.

³ 'Priory of Fiscamb' = Fécamp abbey, Normandy: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xii, 59, 69.

⁴ Nathaniel Brent, kt., D.C.L., warden of Merton, judge of the Commonwealth Court of Probate, d.1652: G.D. Squibb, *Doctors Commons: a History of the College of Advocates and Doctors of Law*, pp. 175, 209n.

⁵ No reply seems to survive from Bland but Christopher Wells, the curate, was charged in 1742 with serving the cure and preaching without the bishop's licence and with not appearing at the visitation. He accepted the bishop's jurisdiction and paid £1 8s. 6d. in costs: O.R.O., O.D.P. c.2137, ff. 45v.–199, c.2139, ff.9v.–23.

From the Revd. Nathaniel Sturges¹

(i.99)

Sarsden, July 29, 1741

My Lord

The Lecture of Churchill, which your Lordship desir'd an account of, was founded by Sr John Walter, formerly Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, about the 2d or 3d year of King Charles 1st, who vested an Estate in Trustees for the payment of 50 pounds pr an: to the sd. Lecturer, so long as he should continue Lecturer there, & attend the office of diligent preaching once every Sunday, if not otherwise by necessity hindred.² There were three Trustees appointed by the Judge, & when it comes into the hands of one single person, he is requir'd to fill up the trust by choosing two more. Accordingly it hath been continued ever since, & is a very seasonable benefaction for the town of Churchill, which being a large village, & the Vicaridge not worth above 14 pds a year, could not have been regularly supplied without it. I have prayers there twice every Sunday, & a Sermon in the Afternoon, & the same duty at my neighbouring Parish of Sarsden, only the Sermon in the morning. This, my Lord, hath oblig'd me to omit the exposition of the Catechism; but being desirous to contribute all that lies in my power, towards promoting the good ends proposd by your Lordship, I will endeavour for the future to explain it in such small portions, as the time will admit of.

I am, my Lord, your Lordships most dutifull & obedient humble Servant
N. Sturges

¹ Of Derbys., m. Corpus 1705/6 a.18, M.A. 1717; lecturer 1716 and R. Sarsden 1720–62, C. Churchill 1724–1749.

² Sir John Walter, 1566–1630, chief baron from 1625: *D.N.B.*; for details of the estate see *Vis. Retns.*, p. 130.

From the Revd. Nathaniel Sturges

(i.100–1)

Sarsden, Aug. 15, 1741

My Lord

I receivd the honour of your Lordships Letter, & have sent your Lordship a Copy of one of the Deeds, by which the Trustees act, & wherein are recited all that have been exemted [sic] from the time that the Lecture was founded. By that your Lordship will see that I am likewise indebted to the same noble Benefactor for an handsome addition to the Living of Sarsden, & that the Advowson of that, as well as presentation to the Lecture was vested by the Judge in Trustees in his own life time.¹ That which I have sent your Lordship, is a conveyance from the late Sr Robt. Walter² to Sr John Stonehouse,³ Sr Robt. Jenkinson,⁴ & the present Mr Rowney; who being the only surviving Trustee, resigned the trust into the hands of another person, in order to choose him, the late Mr Perrot of Barnsley,⁵ & Mr Leigh of Addlestrop, Brother to the present Vice-Chancellor.⁶ Which was accordingly done by a Deed dated Sept. 20th 1738, exactly the same with this, (as I have been assur'd by the person who drew it,) only with the necessary variation of Date & Parties; & enrolld, as I suppose all or most of them have been, in the high Court of Chancery. So that I hope the Charity is very secure, though the Original Deed by some misfortune or other is lost. for upon a Law-suit which happend about 20 years ago betwixt Sr John Walter & Mr Philips, occasiond by the latters leaving the Lecture for seven years, & not taking any care to have it supplied, the original Deed was sought for in the Courts above, but could not be found. If there be any other particular wherein I am capable of giving your Lordship any satisfaction, I shall be always very ready to obey your Lordships commands, as being,

my Lord, your Lordships most dutifull & obedient humble Servant

N. Sturges

¹ The patrons of Sarsden were Sir John Walter and Robert Walter in 1721 and John Walter and Dennis Rolle in 1762: *Bacon*, p. 794.

² Of Sarsden, 1680–1740, 4th bt. 1722: *Compl. Btage*, ii, p. 142.

³ Of Radley, ?–1740, 6th bt. 1736/7: *ibid.*, pp. 37–8; iv, p. 47.

⁴ Of Walcot, c.1686–1738, 4th bt. 1717: *ibid.*, iii, p. 198.

⁵ Henry Perrot of North Leigh m. Martha Bouchier heiress of Barnsley manor, Gloucs. in 1719, d.1740: *V.C.H. Gloucs.*, vii, p. 16.

⁶ Theophilus Leigh, master of Balliol 1726–85, V.C. 1738–41.

(i.101)

Copy of a bargain and sale, 16 Jan. 1723, conveying lands at Merricourt (in Shipton-under-Wychwood) and elsewhere for the maintenance of a lecturer

at Churchill, for the promotion of lecturers to the living of Sarsden, and for raising stipends for both positions.

From Browne Willis

(i.102)

Whaddon Hall, Oct. 28, 1741

My Lord

This comes (as I hope) to wellcom yr. Ldshipp & my cosin & Mrs Talbott to London in perfect Health; & to Return my most hearty thanks for yr great goodness to mee in being troubled with so tiresom a guest so often – I have since my Return Home been ill with a Bad Cold & sorethroat [sic] & undergone more discipline than in half an year in this week in Bleeding &c & am still confined so that writing [?is – MS. torn] very troublesom to mee; otherwise I had sent your Lordshipp a sheet or two of extracts about [?your – MS. torn] diocese from the Lincoln Registers, in my collections, near 30 year agoe I run over them & thought I had noted several more things than I have; But I find I chiefly confined my self to the consecration or Admissions of Principals of Religious Houses – I can send yr Ldshipp a pretty good List of the Abbats of Dorchester to the end of Henry 6ths Reign[.] The last entry I have is Ao 1455 When 12 Canons in chapter gave their vote for the Election of a new Abbat on the Resignation of Alan Battenon & He recd the Benediction:

Dorchester present Abby church was built abt this time – In Leicester Archdeacny I have noted Ao 1444 that the Bp of Lincoln¹ issued out a Commission to collect Smoke ferthinges alias dicti Lincolne ferthinges ad constructionem Campanilis Ecclesie Prebendalis Sancte Margarete in Leicester; & a Fine Church & steeple it is truly; & these are six the Best Bells of any Peal of six Bells in all England as Reputed:

In Bp Chedworths² Register folio 61 sunt diversi Articuli objecti adversus Will: Ayleward Smyth of the Town of Henley Com: Oxon which He was made to abjure october 1 1464 which I have put down 2 of them & are as follows

Item He held & affyrmed that the Blessyd Sacrament of the Allter is a grete devyll of Hell & a Synagoge Fatetur

Item He said taught held & affyrmed that our Holy Fadre The Pope of Rome is a great Best & a devyll of Hell & a Synagoge & that He shall lye depper [sic] in Hell Ten tythes than Lucyfer Fatetur

This pious confessor is not in Fox's Legend of the Lincoln diocese persecution tho: Henly is among the persecuted places

If yr Ldshipp will favour mee with any queries to Lincoln yr commands shall with great pleasure & Zeal be most readily obeyed by Him who is with humble duty to yr Ldshipp & repetition of thanks for all Favours & tender of Best Respects to yr Ldshipp my cosin yr Lady, cosin John Benson & Mrs Talbott My Lord yr Ldshippes ever obliged & devoted servt to comd

Browne Willis

[f.102v.] I saw a letter of Mr Anth: Cox He says he defers publication of his Book of which He gives a great Character on acct. of some of the Principal Clergy shewing great Civility to Him[.]³ T was wrote with notable Vanity & assurance – my son Willis does not att all approve of Mr Eyres having Blechly⁴ & has talkt Idly enough as have some others especially my masters at Oxfd & particularly Eliot[.]⁵ But I have pretty well stood it out & shewed Resolution & wee are very well together tho: all he minds is pleasure & sporting about, & He is sometimes here, & sometimes at Blechly. But mostly with young Mr Selby at Wavenden⁶ – I parted with Him Saturday & He wd have come again to day But is gone on a party of pleasure to London with Mr Selby – I am sorry to find it is got into the news abt Mr Eyres having Blechly as I was shewed to day here a clergyman Bringing it in a news paper – I begg to know when the Bp of Gloucester will be in Town whether any time next month or not – The Valor is printed as far as part of Norwich Diocese & will soon come to Oxford; will yr Ldshipp be pleased to see the proof sheets.⁷

I pray yr Ldshipp to circulate the enclosed wch I should have sent you a good while agoe

[To Westminster and endorsed 'Dorchester Abbey Articles of Heresy agst Ayleward Oct 26. 1741']

¹ William Alnwick bp. 1436–50.

² Richard Chedworth bp. 1452–72.

³ Anthony Cox's book is not identified in the British Library catalogue of printed books.

⁴ Richard Eyre, M.A., V. Whaddon 1734–78, m. Alice dau. Browne Willis, d.1778; G. Lipscombe, *History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham*, iii, p. 500.

⁵ Eliot Willis, son of Browne Willis, m. Trinity Coll. 1737/8 a.18, M.A. 1744; R. Bletchley, Bucks.; d.1752.

⁶ Willis died in 1760 and in 1761 Whaddon was bought by Thomas James Selby of Wavendon, Bucks.; Stokes, p.xl, and *ex inf.* Mr. H.A. Hanley.

⁷ Willis was the acknowledged editor of John Ecton's *Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum*, 2nd ed., London; 1754, and presumably had an anonymous hand in the 1742 edition.

From Browne Willis

(i.103–4)

Whaddon Hall, Oct. 31, 1741
vigilia die Festi Eccl: omnium
Sanctorum apud Cuddesdon

My Lord

I sent yr Ldshipp a troublesome Epistle 2 posts agoe & now enclose you for Amusement the Register or Roll of Hugh Welles Bp of Lincoln¹ containing the extracts made out of it of yr diocese by Mr Dodsworth² – I had begun Minuting down the names of the places in the Margin But as yr Ldshipp is so very conversant in yr diocese I repented & left off as you will best insert them & in looking the enclosed over put them down & correct

what I have done – my young man who has been over & carried away £20 this week did his transcript in hast & in a more illegible scrawl than mine³ – If I live to goe to Oxfd I hope to put down the Rest & will get any thing from Lincoln yr Ldshipp directs mee for it will be ever my Ambition & Zeal to serve yr Ldshipp – In abt a month dep: if the Bp of Gloster comes I hope to be in town – As my cosin yr Lady askt abt our Relation Bp Fells younger Brother Mr Will: Fells death I find I have a note that He died Ao 1690 & was buried at Wormington in Glostershire – Bp Fells other Brother Mr Philip Fell dyed abt 8 years [f.103v.] before him & was buried at Worcester Cathedral⁴ – His Epitaph is printed I think in Wood[.] He was Fellow of All Souls & Eaton Colleges – I desired the Bookseller as they are got very near Oxfd Diocese to wait on yr Ldshipp with the proof sheets – you will soon run them over & in half an hour correct all – I am sorry yr old Diocese of Bristol is not so correct; Insted of adding parishes they have omitted 12 churches & chapels in Dorsetshire one in Glostershire besides other mistakes but it is impossible but errors will be in such a work – my duty to yr Ldshipp & my native diocesan who I wish could get me half a doz in dedications abt Bristol in that deanery[.] if I write to him I doubt I should not succeed & so wd not be above measure troublesom[.] All our Best Respects wait on the Ladys which with Repetition of thanks for all Favours concludes from my Lord

Yr Ldshippes ever obliged & devoted sert co comd

Browne Willis

[f.104] Collections from the Patents in the Tower of London of Churches appropriated Co: Oxon

Lewknor	Pat 4 Edw: 3 Appropriatio Eccl: de Lewknor Abbat & Convent de Abbingdon
Wotton	Pat 18 H 6 pt 3 m 8 Mo Eccl: de Wotton iuxta Woodstock appropriat Abbati & convent de Bruern
Marten	Pat 25 Edw: & 6 Rich: 2 pro appropriatione Eccl: de Meriten Abbat de Eynsham
Stoke Abbats or South Stoke	Pat 21 Rich: 2 pro appropriatione eccl: de Stoke Abbatis Newenton – Sewell (ie Newton Purcell) & Combe Abbat de Eynsham
Chipping Norton	Pat 2 Edw: pro appropriatione Eccl: de Chipping norton Abbat de Gloucestr
Charlton on Ottmore	Pat 5 Henry 4 pro eccl: de Charlton Ottmore appropriat Priorisse de Hellwood co: Warwick
Lillingston-Lovell	Pat 28 Edw: 3 pro eccl: de Lillingston appropriat Abbat de Nutly iuxta Tame
Adderbury	Pat 4 Rich: 2 pro eccl: de Abberbury [sic] appropriand Beate Marie Winton Coll: in Oxon i e New College

Combe	Pat 18 Edw: 4 pro Eccl: de (Twyford Bucks) et Comb appr Collegio Beate Marie Lincoln
Horspath	Pat 30 Hen: 6 pro eccl: de Horspath appr Hospitali Sti Johis Baptist extra partem orientalem in Oxon
Gasendon	Pat 15 Rich: 2 pro eccl: de Gersington (Gas- ington) appropr Priori de Wallingford
Dedington	Pat 44 Edw: 3 pro eccl: de De[dington? – MS. torn – ap]propiand Capellae Sancti Georgii [MS. torn – ?de] Wi[ndsor? – MS. torn]
[f.104v.] Einston	Pat 2 Edw: 2 pro Eccl: de Enston appropriand Abbat de Winchecombe
Wotton	Pat 20 Edw: 3 pro: Eccl: de Wotton juxta Woodstock appropriand Hospitali BM de Monte Seyniso

[To Westminster and endorsed 'Appropriations of Churches. Enterd Oct. 31 1741']

¹ Hugh of Wells bp. 1209–35.

² Roger Dodsworth, 1585–1654, antiquarian, author with Sir William Dugdale of *Monasticon Anglicanum sive Pandectae Coenobiorum*, 1655, republished in 1693 and 1718.

³ Willis's amanuensis and assistant from 1716 was William Slyford: *Jenkins*, pp. 83, 131–2.

⁴ Philip Fell, R. Everdon, Northants, d.1682.

From Browne Willis

(i.105–6)

Nov. 28, 1741

My Lord

Finding a little while agoe that I had before I printed my survey of yr present Cathedral on collecting materials at Buckden set down the donatives in yr diocese – I make bold to give them on the other part of the paper – Wednesdays post brought mee the sheets of Oxf. in the new valor now printing in wch I see several errata's[:] Cockthorpe is put as a chapell to Ducklington or Stanlake[.] It was originally a parish church & so as such taxed at XLsh Ao 1291 in the Lincoln taxation 18 Edw: I : But it was afterwards made a chapell to Docklington, For I find as I have noted it Pat: 51 Edw: 3 part I membran 20 in the Tower Archives Capella de Cockthorp annex: eccl: de Dockelinton so that Stanlake has no claim to it – I cannot see why He should put down a chapell to Witney at Caswell – I am well satisfied there is none there now except within these 20 years or less – I have not as yet recd. the whole Acct For I want part of Woodstock D & all Dorchester jurisdiction – I do not hear from my friends at Lincoln & so will end on 2 or 3 lines to yr Lordship to circulate – I hope to be in Town next week tho: I am not well of a cold – Ao 1534 Eifley Rectory was valued at

£17: the old Valor of the See of Oxfd is in Weaver £358 – In another acct £354 – 16 – 4 – How comes Mr. Ecton to make it £381 – 11 – 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ – I see He places Stoner Chapell which I believe was [f.105v.] the parochial one in Burcester Deany whereas it ought to be in Aston deany – It is in WATLINGTON parish as seems to mee, out of which I guess Pishull was taken & then given to Dorchester Monastery made distinct – chapell Lefield in Shipston under Wichwood was an old chapell & not founded by Sir Henry Unton² 1590 32 Elizabeth April 1 as Mr Ecton puts it. It might be then endowed or repaired after having been in this sacrelegious Reign sufferd to goe to ruin: Are not Fyfield & Idbury still chapells to Swinbrook in Witney D; where I think I place them & not in Chipping Norton – But I am too tiresom to yr Ldshipp tho; I may be more importunat if I come to London about the end of next week – my duty to yr Ldshipp & the good Bp of Gloucester at whose House at Blechly I dined on Monday having not been there in some years before note[.] It is stangely dilapidated & since his time there dont appear to have been £30 laid out in Repairs Furniture &c I think I speak to the uttmost:

I am sorry to see yr Ldshipp's diocese of Bristol vastly Incorrect – I doubt I shall get no dedications out of Devon or Nottinghamshire & that Mr Tayler quite forgets mee – Humble Respects to my Cosin & Mr John Benson & the Ladys concludes from my Lord

Yr Ldshipp's most obliged & devoted servt to cd

Bro: Willis

[f.106] In Bp Longlands³ Register at Buckden I noted down these Donatives or chapelries in His Visitation Ao 1536 in Oxfd Archdeaconry

In Dec: Aston

Standel Stokenchurch

In Dec: Henley

Caversham Goring Nettlebed Newnham Ipston

In Dec: Cuddesden

Cowley Beckley Forsthill Rycote Horspath

Sandford Pidington Noke Whateley

In Dec: Bisseter

Hampton Gey Weston Stretton

In Dec: Whitney

Borton Fullbrook Cockthrop Kelmiscote

In Dec: Chipping Norton

Hooknorton Shorthampton Alvescote Idbury Coldnorton

Banbury Peculiar jurisdiction

BANBURY V Croperdy v cum Mollington Wardington
Clayton

Tame Peculiar jurisdiction

TAME V Weston Sydenham Towersey Tetsworth

Dorchester Peculiar jurisdiction

Dorchester Warborough Studham Clifton Drayton

In Dec: Dedington

Milcombe Bodicot Southnewton Wroxton Ipwell Nether-Worton Sybbard

In Dec: Woodstock

Kidlington Cogges Southleigh Combe Beggebrook

In all 55

PS. I suppose the vicaridges are not given or some omitted in transcribing As Bensington Chislehampton Culham &c as well as the Oxford donatives in that Town & Binsey Wolvercote &c out of it

[f.106v.] [To Westminster and endorsed 'Mr Willis Nov. 28. 1741 Cockthorp First fruits of Oxf: Chapels in visitation 1536. not entered']

¹ John Ecton.

² 1557-96: *D.N.B.*

³ John Longland, bp. 1521-47.

From Browne Willis

(i.107)

[f.107v.] Whaddon Hall, Nov. 9, 1741

Monday night

My Lord

I am much obliged for yr Ldshipp's kind letter received yesterday afternoon [MS. torn - ? & ma]ke bold to enclose to you to seal & penny post away my letter to Dr. Rawlinson¹ - I was unwilling to ask yr Ldshipp for what I did on the Drs acct but was much importunat

I have wrote to Lincoln to our Antiquary there, to ask what He can find abt Dorchester;² But truly I believe nothing: for as I conceive the exemption (if any) was of papal exorbitancy & usurpation & transacted in Edwd 4ths time when there were a brace of Popes one at Rome & another at Avinion, - In the Lincoln Register after 1455 I meet with no more Inst: of Abbots of Dorchester - have church notes of 25 parishes in Oxfsdshire taken by Dr Hutton Ao 1658 or 1659[.] But Ld Oxfd bought the Doctors Collections of the Lincoln &c Registers which goe on to Bp Longlands time abt 1521 &

will soon be put up as I understand to be sold – I am promised by my Brother West a sight of them if I come so[on ? – MS. torn] to town which I cannot say much to for I am again ill of a cold[.]³ I am very glad the good Bp of Gloucester will be so soon in town I hope He will arrive in good Health: wee are here preparing agst St Martins Anniversary & just now while I am writing my sole fee doe is brought in & I divide it Half to St Martins day on Wednesday & the other Half is directed to yr Ldshipp & will be with you by the carrier on Wednesday & I pray yr Ldshipp to keep the Haunch as I think that is the Best & I have wrote to our most Reverd Archdeacon His Welsh Grace of St David as He is a Founder & Benefactor in many Respects to mee by this post & Intimated to his Ldshipp that I have directed it as it will come best together by the carrier to yr Ldshipp & prayed Him to send his man for a piece to yr Ldshipp Wednesday night[.]⁴ tis exceeding fine Venison & the [f.107] & the [sic] best rosted venison I ever eat – I hope [? S Martin] will be come to rost it – I all along designd to send yr Ldshipp a peice – my Best Respects to my Cosin & Mrs Talbott & Cosin John Benson which with repeated thanks for all Favours concludes it growing late this Eve my Lord

Yr Ldshipp ever obliged & most devoted servant to command

Browne Willis

The Venison was killed this afternoon & will keep[.] As I am told the carrier will come in early Wednesday morning viz one Norman my [? tenant carries – reading unclear] it to [sic] Tomorrow[.] I send this letter along with it as it will come sooner than the post & pray yr Ldshipp to circulate one to Mr Taylor abt dedications[.] I have [? wrote three – reading unclear]. I wish I could compleat the Oxfd Diocese &c [illegible]ight Nottinghamshire [illegible]ts Oxfd diocese to yr Ldshipp

[To Westminster 'With a Side & Haunch of Venison Carriage paid' and endorsed 'Dorchester Dr Huttons Collections Nov 9 1741'; pin holes indicate the letter's former attachment to a parcel.]

¹ Richard Rawlinson, 1690–1775, topographer.

² Presumably Thomas Simpson.

³ James West, 1704–72, politician and antiquary, of King Street, Covent Garden: *D.N.B.*

⁴ Nicholas Claggett D.D., archdeacon of Buckingham 1722–3, dean of Rochester 1723–4, bp. St David's 1731–42, bp. and dean of Exeter 1742–6.

From the Revd. John Sayer¹

(i.108–9)

Upper Worton near Deddington, Dec. 21, 1741

My Lord

I hope you will excuse the Liberty I take in writing when I assure you that a Violent cold is the only Reason of not paying my Duty to your Lordship in Person, especially scince I have receiv'd two letters from my Rector Mr:

Walton on the subject of taking out a Licence;² Which I sd: have done upon the first intimation, had not my Continuance in your Diocess been very precarious, but as I am now fixed I shall make it my Endeavour to enquire after your Lordship's stay at Cuddesdon or Oxford, that I may wait on You as soon as my Health will give me Leave: but if your Continuance in the Country sd: be so short as not to admit of this, I hope your Lordship will be so Good as to give Mr: Beaver orders to draw up a Licence for me, or else to dispense with my waiting on You till the next Ordination at which time I propose being a Candidate for Preist's Orders. I am with all submission

Your Lordship's Dutiful Son and Servant

John Sayer.

[f.108] [To Cuddesdon and redirected to London 'Returned from Tetsworth' and endorsed [f.109v.] 'Upper Worton Mr Sayer']

¹ Of Westminster, m. Pembroke Coll. 1734 a.18, Balliol M.A. 1741.

² Gilbert Walton of Northants., adm. Emmanuel Camb. 1725, M.A. 1733; R. Over Worton 1739-52, C. Nether Worton 1747, C. Burton Latimer, Northants. 1732: *Longden*, xiv, p. 151.

From the Revd. Thomas Forster¹

(i.110)

Cuddesdon, Mar.15, 1741/2

My Lord

Mr Wisdom the Keeper of the Goal [sic] at Oxford has been with me just now to desire me to acquaint yr Lordship, that there are eleven malefactors there now under sentence of Death. He says that there is no Clergyman appointed to attend them, either at present or at their Execution, & that it has been usual to acquaint the Bp of Oxford upon such occasions, & for his Lordship to appoint some Clergyman to do that office. I told him that I thought Mr Priest of Christ Church took care of the Goal, he answered that Mr Priest did the Duty of the Chappel, but did not apprehend it to be his Business to do any more, that he wou'd willingly spend what time he cou'd spare with the Malefactors before their Execution, but did not chuse to attend them thither.² This is the whole of what Mr Wisdom desired me to communicate to yr Lordship as soon as I cou'd wch I have accordingly done, & am

Yr Lordships most obedient & obliged humble Sert

Tho. Forster

I hope Miss Talbot & Mrs Secker & Mrs Talbot are well; to whom I beg my compliments. [f.110v.] Mr Smythe³ & Madm & Miss are just come in to drink Tea & desire their Compliments.

[To Westminster and endorsed 'Oxford Jayl March. 1741.2']

¹ Presumably T.F. of Northumb., m. Exeter Coll. 1728 a.16, M.A. 1734; C. Bicester 1734.

² Walter Priest of Gloucs., m. St. John's Coll. 1733 a.16, Ch.Ch. M.A. 1740/1.

³ Sebastian Smythe III.

From the Revd. James Smith

(i.111-12)

Stoke Hospital, Mar. 25, 1742

My Lord

I recd. the Commission sign'd by yr. Lordsp. & had gone last Week to North-Marston, but that I was oblig'd to be in Town the best Part of the Week abt. Business of some Consequence; however I have been there this Week, & met there by Appointment an Attorney from Biscester, as thinking it proper to make some Enquiries before I gave the Gentlemen mentioned in the Commission any Trouble abt. the Affair.

Two parts of the Estate, wch. were separate Purchases, are mortgag'd to two several Persons, and as I apprehend in a very unfair manner:¹ One Lucas was some time ago the Owner of the Estate, wch. was given to him by his Father for Life, & after his Decease to his Son John, who is now living, of Age & marry'd, his Wife being also living: notwithstanding the Entail upon the Son, his Father without his Concurrence, by pretending that he himself was Heir at Law, & that his Fathr. made no Will, has mortgag'd the Estate for £300 at £4 per Cent: wch. wth. four Years Interest comes to £348. Since the Mortgages the Old Man has convey'd the Estate to the Son (as he says) upon Condition, That his Son pay him £300 & one half of his Debts; So that as far as I can apprehend, the old Man has first given a bad Security to the two Mortgagees, and afterwards drawn in his Son by a sham Conveyance to be answerable for half his Debts, & to pay him £300.

[f.111v.] Now, My Lord, as the Case stands thus wth. Regard to the Title, I thought it proper to desire yr. Opinion, whether or no it may be safe to purchase such an Estate; for considering That the Old Man is very indigent, & has acted in such a manner, I think it ought to be consider'd whether or no he may not possibly have confess'd any Judgments, or even made some subsequent Mortgage, in both wch. Cases, as I imagine, a proper Conveyance can't be made; But This, My Lord, I humbly submit to your better Judgment. The Buildings are as good as can be expected upon such an Estate, but will require the best Part of a Year's Rent to put Them in Repair. The Estate is Freehold, & pays only One Shillg. a Year Quit Rent. They are willing to sell it at 25 Years Purchase, to make Allowance for the Quit Rent, to pay all Expences abt. the Conveyance, & to put all the Buildings into good Repair. The Old Man says, That the Estate is let for Three Years at £17: 5s. a year to a Person, who is to enter upon the Fallows this Lady Day, but I understand that he is but in indifferent Circumstances. As the Purchase will come to £431: 5s. (for I dare say the Estate will not be bought under 25 Years purchase) I hope it will not be expected That I shd. pay the £31: 5, considering that I have a large Family & but a slender Income & that my holding of Cottisford is uncertain, & can at most be no longer then for Life. If the Estate answers the Account given of it, I think it can't be dear; & if Yr. Lordship judges it safe to have Dealings wth. such a Family as it belongs to, I shall upon having a Line either from Yr. Lordship or Mr. Montague, send the Commission to the Gentleman mentioned in it, &

have every Thing finishd wth. all possible [f.112] Expedition. I have sent This Acct. of the Estate to Mr. Montague Secretary to the Governors of the Queen's Bounty.² I am My Lord, wth. all imaginable Respect, Your Lordship's
Most Dutiful & Obedient Servant

James Smith

[f.112v.] [Headed 'Letter from Mr Smith Rector of Cottisford to the Bp of Oxford' and endorsed 'Cottisford']

¹ See *ibid.*, p. 48.

² Henry Montague, secretary to Queen Anne's Bounty, 1737-66: *Best*, p. 539.

From Norreys Bertie¹

(i.113)

Weston-on-the-Green, Apr. 7, 1742

My Lord

I have been with Lord Abingdon as you desired me when I saw you in London,² and have shewed him the plan of the Church that I Intend to Build, and he approves of it, the Reason I do not Begin it, is the Want of a Faculty Which is in your Lordships power to grant me, if you please I can send you a Ground plan of what I Intend to Build, but your Lordship need not doubt but it will be full Big Enough for the Parish

I am My Lord Yr Most Obedient Servt.

Norreys Bertie

¹ Of Essex, m. Magd. Coll. 1734 a.16, cr. M.A. 1738, d.1766; Oxfordshire 1743-54: *Hist. Parl.*, i, pp. 302, 459; see also *Vis. Retns.*, pp. 167-8.

² Montague Venables Bertie.

From Herbert Beaver

(i.114)

Oxford, Apr. 16, 1742

My Lord,

Yesterday a Letter came to me from Mr. Launder,¹ to let me know, that Mr. Bertie of Weston on the Green, was, by your Lordship's Direction, to apply to me for a Faculty for the rebuilding of his Parish Church: I therefore beg leave to know, whether your Lordship is allready so satisfy'd of what is intended to be done, as not to require any Suggestions, and a Petition, as in Common Cases; or whether those Things must be prepared, and offer'd to your Lordship, previously to the making out of the Faculty.

I am, My Lord, Your Lordship's most Dutyfull Servant.

Herbert Beaver.

[Endorsed, in cipher, 'I had written by the same post before I received this that [the] matter might go [. . .] [?faculty]]

¹ Unidentified.

From Norreys Bertie

(i.115)

Weston-on-the-Green, Apr. 18, 1742

My Lord

I am much obligd to you for your letter and have according to your Directions sent to Mr Beaver for a faculty, When your Lordsp: comes into this Country I will waite on you and show You the Plan, and am with Great Respects [sic]

Yr Lordps obligd & Hum Servt.

Norreys Bertie

From Norreys Bertie

(i.116)

Hampstead Norreys, Berks., May 12, 1742

My Lord

I did not Receive your letter till last night haveing been for this fortnight in Berks, and I will take care that the church shall be finish,d [sic] this Summer if Possible, I shall go to Weston to morrow and did design Calling on Mr Beaver as I went by oxford but as the Chancellor is dead,¹ and your Lordsp has given me power to act, as if I had faculty, I shall make my Workmen Begin it very soone, and I hope when its finish'd it will be approved of by yr Lordsp, when you come into oxfordshire I will do my self [?the – MS. torn] Honour to waite on you and show you the [MS. torn – ?pla]n, I am with Great

Respect yr Lordsp Oblidged & Hum Servt

Norreys Bertie

[f.116v.] [To Westminster and endorsed 'Weston on Green']

¹ Thomas Tenison d. May 7, 1742.

From the Revd. William Freind¹

(i.117)

Witney, May 30, 1742

My Lord,

I had the honour of Your Lordships Letter by Fridays Post: I have heard that the Small-Pox either is now or was very lately rife at Bampton: I have sent a Servant over thither this Morning to Mr Sonell but I fear I shall hardly have an answer time enough to send it to Your Lordship.² I fear, as it is, my Letter will be too late for the Post. I hope to have my people well prepared against the 27th of June; Your Lordship I believe will find it most convenient to be with us the 26th. at Night, for it will be very troublesome for You to come from Cudsdon, or even from Oxford hither, on the Sunday Morning; so that You will give me leave to hope I shall have the honour and Benefit of Your Company a Night or two, as it will be most convenient to Your self. I shall obey Your Lordships commands in giving

immediate notice to the Neighbouring Clergy. My [f.117v.] father presents his Duty to Your Lordship.³ I beg my humble Duty to Mrs Secker and to the Lady's. I am with All Respect, My Lord,

Your most dutyfull and most obliged humble servant

William Freind.

¹ Of Westminster, m. Ch.Ch. 1731 a.16, M.A. 1738, D.D. 1748, Canon 1756; R.V. Witney 1739, R. Islip 1747/8, royal chaplain, dean of Canterbury 1760, d.1766.

² Thomas Snell of Bampton, m. Exeter Coll. 1708 a.18, M.A. 1715; V. Bampton Aston 1714/15-58.

³ Robert Freind.

From the Revd. William Freind

(i.118)

Witney, Whit Sunday, 1742

My Lord,

An Instruction, which I accidentally cast my eye upon in the Rubrick, is the occasion of my giving You this trouble. I find, that, when a Person of riper Years is to be baptized, Notice is to be given to the Bishop at least a Week before. There is a Quaker in this Parish, a Young Woman of about five or six & twenty years old, who desires to conform to the Church of England; I have examined her, and find her perfectly well instructed in the Main doctrines of Xtianity, far better than is usual amongst Persons of her Station in Life; and I cannot but believe the Motive to her Conversion very sincere & disinterested, since she is likely to become a very great sufferer amongst her friends by quitting the Principles in which she was educated. I propose to baptize her Next Week, unless I receive from Your Lordship any Commands to the Contrary.¹ I hope soon to be able to pay my duty to You at Cudsdon, and am, My Lord,

With All Honour and Respect, Your much obliged & most dutyfull humble Servant

William Freind

The Reason why I propose next Week, is, that she may afterwards have the benefit of Your Lodships [sic] Confirmatn.

¹ The baptism of Hannah Gilks was performed on June 6, 1742: O.R.O., MS. D.D. Par. Witney b.i; Gilks was a well-known Quaker name in the county, but there is no reference to this event in the Witney Monthly Meeting minute book: *ex inf.* Dr. J. Cottis.

From the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(i.119)

Lincoln College, June 12, 1742

My Lord

I don't know how to pay my Duty to Your Lordship upon Your Return

into the Country without some previous Apology for my Conduct relating to the Affair which has been so long in Suspence betwixt Your Lordship & Lincoln College.

Dr Edmunds, my Lord, is the Person that the Society was desirous should help us to the best Light in our intricate Case that his own Observations or those of his Friends at Drs Commons might afford; accordingly he very willingly & kindly undertook to go to the bottom of the Matter, & receiv'd our Instructions immediately after I acquainted Your Lordship with the resolutions of the College to have the Opinion of a Civilian: from that time at proper distances I have as pressing a manner as became me frequently stir'd him up to dispatch the business, & the last Letter I wrote drew from him the inclos'd, which I think my self oblig'd to send Your Lordship in vindication of my self.

[f. 119v.] It would be a sincere Concern to me, if I thought my Conduct in this Affair could draw the least Suspicion upon me of dishonour or disrespect or Negligence towards Your Lordship; but I think I now make a fair Appeal to Your Lordships known Goodness & uncommon Candour for a different Sentiment upon the Case.

My Lord, with sincere Esteem, I am, Your Lordships most Dutiful & Obedient Servt.

Eus. Isham

Your Lordship will be pleas'd to send back Dr Edmunds Letter when you have perus'd it.

[Endorsed 'Lincoln Coll. Dr Isham June 12. 1742']

From the Revd. Thomas Toovey

(i. 120)

Swyncombe, July 2, 1742

My Ld.

Illness in my family & a Necessary avocation hardly gave me time to speak to Mr Chancellor Burton, but I presume he reported to yr. Ldshp. that the Smallpox is entirely ceased in Watlington.¹ Whenever Yr. Ldshp. is pleased to fix a day for Confirmation I'll take care to make publication of it upon the first Notice. My Curate thinks there will be but a Small Confirmation because most of the Neighbouring Villages attended yr. last year's Confirmations³ I am

My Ld. Yr Ldshp.'s Most Dutyfull & Obedt. Servt.

Tho: Toovey

[Added in Secker's hand 'July 5 Appointed Aug 8 Notice to Pirton Chalgrove Cuxham Britwell Swyncomb Ibstone Ewelme']

¹ Daniel Burton of Oxford city, m. Ch.Ch. 1717 a.12, M.A. 1724, D.D. 1735; chancellor diocese of Oxford 1742-75.

² Oldfield lists Richard Cornish as curate at Swyncombe licensed from 1726, naming no other until 1758. There was an unnamed curate there in 1738: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 158. William Wynne was curate at Watlington at that time: *ibid.*, p. 164.

From the Most Revd. Dr. John Potter

(i.121-2)¹

Lambeth, July 13, 1742

My Lord,

In answer to your Letter, the receipt whereof I could not conveniently acknowledge by the Post, I think in the First place, that an authentic Copy of the Decree of the Master of the Rolls should be laid before your Lordship, or that You should some other way be satisfy'd, that there is a sufficient Endowment established, as well for the repairs of the intended Chapel, as for the Salary of the Minister.²

The Act of Consecration will not, I believe, take away any Right belonging, either to the Parochial Church of Goring, or to your Lordship's Cathedral: Nevertheless to prevent future doubts and mistakes, or by way of abundant caution You may please in the Instrument of Consecration to insert a saving Clause for all these Rights. So far as relates to your Cathedral, such a Clause is probably inserted in all your Acts of Institution.

This being intended, the Minister and Church of Goring will find no cause for the least uneasiness:³ to prevent which however, He may be previously ask'd, if your Lordship thinks fit, whether He hath anything to object against the intended Consecration.

[f.122] It seems intended, that as well Reading of Prayers and Preaching, as the Burial Office should be us'd in and about this Chapel; in which case however the Fees due to the Parish Church must be reserv'd. I do not see why other Ecclesiastical Offices should not be there perform'd under the like Reservation.

Your Lordship's Jurisdiction, as above mention'd, will remain unprejudic'd: And no Curate should be permitted to officiate 'till He has first obtain'd your Lordship's Licence. He must also appear at Your Visitations, as all the other Curates of your Diocese do, or ought to do.

The three Chapels mention'd in Your Letter were, I think Consecrated in the Form compos'd by the Convocation in the latter end of Queen Anne's Reign, or the beginning of the late King's: But as these Forms were never authenticated by the Crown, so they may be vary'd according to discretion. You may probably have either of them transcrib'd from the Books of Convocation now kept in one of the Offices belonging to this See. What is become of the Copy made use of by Myself in the above-mention'd Consecrations, I cannot at present recollect with any certainty.

I hope in what is above written your Lordship will find a sufficient Answer to all your inquiries: But [f.122v.] should any thing have been

omitted, or should My Brevity occasion any Obscurity, Your Lordship shall on notice, immediately again hear from,

My Lord, yr affectionate Brother

Jo. Cant.

[Endorsed 'Goring Almshouse Letter from ABp 13 July 1742']

¹ This and the two following letters are concerned with Henry Allnutt's almshouse at Goring Heath, for details of which see *Vis. Retns.*, pp. 69, 70n.

² The Master of the Rolls in 1727 was Sir Joseph Jekyll (see the item following): *Haydn's Book of Dignities*, ed. 1894, p. 388.

³ John Haviland Hiley, with Robert Hughes V. South Stoke as curate: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 69.

Copy decree concerning Allnutt's almshouse

(i.123)

6 May 1727

Attorney Genl agst Clement

Mr Bennets Report

That the Chapel of the house be consecrated and a piece of Ground behind inclosed to bury in.

17 May. The master of the Rolls decrees the Report to stand absolutely confirmed and that the Scheme & Proposal therein mentioned be established and the annual produce of the Estate be applied according to the said Scheme part of which is that there be yearly paid to a person to read prayers in the Chapel morning & Evening according to the Liturgy of the Ch of E & to teach the boys to read & write in the School that are to be put apprentices £30

[Endorsed 'Goring Almshouse']

From the Revd. John Burton¹

(i.124-5)

July 18, 1742

My Good Lord

As I have so far interested myself in an affr. which I hope will be of service to our Neibhrhd. I cou'd not dispense with myself in the performance of any pt of the Duty which lay in my power & Accordgly I readily comply with yr. Ldship's call to preach the Consecratn. sermon. as to the time My Ld, I beleive St Bartholomew who may give the name, may best claim our attendance. I am to be tried & hung up in a Pulpit at the Assizes at Rochester Aug. the 4. being appointed Chaplain to the pres[en]t high Sheriff; so that, as far as my Conveniency may be consulted, I shd. be desirous to have the Consecratn. postpon'd till St. Bartholomew.

I have waited upon Mr Hiley: have read to him that clause of yr Letter relatg to extendg. the benefit of this Chaple for the ease of the Parochial Ministers & the conveniency of the adjoining inhabitants - He is ready for

his part to concur in any thing which you shall judge proper on this occasn. – he suggests one thing which may be both of advantage to the Vicar of Goring & the Chaplain at the Almshouse viz – that he will apply to his Patron Mr Kent to Consent to give the next presentatn. of Goring church to the Chaplain of the Almshouse (which is situate in his parish) and to agree with the Trustees to Annex them both together – the right of presentatn. being made alternate. one turn to himself the other to the Trustees.² – I have also talkd with Mr Walker of Whitchurch, who is most concern'd (as most of the houses thereabts are in his parish) – he does not apprehend in wt. manner the thing can be settled in a regular manner, but only pro hac vice & quoad hoc leave be ask'd by the inhabitants of the Minister (who wd. be ready to grant it) but leaves to yr Ldship to prescribe wt. you wd. think proper.³

With regd. to the Procuratio Episcopi – I meet much oppositn. of some of my Neibhrs. – particrly Mr Powys [*f. 124v.*] who As Ld. of Goring &, an important Justice & Esqr does insist upon the honr. of Lodging yr Ldship at his house; & makes use of me as his orator to recommd him to yr Ldship on this Occasn.⁴ – My Neibhr. Stanyan wd. fain put in his claim for some pt of honr. – so great is the Emulsion [*sic*]; I am pleas'd to find it; & so far as yr Ldship gives leave, I recede from my pretensns. as yet I have not confer'd with Mr Tudor on the point mention'd by yr Ldship, there are scarce any houses in his Parish but which are as near to Checkenden Church as the Almshouse – & so on the Acct. of conveniency of the inhabitants or Minister little need be said, & indeed no satisfactory or determinate answer sh'd I expect from him: however I will wait upon him.⁵ – The Person whom I mention'd to yr Ldship was Mr Foster fellow of C.C.C. a young man of good character – of as much learn'g in various ways as any one of his standing in the University – I mention'd him only to yr Ldship at a friends desire in case yr Ldship sh'd. be consulted abt the dispositn. of that Small Livg as a person worthy of yr favr.⁶

Mr Anderson did assure me that he sh'd be willg for his pt. to apply the excrescence of the Almshouse revenue to the augmentatn. of the Chaplain's Salary; that at present it cd. not well be afforded – that at prest. he did not care to make a fresh applicatn. to Chancery; but when it appear'd that they cd. justify appropriating £10 or £20 to the Augmentatn. he shd. be ready to concur in the motn.⁷ Some time Ago £100 was allow'd by Chancery for building the Chaplain's house, timber they have of their own in great plenty – a very good house was design'd to be built attachd to one side of the Almshouse with room suffict. for 5 or 6 boarders which the Chaplain shd. be allow'd to take in, & a large piece of ground for his garden – with a suffict. allowance of fewel – runng for horse & pigs abt. the common & such like advantages which will make the Chaplains place more desirable.

It does not appear what the Trustees have done with that £100 thus allotted; they ought to have dispos'd of it accordg to order before now: but

now it ought to be done out of hand: & to this they shd. be exhorted; & I beleive a word from yr Ldship to Mr Anderson in favr. of the Chaplain wd. have great weight; & therefore as far as is thought proper I venture to desire the interpositn. of yr good [f.125] offices.

We have of late had a sick family all the children & some of the servts. have had the meizles which at prest. is the reingn distemper abt. our Country but is well which ends well. We do heartily wish health & happiness to yr Ldship & good fam.

Yr oblig'd friend & dutifull son

J. Burton

[Endorsed 'Goring Almshouse Mr Burton July 18 1742']

¹ Of Devon, m. Corpus 1713 a.16, M.A. 1720, D.D. 1752; V. Mapledurham 1734–66.

² Bacon lists no patron for Goring. The Kent family purchased land at Goring between 1697 and 1714 and a Richard Kent sold land there in 1752: O.R.O., Hen. I/1/10–12, I/iv/56.

³ Samuel Walker, R. Whitchurch ? 1723–68; there is confusion over the identification of this man, as admitted in *Venn*.

⁴ 'Philip Powys Esq' was one of the principal inhabitants of Whitchurch: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 169.

⁵ ? William Tudor, of Oxford city, m. Ch.Ch. 1690 a.16, M.A. 1696; R. Checkendon 1711–46.

⁶ Presumably Nathaniel Forster of Devon, m. Pembroke Coll. 1731/2 a.14, Corpus M.A. 1738/9, D.D. 1750; P.C. Wheatley 1745/6, R. Hethe 1749–55; his later advancement outside the diocese can be followed in correspondence with Secker in B.L. Add. MS. 11275.

⁷ 'Mr. Andrewson . . . of Abingdon', a governor of Allnutt's almshouse at Goring Heath: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 69.

From Browne Willis

(i.126)

Whaddon Hall, July 26, 1742,
Monday Morning

My Lord

I have the Honour of Yr Ldshipps of the 21 Instant on Fryday night & stay till this Morning to answer it, as a Gentl[eman] came over Saturday to preach here & returns to day to Oxfd & so I presume it will come sooner than by the post – I shall gladly write to Lincoln & desire Mr Archdn Trimmell to joyn with mee;¹ I am to meet him to day at the town of Bukks – If I am pretty well I design to go to Buckden in a little time & hope to find somewhat for yr Ldshipps purpose – I remember a Book there of Oxfd Archdnry But I think it has only Wills – I hope in their Act Books to see some processes in Dorchester dea[ner]y or jurisdiction – I know the Abbots were Instituted & recd. the Benediction from the Bp of Lincoln & I think the donative curates must be subject much more – Wee have in Buckm county at least 20 donatives several of wch pretend exemption since the dissolution tho: it is plain they appeared before it And it was want of looking after them in the Bps, that they set set [sic] up for themselves – I had the Honour of a Letter from my Ld of Gloster yesterday St James's day & joyced to hear of his Ldshipps Health[.] His consecrating St James chapel

at [? Mareston – reading unclear] on that Saints day was primitive & highly Episcopal – yr Ldshipp's taking the same method in or abt St Bartholemews Tide will be very right in my poor judgmt – the keeping up wakes certainly keeps up a veneration for Churches, alas little is left & when that vanishes I doubt left [sic] if any will remain[.] yr Ldshipp does a very good thing about the Hospital at Goring[.] The late Master of the Rolls had great atonemts to make to the church & I am glad to hear of any Instance of his Regard to it:² my humble Respects & thanks to Mrs Frost for sending Saints,³ had I Broughton Bilburgh Missyn Winkborn Littleborough – I should have Returns of all the parish churches in Nottinghamshire – they are not given viz their dedicatns in Thorotons History of Nottingham & so I have wrote them into it⁴ – I took some pains in examining the Patents abt Dorchester – yr Ldshipp may see how it was wrested by E 6 from Lincoln in Rymers Fœdera vol 15 page 266.⁵ It came afterwds into crown & Dorchester m– (the crown possession & Dorchester mannour – interlineated) &c were made a part of Queen Catherines joynture Ao 15 Charles 2d [f. 126v.] viz the Quitrent of it – Ao 3 James I It was granted to Anne that kings Consort or Queen as to the Quitrent [? spent – reading unclear] issuing; But the perpetuity of Dorchester M[annour] exchanged with the see of Lincoln was Anno 27 Elizabeth granted to William Dunch Esq at the Rent of 33 – 16 – 9 for 200 marks pd by the sd Dunch conveyed it to Norris A of Berks & so it came to Ld Abingdon⁶ & possibly the Quitrent is got from the crown: how it passed when in private hands wee cant find in the Patents: I lookt over these abt the Abby But as one Book is lost did not meet with that tho: I hope to visit my Freind & look again – It will exceedingly delight me if I can find any thing at Lincoln or Buckden to yr Ldshipp's purpose as I did last September at Hereford abt Flaxley for S Martin⁷ – I rarely meet with the names in Lincoln Register of the Incumbents where is no Institutns tho: I find them exhibited in some visitations

Wd yr Ldshipp's & the Ladys condescend to Honour us here with yr good Companys – yr Ldshipp wd see my collections & put mee into a method to search at Lincoln & Buckden & I should goe with the uttmost Zeal & transport abt it & pray my Lord Honour us so far as the journey wd be so [illegible] performed – my duty ever attends yr Ldshipp with best Respects to my cosin & Mrs Talbott & cosin John Benson if still with yr Ldshipp which with repetition of perpetual thanks for yr Ldshipp's dayly Favours & begging pardon for all troubles concludes my Lord from

Yr Ldshipp's ever devoted & obligd sert to cmd

B Willis

I hope to get Archdeacon Trimnell to write with mee to day to Lincoln[.] He is the great Patron & freind of the Lincoln Antiquary & got him a place⁸

[To Cuddesdon and endorsed 'Dorchester']

¹ David Trimnell, canon of Lincoln 1710, precentor (Mr. Chanter) of Lincoln 1718, arch-deacon of Leicester 1715–56.

² Presumably Sir Joseph Jekyll, but the hon. John Verney held the office from 1738 to 1741: *Haydn's Book of Dignities*, p. 388.

³ Secker's sister, Abigail Anna, married secondly John Frost, a yeoman farmer of Granby; she died in 1749: *Henstock*, pp. 5–7, 9, 12.

⁴ R. Thoroton, *The Antiquities of Nottinghamshire* . . ., London, 1677.

⁵ T. Rymer, *Foedera*, London, 1704–32.

⁶ James Bertie, 1653–99, Lord Norreys of Rycote, and 1st earl of Abingdon 1682: *Compl. Peerage*, i, p. 45.

⁷ Flaxley, Gloucs., suggesting that Willis undertook research on behalf of the s[aintly] Martin Benson.

⁸ Thomas Sympson.

From the Very Revd. Dr. John Conybeare¹ (i.127–8)
[f.128] Christ Church, July 28, 1742

My Lord,

Dr Barton² hath inform'd Your Lordship that the Payment of Ten Pounds a Year by our Chapter to The Curate of St Thomas began in the Year 1679, and hath been continu'd down to the present Time.³ It doth not appear by our Books whether this Payment was directed by any express Act of Chapter, tho' probably it was so; for, no Treasurer would on his own Authority, or without such a Warrant have begun a Payment of this Kind. Nor is it to be wonder'd that such Act, if made, should not appear in our Books; for the Entries There are very imperfect til after the Revolution.

I would observe to Your Lordship that the Treasurers Accounts are audited every Year by the Dean and Chapter; and that doth not appear that any Objection hath been ever made to this Article of Payment. Must not this be understood as an annual Confirmation of such Payment by The Dean and Chapter? And if it be thus confirm'd by The Dean and Chapter, will not the general Words of the Act made the 29th of King Charles 2d, Chr. 8 make such a Payment perpetual?⁴

I know not what other Answer to make to Your Lordship's Enquiries: and if this shall not prove satisfactory, I shall be oblig'd to You [f.127v.] for any farther Directions You shall give me.

I am Your Lordship's most Obedient Humble Servant,

John Conybeare.

[To Cuddesdon and endorsed [f.127] 'St Thomas']

¹ Of Devon, m. Exeter Coll. 1707/8 a.17, M.A. 1716, D.D. 1729/30, Rector 1730–33, dean of Ch. Ch. 1733–55; R. Oxford, St. Clement 1724–34, bp. Bristol 1750–55.

² Presumably Philip Barton.

³ Presumably the parish of Oxford, St. Thomas; Oldfield lists no curates until George Jubb in 1747. The visitation returns for 1738 are unsigned.

⁴ An Act for Confirming and Perpetuating Augmentations Made by Ecclesiastical Persons to Small Vicarages and Curacies.

From Thomas Sympson to Browne Willis

(i.129)

Lincoln, Aug. 4, 1742

Hond. Sir

I thank You for the Favour of your last, but am sorry that You pitched upon a person so improper and unfit as I am to answer My Lord of Oxfords Quæries. The Registrars of the Bishop & D.&C. are of course much abler to give his Lordship Satisfaction in every point, both as it is in the Way of their Business, which they are best Judges of; and as they have the Keeping of the Records from whence the only proper Informations are to be had; the which I cannot come at so easily, as perhaps You may imagine. However I have inclosed such an Answer as I can give; which I pray You Sir, to present (with my Duty) to his Lordship, to whose future Commands I shall pay the readiest Obedience. I am a stranger to the Records at Buckden, and therefore can say nothing to what may be met with there; excepting that the Institutions have been kept there every [sic] since the Reformation, and are in good Condition. I saw them in London; with some old Books whose Contents I do not remember. I have two Sixpences of Q. Eliz. but not of the Years You want. Pray Sir present my Duty to my good Master the Chanter,¹ and believe me to be at all Times Sr.

Your most faithfull humble Servt.

T Sympson

The Figures in the margin of the inclosed, referr to the several Quæries, of which I presume You kept a Copy.

[f.129v.] [To 'Whaddon Hall . . . Free Tho Oxford']

¹ Archdeacon David Trimnell.**From Browne Willis**

(i.131a)

Plough Inn . . . Carey Street, London, Aug. 26, 1742

My Lord

I hope this will find yr Ldshipp returned in good health from yr Consecratn of St Bartholemews on his day when I was at his Chur that day in the city of London¹ – I have examined the Grant of Dorchester Abby – It will cost £30 to have an office copy. It is 2 membranes or skins of the Roll[.] Tis dated June 11 36 H 8[.] There is a Grant in fee to Edmd Ashfyld (afterwds a knight)² & his He[irs ? – MS. torn] of Dorchester Abby the Scite & many demasne lan[ds ? – MS. torn] abt the Abby together with the Prebend or Rectory of Dorchester & advowson of the Vicaridge with all Right &c ever used or possessed by the Last Abbat or his Predecessors – I did not see the word jurisdiction But suppose by it that the Abbat exercised it & so it was thereby included no mention of Bensington Drayton Nettlebed Stadham &c only [illegible] Dorchester[.] If I can serve yr Ldshipp it will be an Happyness & pleasure to mee[.] £30 is too much to pay

– I hope I may get an Extract But that I cant promise – I was today in vain after Coins [with] John Benson at Custom House But hope not to fail seeing him to morrow – The Stony Stratford people will have a Benefit by my staying in Town – I am Interrupted [sic] & so must break of & pray yr Ldshipp to excuse all scribble &c in Him who is wth duty to yr Ldshipp & best Respects to my Cosin & Mrs Talbott & humbly for all favours my Lord

Yr Ldshipps ever to comd whatvr

Browne Willis

[To Cuddesdon and endorsed 'Dorchester']

¹ The chapel to Goring almshouse: see i.121–5.

² Edmund Ashfield of Ewelme took the lease of Dorchester monastery in 1536 and died holding the abbey manor of Dorchester in 1578: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vii, p. 43.

From Thomas Sympson to Browne Willis

(i.130)

Lincoln, Aug. 30, 1742

Hond. Sir!

I cannot give you any Information as to what may be met with at Buckden in Relation to my Lord of Oxford's Quæries because I am a Stranger to the Registry there: what I saw at London was the Institutions from the Restoration, and (If I mistake not) some few Act Books brought up from Buckden. I have reviewed the Visitation Book in the D. & C. Registry and another in the Bishops, referred to in my Answer to my Lord of Oxfords Quæries, but find no Call of any of those peculiars of Dorchester Jurisdiction. There is not here any Transcript of any Account of Synodals or Procurations that I know of. In an old Parchment book called *Liber Parcellarum* possibly something of that Sort might be met with, if it be old enough; because it is an Account of the Bishops Receiver: but I do not remember its Date. However it was left at London in Mr. Powletts Hands.¹

I thank you for the Specimen of the Notitia, which will be a very valuable work.² I wish I had been aware of the publishing this new Edition six or seven Months ago, it had saved me twelve Shillings in my Pocket. I have heard nothing of Mr Chanter, but expect he will be down at the Audit according to Custom. My Lord Bishop is expected here upon his Visitation the 7th. of next Month. I suppose he is now in Leicestershire. I saw the new Edition of Ecton when in London, and shall be very thankfull for it.³ The Lincoln Carriers come out every Monday from the Red Lyon, and the Lincoln Coach every Monday and Friday from the three Cups in Aldersgate Street, by either of which it will come safe.

Be pleased Sr. to let a Servant deliver the inclosed to my Daughter in Law

in Bell Yard. I was willing to save the poor Girl Postage, and hope You will pardon the Freedom of

Sr. Your most obliged humble Servt.

T. Sympson

[To 'the Plough in Carey Street near Lincolns Inne LONDON' and endorsed 'Mr Sympson Aug 30. 1742']

¹ Unidentified either as Powlett or Paulet, or their variants.

² Willis published his *Notitia Parliamentaria* in 1715; a second edition appeared in 1730, again in two volumes; a third volume was published in 1750.

³ J. Ecton, *Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum* . . . , was published in 1742.

(i.131b)

From Joseph Sims¹ at Wheatley, Sep. 3, 1742, on the status of the chapel there² and the income provided by the bishop and the parishioners for the minister (*Hassall*, pp. 77–8).

¹ One of the more substantial inhabitants of Wheatley; churchwarden of Cuddesdon 1738–40 and 1747–9: O.R.O., MS. D.D. Par. Cuddesdon d.6.

² For details of Wheatley chapel, its curates and augmentation see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, v, pp. 114–15.

From Browne Willis

(i.132)

Whaddon Hall, Sep. 13, 1742

Monday morning

My Lord

I did not return Home till Saturday morning being kept at St Albans on Wednesday by the Rain, & so made a visit with my daughter Molly at a Gentl: near it where wee stayed till Fryday evening – I was so affected by the Rheumatism that I was obliged to forbear writing otherwise I ought instantly to have acknowledged & sent a man on purpose to have thanked Yr Ldshipp for yr very great Regard to my son &c Henry who will want his students place as I fear – I shall say nothing abt what your Lordshipp hinted & if I come in 2 or 3 weeks to Oxfd shall have an opportunity of recommending him; tho: does not deserve it from mee so much noise as He made about his Inherent Right to Blechly & that I ought to recompence Him for the loss of it – He is at Marlbrgh where He gets up beyond what I think He ought, & insists on my giving him an Horse &c[.] I wish He may not as in Oxfd outrun the Constable¹ – I expect in a post or two to hear from Lincolne. I sent Mr Sympson the new 4to edition of Ectons Valor which costs £18 & I hope He will think it sufficient for his trouble esp: as yr Ldshipp does not meet with Satisfactory Answers to yr queries² – I think abt Michaelmas to goe to Buckden & will hunt about there – Dr Knight

Archdeacon of Berks has promised to call here & spend 2 or 3 days & I think to return with him into Hunts & make 2 or 3 visits³ – I hoped to have heard from the Bp of Lincoln abt Eliots going into orders & prayed in 2 letters His Lordshipp wd give Him letters dismissory & desired my young man to write⁴ But he is very Tardy & puts all on mee & I thought He wd come over hither & so I am to send to Oxfd as He expects – Mr Welborne⁵ who is now at Blechly & wee dined together to day at the Feast of Blechley who gives a very Bad acct of Dr Manetons Health⁶ offered him a Title in Wendlebury But I told Him not to accept it as yr Ldshipp objected to it & desired Him to accept Mr Eyres offer of serving Whaddon in his absence But He was unwilling to ask him however He has left him a Title

I have had a great deal of uneasyness at being altogether under such wise directors & opposition to what I wd recommend for their credit & Interest – yr Ldshipp wd be above measure charitable if yr Ldshipp & my cosins & Mrs Talbot wd condescend to come & spend 2 or 3 days here – Tis not so far & if I had any collections that wd amuse & divert yr Ldshipp I should be very glad & yr generous notice of mee wd greatly releive & make mee very Happy.

[f.132v.] Edmd Ashfyld or Ashfeild the proprietor of Dorchester Abby 36 Hen: 8 dyed Ao 1577 & was buried in Shenley Chancell Co: Buckingham aged 77[.] He left issue only 3 daughters who married Lee[,] Fettyplace & Fortescue[.]⁷ The Lees & Fortescues had good estates by their matches wth his daughters in these parts – I suppose Fettyplace Inherited Dorchester Abby – In the Monasticon is little given of Dorchester[.]⁸ It is said from Leland that Alexander Lincolniensis Episcopus canonicorum Abbatiam ibi (That is at Dorchester) fundavit: Ecclesia tamen praebendalis ecclesiae nomen gerit – In the 5th vol: of Lelands Itinery [sic] Mr Hearne gives an acct of Dorchester Abby p:125 in a letter concerning some Antiquitys between Windsor & Oxfd[.]⁹ But this is not to yr Ldshipp's purpose abt the Jurisdiction & I doubt the grant in the Rolls chapell will not help yr Ldshipp's generous Labour for the good & Benefit of the church or put a stop to encroachment so long held – I will gladly look into any record to Benefit yr Ldshipp or write to any one – In Tanners notitia Monastica 8vo 1695 is a Reference to several charters &c of Dorchester Abby in a Register at Sir John Awbreys at Borstall abt 5 or 6 miles from yr Ldshipp's. If there is any exemption in Popes Bulls in them it is easily seen[.] This new edition is a prodigious undertaking[.] It is got as far as Glostershire & I have by this post sent Bp Benson [? a sheet – reading unclear] to Durham which is the only letter I wrote since last Tuesdy the day I left London where I dined the day [? before – reading unclear] with Cosin John Benson at the Custom House. I thought to have had a peice of Venison to send yr Ldshipp But I have not been able to get any – I again wish & pray Yr Ldshipp wd next week make a stepp over this way – All here joyn in duty & best Respects to yr Ldshipp my cosin & Mrs Talbott with my Lord

Yr Ldships ever obliged & devoted servt to comd

Browne Willis

[To Cuddesdon and endorsed 'Sept 13. 1742 Dorchester Abbey']

¹ Henry Willis, m. Ch. Ch. 1731 a.18, M.A. 1737/8, B. Med. 1741.

² Presumably the *Thesaurus*.

³ Samuel Knight D.D., archdeacon of Berkshire 1735–46, prebendary of Lincoln 1742.

⁴ William Slyford.

⁵ Robert Welborne, m. Ch. Ch. 1713 a.18, M.A. 1720; R. Wendlebury 1730–64, R. Bletchley, Bucks, 1742–4, R. Lowick, Northants. 1744–61.

⁶ Unidentified.

⁷ For the relationship between Ashfield and Fettiplace see *V.C.H. Oxon*, vii, p. 43.

⁸ See i.102 n.2.

⁹ Thomas Hearne, 1678–1735, antiquarian, editor of John Leland's *Itinerary* in 1717.

From Browne Willis

(i.135–6)

[f.136] Whaddon Hall, Oct. 14, 1742

My Lord

I had by yesterdays post the enclosed from Lincoln wch I transmit yr Ldship with what I scribbled on this paper – By over & above exercising my Hand I find the Tendon is so hurt that I am forced to desist from scribbling & so have scarce wrote a post letter this week – on Monday I hope to [be] at Oxfd & to pay my duty to yr Ldship tho: my stay must be short I having so much Business here that tho: I have been every day at Home since my Return from London the beginning of last month – I have not been able to get thro: it or be one night at my F'stratfd House near Blechly[.] My Duty to yr Ldship & best Respects to the Ladys concludes from my Ld

Yr Ldships ever obligd & devoted Sert. to cmd

Bro: Willis

[f.135] Patents Tempore Hen:8

Newington Co: Oxon Mannour belonged before 1544 to Christchurch Priory or Cathedral in Canterbury.

Sutton Hensington Warpesgrave Gosford mannours all co: Oxon belonged to the Knights Templars

Fyfeild Mannour belonged to Bruern Abby

Coggs Mannour belonged to Abingdon Abby

NB In grants of St Thomas parish in Oxfd instead of being called by its right name St Thomas Becket is called St Thomas Apostle after the Reformation.

Pat 36 Henry 8 [? ps] 8 Teste March 23

The King in Consideration of £720 - 4 - 0 grants to Roger Taverner lands in Watlington & Brightwell & Tythes & 3 cottages in Drayton & all those Rectorys of Nettlebed & Pyshull late parcell of the possessions of Dorchester Monastery & an House called the Ferry House in Shillingford Habend to the said Roger Taverner His Heirs & Assigns for ever¹

Pat 36 Henry 8 [? ps] Teste June 11

The King in Consideration of 609 - 12 - 1 grants to Edmund Ashfeild the site circuit & precinct of the late Monastery of Dorchester in the County of Oxfd with all out Houses Stables Barns & Buildings situate within the said site: seven yard lands & one [f.135v.] half in Dorchester feilds 21 acres of Meadow & the Pastures called the great & Little Maines & some other closes & Tythes of the premises - And all the Prebend & Rectory of Dorchester & the Advowson Donation presentation Free disposition & right of Patronage of the vicaridge of Dorchester & 3 peices of Meadow there in the meadow call the Hurst And all that Watermill called Overy Mill & all Tythes of the said Mill² & certain lands & Cottages there & a Barn in Dorchester & all woods & underwoods growing upon the said premises Habend to Him his Heirs & Assigns for ever

[To Cuddesdon and endorsed 'Oct 14. 1742. Dorchester Abbey Grant of & of sevl mannors & Rectories']

¹ For further details of this transaction see *V.C.H. Oxon*, viii, pp. 134, 186.

² For further details see *ibid.*, vii, pp. 42, 45-6.

From Thomas Sympson to Browne Willis

(i.133-4)

Lincoln, Oct. 9, 1742

Hond. Sir

I thought my self very well paid for what I had done to serve my Lord of Oxford, by the Book you sent me in his Name, and am therefore in his Lordships Debt (if I can be of any further Service) for the Guinea. I beg You would repeat my Thanks to his Lordship, and let the Guinea be laid out in the new Edition of the Notitia, if it will purchase it; if not, my Good and kind Master Dr. Trimnell (whom I hope You have seen by this Time) will give me Credit for the overplus Charge, if You can tell what it will amount to when the Copy is finished. I am glad to hear Mrs. Franks recovers. Mr. Chanter had left us before your Letter came to hand. I have none of Queen Elizabeths 6ds. but what I mentioned in my last, nor any of the new England Money but a Shilling and a clipt Two pence. I saw a fair Sixpence in London six Years ago, but they asked more for it than I cared to give. I have not got a Coin, except now and then a Roman one found here, of many a Day: for I do not stir out of Town twice a Year. I had a very kind Letter the middle of last Month from Mr. Archdeacon Knight, who told me

that he intended to be with You about Michaelmas, and promises me the Favour of his Company when he comes next this Way. Pray Sr. present my Duty to Mr Chanter, and let him know that all his Buildings have stood the Shock of last Saturday Nights Storm. The Wind was very high all Sunday; and did us some, but no considerable Damage, in the Church Windows. The Roof of the Chapter House suffered most; several Sheets of Lead being torn off on two of its Quarters, but I have got them laid down again, so as to secure it I hope, till the succeeding Spring gives us an Opportunity to repair it in a more effectual Manner. My Lord of St. Davids elect has given forty Pounds to the Fabrick,¹ and I have lately received 5 Pounds of Dr. Knight, 5 Guineas of Dr. Ryder² and 5 Guineas of Archdeacon Caermichael³ in lieu of the Collations that used to be given to the Quire and Officers; which both saves Money to the Prebendaries, (those Entertainments having usually cost 7 or 8 Pounds) and contributes considerably to the Fabric Stock.

[f.133v.] In the late as well as other Editions of Ectons Valor, I find Firsby said to be united to Ingham, D. of Aslaco and Archd. of Stowe. Now I have searched all the Books of Institution down to the Restoration and cannot find any such Union, but on the contrary they are always instituted to as seperate Benefices, tho' the former is indeed a Sine Cure which is just now augmented by Lot. I should be exceedingly obliged to You Sr. for an Account of this Affair if any you have of it, because it would be of particular Service to a Friend of mine who is the Vicar of Ingham if such an Union had been effectually made; but I am afraid it is only a Mistake crept into the Book by Aceident. I have just been qualifying my self at the Quarter Sessions for my new Employment, and have taken out my Admission on a Sixpound Stamp which Mr Chancellor of the Church made me a present of, so that (I thank God and my Friends) I have been at no Expence yet about it.⁴ I intend if I live to be admitted a Notary, but shall not come off so well with the Master of the Faculties: however as Mr. Terry⁵ and Mr. Francis⁶ are both Notaries, I do not care to be behind hand with them in that Respect cost what it will. I am, with sincerest Wishes for your Health, Hond. Sr.

Your most faithfull humble Servt.

T: Sympson

¹ Edward Wiles, dean of Lincoln.

² Henry Ryder D.D., archdeacon of Derby 1719–55, canon of Lincoln 1742–55.

³ William Caermichael LL.D., archdeacon of Buckingham 1742–53, prebendary of Lincoln 1745, 1747–53, bp. Clonfert 1753–8, bp. Ferns 1758, bp. Meath 1758–65, archbp. Dublin 1765.

⁴ Thomas Reynolds; see also i.83 n.3.

⁵ Moses Terry B.C.L., chapter clerk at Lincoln and canon 1751–7.

⁶ Wyatt Francis, prebendary of Lincoln 1764–80.

From the Revd. Henry Taylor

(i.137-8)

[f.138] Wheatfield, 1742

Sunday Morning

My Lord

The last Visitation your Lordship held at Asson I gave publick notice in the Church beforehand of it, desiring that my Parishioners might call upon me before they went, in order to instruct them in the Nature & design of that institution. But none of them coming with me, your Lordship thought proper that I should have gone round the parish & call'd upon every one in particular. This I have now done, but very few have as yet called upon me. Such indeed as I Catechise (wch: has been continued every year for these 3 or 4 years) are all too young except such as will be present. I had engag'd to preach for Mr. Thornborow¹ before I knew of yr Lordshps. Confirmation & therefore am not able to attend My self but have desired Mr Toovey to present my Parishioners

I am Yr. Lordships most Obedient Humble Servt.

H: Tayler

[Endorsed [f.137] 'Whitfield Mr Tayler 1742 abt Confirmation.']

¹ Samuel Thornbury of Staffs., m. Univ. 1715 a.19, M.A. Magd. Hall 1723; V. Tetsworth 1722-51, V. Thame 1722-51, R. Stoke Talmage 1732-51, P.C. Long Crendon. See *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vii, pp. 156, 204; *ibid.*, viii, p. 208.

To the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(i.139-42)

St James's Westminster, Dec. 29, 1739

Sir.

I have just now rec'd the inclosed Letter. The two papers mentioned in it are, Dr Brookes Letter & the Extracts which you communicated to me.¹ When you have considered it, you will please to return it. The Archbishop has not yet read over the Extracts. I shall endeavour to procure His opinion and the Bishop of Salisbury's,² and it will be a great satisfaction to me in those points concerning which there hath been so long a doubt. I am with great esteem & regard,

Mr Rector Your Affectionate brother And Humble servt.

Tho. Oxford

From the Rt. Revd. Dr. Edmund Gibson

White Hall, Dec. 29, 1739

My Lord.

I send you the two Papers, not knowing but you may have occasion for them. It seems to me, that the Churches & Parishes cannot fairly be considered in any other light, than as Appropriations for the maintenance of the College; and their attending Episcopal Visitations &c. shews that they have never been considered as *parts* of the College. As to the Persons who

perform the Duty, there seems to be no Consequence from their being *removable* by the Rector, that they may therefore perform divine Offices, without the Licence of the Bishop, & are in no respect under his Authority. Every Exemption, as such, is an inroad upon the Ordinary course of the Law, & may not be established by Implication & Inference, but needs [f.139v.] strong, and exclusive words to give it a being. And to say, that the Parishioners are under the Jurisdiction of the Bishop, & the Officiating Minister under no obligation to publish Excommunications issued against them, is an absurdity which the Law will not bear. To make good the Claim of an Exemption it is incumbent upon the College to shew that they have from time to time appointed Commissaries to exercise their Jurisdiction, which would provide against the failure of Justice, & make their Claim a consistent Scheme. I am,

My Lord, Yr Ldps. very faithful Servt. & Br.

Edm'. London.

To the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

Cuddesdon, July 7, 1740

Mr Rector.

Having omitted to talk with the Bishop of Salisbury, whilst we were in Town together, upon the matter in question between your College & me, I wrote to Him into the Country, & now send you my Letter and his Answer, not doubting but you will give it a candid & impartial consideration: after which you will please to favour me with your Opinion upon it, & also to inform me, whether there be or not in Bp. Flemings Instrument any saving Clause in relation to the Episcopal Power. I am with great esteem & regard, Sir,

Your loving brother & humble Servt.

Tho. Oxford.

To the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

[f.140] St James's Westminster, Apr. 4, 1741

Sir.

I received the favour of a Letter from you some Months ago, expressing your own inclination and that of the College, that some method might be thought of, for accommodating the matter in doubt between us, without troubling your Visitor. Very soon after this, I acquainted you, that I should be very glad to receive from you any proposal for that purpose, which you should think reasonable. And I take the Liberty now of desiring to know, whether I may hope for any such Offer, before I have the pleasure of seeing you in the Country: because I should be glad to consult my friends here in relation to it. And the Approach of my Visitation is a farther reason of desiring this.

I am, Good Mr Rector, Your loving brother & humble Servt.

Tho. Oxford.

To the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

Cuddesdon, June 14, 1742

Good Mr Rector.

My time was so fully employed at Oxford, both on Saturday & yesterday, that I could not possibly write to you. But I take with great pleasure the first opportunity of assuring you, that neither your general Character, nor the perfect Candour of your Behaviour on this particular Occasion could have permitted me to entertain one moments suspicion of any wrong intention in You, even though Dr Edmunds Letter had not vindicated you so fully as it hath. I am very glad you have consulted so able a Man as he appears to be: and though I find he hath met with still more hindrances since the time, when he wrote to you, yet the Vacation I hope will give him both Leisure and Health to favour you with his opinion. In the mean while it will be a [f. 140v.] pleasure to me, as it always hath been, to see you here. I am, with great regard and esteem,

Sir, your loving brother & humble Servt.

Tho. Oxford.

To the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

St. James's Westminster, Nov. 3, 1747

Mr Rector.

I here lay before you such Evidences, as I have found or received, concerning the Bishop of Oxford's Jurisdiction over the parishes of All Saints, St Michael and Combe, & beg the favour of you, to lay them before your Society.

It appears from the Registry of Lincoln, that the Curates of all these Parishes attended the Bishop's visitation, in 1530 and 1540. What other Visitations of his they did, or did not attend, I have no account.

All Saints had a Chauntry-Chapel in it, dedicated to the Holy Trinity. And the Bishop of Lincoln admitted a Clerk to it in 1529, on the presentation of New College: and Collated another Himself, in 1539, by reason of a Lapse. Reg. Linc.

There is no Visitation Book of the Diocese of Oxford to be found, from the Erection of the Bishoprick in 1542, till 1578. And many are wanting since that time. But in all which remain, these three Parishes are constantly set down: which the acknowledged Peculiars as Banbury, Thame &c never are.

All Saints.

The Michaelmas Visitation 1578 was held in this Church. And the Easter Vis. 1579. and Mich. vis. 1635, and [f. 141] Easter vis. 1641. And the Episcopal Visitation 1666. and the Christmas Ordination 1629, and Trin. 1630. and Chr. 1631, and Lent 1631. And in the Acts, relating to giving the Chancellor of the Diocese possession of his office, in 1617, it is said that this Church was the usual place in which the Chancellor held the Consistory Court: and here accordingly he was put into his Seat. Reg. 2 fol. 80.

In the Visitation Book 1578 the Curate is marked Cont: and again 1582. For which Contumacy he is in the same book excommunicated. But in 1585 the Mark is Comp. Before this Year, & in several Years afterwards, only the absenters are marked. And in several such Books, there being no mark set against the name of the Curate of All Saints, it is to be concluded that he appeared. But it is expressed that he did Mich. vis. 1631, and Episc vis. 1662. Again, Easter vis. 1667 the Curate appeared, and Mich. 1669. And appearing again at the Visitation 1670, he was directed to attend the Visitor the Thursday following: on what account is not said. Also he appeared at Bp Crewe's visitation in 1672,³ at Easter vis. 1678, at the Bishops vis. 1679. at the Vis. 1683. But was pronounced contumacious for not appearing Easter 1686, & the Penalty reserved. at the Episc. Vis. 1691, the Curate appeared again.

Henry Cornish, Chaplain of Linc. Coll, subscribed for a License to serve this Cure in 1683.⁴

St Michaels.

The Curate is marked Cont: at Vis. 1578, but not so in 1582 when the Curate of All Saints was Excom. for his contumacy. [f.141v.] at Vis. 1585 he is marked Comp. & directed to exhibit his Orders next day. He appeared Michaelmas vis. 1631. And Vis. 1641. was excused East. vis. 1667, but appeared Vis. 1670, when he recd. the same direction that the Curate of all Saints did. And at Bp Crewes Vis. 1672, and at Easter vis. 1677. and Mich. vis. 1677. and at the Bps. vis. in 1679. And at Mich. vis. 1681. and at the Bps. vis. 1682. and Mich. vis. 1683 and at Easter. Vis. 1684.

Rob: Wilkes subscribed for a Licence to serve this Cure, Dec. 24. 1635:⁵ And Robt. Wright A.M. of Linc. Coll. May 5. 1641. probably in consequence of appearing at the Easter Visitation before: for it is the same person.⁶

Combe.

In 1578. the Curate is marked Cont. as the other two are. And there is this Entry: Syn & Proc. 10-7 $\frac{3}{4}$ Indemnitas 20*d* super Coll. Linc. In 1585 he is marked Comp. as the other two are. In 1635 he is marked abs. No Licence -. In 1641 he was marked ab. but that is blotted out & N.L. written over it; which must mean not licensed. He appeared at Easter Vis. 1667. Easter & Mich. 1668. Easter and Mich. 1669. Easter 1670. Episc. vis. 1670. Easter and Mich 1671. Easter 1672. Bp. Crewes vis. 1672 & there exhibited his license. and appeared at every visitation almost till 1670. He appeared also at Easter and Mich. vis 1700. and at the Bishops Visitation in 1701. 1704.

Will Symonds subscribed for a licence, May 21. 1636,⁷ and swore obedience to the Court, before Dr Sweit.⁸

[f.142] Very possibly there may be several things more found relating to this matter: for I did not examine the Books with a particular view to it only: but set down these observations on a general & hasty perusal of them, amongst many other remarks of other sorts. But whatever hath occurred to me concerning these three Parishes, I have here mentioned. And though the

Evidences, Which I have given, of the submission of the Curates to the Bishops Authority, are interrupted & imperfect; as perhaps they would be found in some degree throughout the Diocese: yet if it be considered, that in the Union of these Parishes to the College, there is an express Reservation of the Bishops Rights; that Procurations and Synodals, which are a Recognition of his Rights, have (I think) been always paid; that the Churchwardens have constantly appeared, & made presentments at the Visitation; that the Parishioners have had constant recourse to the Ordinary Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Diocese, for the Probates of Wills, Licenses &c. as occasion hath required; And that the Collegē hath never exercised, or attempted to exercise, any Jurisdiction at all; surely there is abundant reason to think the Curates ought to be subject to the Bishop. I am induced to claim this subjection from no other motive, than that I am verily persuaded it is my Right; and a Right I am bound by Oath to insist on. I shall never desire any mark of it, that will be burdensome or inconvenient to the College. But I hope, taking [*f.142v.*] the Oaths and making the subscriptions which the Law requires, and attending the Visitations, will not be thought too much. And though the last of these things might be done by another, yet the former cannot. Nor indeed so I apprehend, that when the Rector of an Improprate Church appeared at the Visitation by Proxy, this ever excused the personal appearance of the Curate. And as the Curates of Lincn. College have appeared personally, it seems fitter to resume this way, than begin a new one. But if the College have anything to alledge against any part of my opinion of this matter, I shall hearken to it with great impartiality: and be very glad to shew, in anything I can, the sincere regard which I have for the whole Society; and with which I am particularly,

Good Mr Rector, Your loving brother and humble servant

Tho. Oxford.

[Folios 139–42 are in the hand of Secker's amanuensis and endorsed 'Copies of Letters relating to Lincoln College. from Dec 1739 to 1747']

¹ See i.62–5.

² John Potter and Thomas Sherlock.

³ Nathaniel Crewe, D.C.L., rector of Lincoln Coll. 1668–72; R. Witney 1671, bp. Oxford 1671–4, bp. Durham 1674–1721.

⁴ ? m. New Inn Hall 1675/6 a.15, Lincoln Coll. M.A. 1682, later M.P. Shaftesbury.

⁵ m. Trinity Coll. 1623 a.16, M.A. 1629 as Weeks.

⁶ m. Univ. 1633 a.18, M.A. 1639.

⁷ m. St. John's Coll. 1629 a.16, B.A. 1633.

⁸ Sir Giles Sweet, D.C.L., Regius Prof. Civil Law 1661–72, dean of the Arches 1660–72.

'Extract of Lincoln College Register'

(i.143–4)

Memorandum. – That whereas upon the 14th or 15th of December last passed, in the Year of our Lord God 1633, there was a suspension sent by

my Lord Bishop of Oxford¹ to the Rector of our College² to be pronounced against Mr Nathaniel Wight Chaplain of Lincoln College,³ for the discharge of the Cure in the Church of St Michael's by Northgate, for his not obeying his Lordships command in reading his Majesty's declaration concerning recreations on the Lords Day: It was then ordered by the Society, who were consulted by the Rector on that point, that the said suspension & declaration should likewise be read, on this condition that the Jurisdiction of the College & of my Lord Bishop of Lincoln Our Honble. Visitor, might not be prejudiced by any such Act; which my Lord Bishop of Oxford condescended unto, & past his Honble: Word unto Mr Rector that an act should be entered to that purpose, the performance whereof we have since requested, which being denied, we have here registered our Protestation against that Act, because we conceive we are not under the Jurisdiction of my Lord of Oxford, & therefore we could not without prejudice to our Society receive any commands from him.

14 Die Aprilis. 1634

Ita est Paul Hood Rector

Whereas the Right Revd. Father in God the Lord Bishop of Oxford, on the 3d of April in the Year of our Lord 1634 did send for Mr Rector as we conceived to give an account of the reading of His Majesty's Declaration concerning Recreations, it was ordered by the Whole Society called together by the Rector, that in obedience to His Majesty our Gracious Sovereign the said Declaration should be forthwith read; but inasmuch as the College of Blessed Mary & All-Saints Lincoln, as we conceived, & that upon good grounds as we were then advised by our Counsel, did belong to the College & to the Right Revd. Father in God The Lord Bishop of Lincoln as our Honble: Visitor. It was then further ordered by the consent of the Society that we should desire my Lord of Oxford not to lay his Commands upon us or require any observance from the Society as our Diocesan [*f.143v.*] until the Jurisdiction were cleared, & we might know whom we were in Duty to obey; for which purpose it was further agreed & ordered by the Society that our Honble. Lord and Visitor should forthwith be consulted, & if his Lordship should so approve, that our Counsel and the Chancellor of the Diocese of Oxford should confer together the Term next following, and when the Jurisdiction should be so or otherwise decided, we should most readily perform Duty to whom duty should of right belong, & forasmuch as we have not formerly submitted ourselves to any Jurisdiction but that of our Lord & Visitor to which we are bound by Oath, having been exempt from all other for this 200 Years and upwards, we hope my Lord Bishop of Oxford has not just occasion of exception against us if we do not submit to his Jurisdiction. —

It is further ordered & agreed by the Rector & the Society, that the Chaplains or those that shall or do serve the Cures of Allhallows or St

Michaels shall not from henceforth appear at the Visitations of the Lord Bishop of Oxford, or receive any Licence from him till it shall appear that they are subject to his Authority; & whereas of late the Chaplains have taken Licences without any Approbation or consent of the Society, we do protest against the same as prejudicial to the Privileges & Liberties of the College; & do hereby further order & decree by the consent of the Rector and Scholars to maintain the Privileges, Liberties and Jurisdiction whatsoever, which of right belong to the College or to the Right Revd. Father in God the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, our Honble. Lord & Visitor, so far forth as the Laws of the Kingdom will give us leave, & whatsoever Mr Rector, or any of the Society appointed by us shall so do for the preservation thereof, we do hereby ratify & confirm as our Act and Deed, & do undertake to bear all the Costs & Charges of the said suit, upon the Publick stock & Revenues of the College untill the same be lawfully decided. – In witness whereof we have this [blank] April subscribed our Names. –

[f.144] Then follows a Copy of the Suspension,
signed Greg Ballard Registrarius.⁴

After that is continued in the College Register. –

This suspension we read on the condition above specified, which not being performed by my Lord, we do hereby protest against the Form and Manner of proceeding thereof, as of no force or Validity to infringe or prejudice the Liberties or Privileges of the said College in case it should at any time be urged or produced against us. In Witness whereof We of the said Society, whose names are here underwritten, have subscribed Our Names. –

Paul Hood Rector. –

Memorandum. – That Mr Nathaniel Wight was by the Rector removed from his Chaplain's place, & had resigned it into his hands before he had received any release or absolution from his Suspension, so that what acts soever he did afterwards for the regaining of his Liberty can be of no force to infringe the Liberties of the College. –

Ita Testor Paul Hood, Rector.

[Folios 143–4 are in the hand of Secker's amanuensis and endorsed 'Extracts from the Register of Lincoln College 1634']

¹ John Bancroft bp. Oxford 1632–41.

² Paul Hood D.D., rector of Lincoln Coll. 1621–68.

³ m. Magd. Hall 1626 a.17, M.A. 1631, B.D. 1634.

⁴ m. St. John's 1613, B.C.L. 1619.

From the Revd. Thomas Forster

(ii.1)

Cuddesdon, Jan. 6, 1742/3

My Lord

I have just now recd the inclosed wch comes from Mr Twycross of Water-Perry,¹ who is now confined in Ailesbury Goal [sic] at the suit of

another Clergyman for fifty pounds. This I was informed of by his Wife who called here this Morning to desire your Lordship to give her leave to provide a Curate for Water-Perry.² I find she is apprehensive of the Church-Wardens endeavouring to fix one there & of his being allowed too great a salary, & is desirous that one Curate may supply both that Church & Oakley, of wch Mr Twycross is likewise Minister. I directed her to apply to Dr Burton, having heard your Lordship desire him to inquire in what manner it was served & take care about it. Mr Twycross I know supplied it very lately himself, so that I suppose there was no occasion of fixing any Curate there as yet. I wish Your Lordship and Family many happy New-Years &

[?am – MS. torn] Your Lordship's most obliged & dutifull humble Sert.
Tho. Forster

[To Westminster and endorsed 'Waterperry']

¹ Robert Twycross of Warws., m. Jesus 1729 a.17, M.A. 1737; V. Waterperry 1739–89, V. Oakley Brill, Bucks.

² See ii.6.

From the Revd. James Martin

(ii.2–3)

Chipping Norton, Jan. 23, 1742/3

My Rt Revd. & much honourd Ld.

Some of the following Questions I proposed to yr Lp. at Deddington; but as You was then in too great a hurry to give a just answer to them; I beg the favour of You to oblige me with your more deliberate thoughts of them.

1. Whether Dissenters, as Anabaptists & Papists, have a right to choose Church-Officers, or be themselves chose' Churchwardens.

2 Whether One, actually an inhabitant of another parish, has a right to a vote, on account of a Bargain in the Parish, rented by him and occupied by his son.

3. Whether, if, in order to choose a Churchwarden (for we have but One, chosen jointly by the Minister & Parish) I warn a Vestry; & neither the Anabaptist or the Papist, (with my self, the Electors in chief) think fit to appear there; Whether I am not then at liberty to nominate & elect such person as I think proper? because then I am left wholly & solely the Elector; I am then the Vestry.

4 Whether they have power to alter the day, (Easter Tuesday, appointed by the Ordinary for these Elections,) appoint me an hour, & make me wait an hour & half, after that appointed hour.

5. Whether the Minister should be made a Cypher of, being outvoted by any two in a Vestry? Our Elections were never made without his consent, so that I think his Negative sufficient to make any null & void.

6 In case I have one on my side, & there are two agt. me; whether then I have not then a casting Vote? wtht. wch. there can be no Election.

7 Whether the person to be chose' Churchwarden must be an Housekeeper, or, in our case of necessity, may not be any Dweller in the parish, or even a Servant.

8. Whether the minister be obliged to find himself a parish-Clerk, or contribute to his wages? Or whether it belong's to him to pay to the Poor's Levy? The Clerk of the parish, & the Poor of the Parish, do certainly both lie wholly on the care of the parish for a maintenance, exclusive of the minister, without levying upon him.

9 Whether a Modus, so long as it subsists, is not equal to an annuity? whether it's revenue is not as inviolable? &, if so, whether it ought not to [be] paid, without any deductions being made out of it for the Landtax. For this I take to be the nature of a Modus. A fixt Rate or Sum agreed upon, after all considerations & allowances made, to be pd. yearly without any diminution or deduction.

[f.3v.] 10. Whether, in such a Case, the Landlord, who pay's the Landtax of the Tenant, ought not to pay the Landtax of the Modus? because, after such an agreemt., making me pay to the Landtax, is making me pay twice.

11 Whether a Tenant who hold's back part, or pay's me short, on account of the poor's Levy or the Landtax, can be said to pay me his Tithes? Stoppage is no Payment.

12 Whether in this case (were I to sue for justice, before any Judge, besides yr Lp.) I am to bring my Action agt. the Landlord, who demand's & reciev[sic] this Landtax of him; or agt the Tenant, who defraud's me by paying it to him?

13 Whether yr Lp., or the Ecclesiastical Court, cannot oblige a dishonest Tenant (Thomas West Junr., of Heathrop – foot-note addition) to pay the Minister his Tithe-mony, soon after the year is up, & not put him off for two years & a half? (wch. is starving Pay;) Our late Bp undertook to procure a due pay for the Curate of Enstone:¹ If it may be done; Yr Lp's giving me relief in this article, & the rest, (especially those of the Poor's Levy, & the Landtax,) & favouring me with a speedy & distinct answer to them severally, will for ever oblige

Your Lordship's most dutifull & obedient Servant

James Martin

[Endorsed 'Heythorp']

¹ John Potter bp. Oxford 1715–37; the only curate listed in Oldfield is William Wilcockson who subscribed in 1730. Unpaired round bracket.

'This is an extract from a letter from Mr John Bradley¹ [f.4v.] to James Gilpin Esqr² dated Lincoln 25 Jan 1742[/3]' (ii.4–5)

[f.4] Sir

It doth not appear from any books or papers in the Bps Registry at

Lincoln in wt manner the Archdeaconry of Oxford before it was taken out of the Diocese of Lincoln was visited at any time of the year either by a Commissary or the Archdeacon or his Official.

– The Archdeacon of Oxford paid pres[en]tation money to the Bishop very probably soon after the Erection of the Diocese of Lincoln. For Receipts of such payments by the several Archdeacons of the Diocese are registered in the Books so early as 1320.

In the Dean & Chapters Office are registerd the Sums paid by the Archdeacons for pres[en]tations and for what consideration they paid them. This is generally called the Composition between the Bp and Archdeacon and was registered abt the year 1440[.] The Archdeacon of Oxford paid £20 per annum which several Sums are there said to be due to the Bp ‘pro exteriore Jurisdictione, pro Cathedralicis, Synodalicis et Denariis Beati Petri per Archidiaconos ipsos in Synodis quas vice Episcopi celebrant.[’] Whether the Bps ever received Synodals due at Easter doth not any ways appear.

[Endorsed ‘Archdeacons visitation & pres[en]tations’]

¹ Deputy registrar to the registrars of the bishops commissaries in the archdeaconries of Lincoln and Stow and to the registrars of the archdeaconries of Lincoln and Stow, from some time between 1736–9 and 1783; it seems, however, that the archdeacon of Stow had a separate deputy at times during this period: Lincolnshire Archives Office, *Archivist's Report* 19, 1967–8, p. 46.

² Of Wilts, m. Ch. Ch. 1728 a. 18, M.A. 1735; recorder of Oxford, auditor of Ch. Ch., d. 1766.

From the Revd. Dr. Daniel Burton

(ii.6–7)

Christ Church, Feb. 4, 1742/3

My Lord,

Mr Walsh, who is appointed by Mrs Twycross to serve her husband's parishes, tells me, He has 30 Guineas a year for the care of both:¹ that, if your Lordship please, He will get a nomination from Mr Twycross to the Curacy of Waterperry, with a Salary of £21:, wch I told him I thought your Ldship would accept: but He proposes to live at Oxford, being an exhibitioner at Brazen nose College, is obliged to residence; and would not promise to be there only part of the week, wch I suppose may be very consistent with the rules of his house.

Mr Wells, Curate of Cogs,² has not yet wrote to the Dean of Durham,³ for wch He [f.6v.] asks pardon and promises to write immediately, desiring me to have patience with him one month longer: as He seems to be sincere I have given him his own time, wch I hope your Ldship will excuse, tho' perhaps It is more favour than He deserves –

Dr Brooke is ill, and sees no company – I beg my very humble service to Mrs Secker, Mrs & Miss Talbot, & am

Yr Ldship's most Dutiful and Most Obedient Humble Servt

Dan: Burton

The news of Oxford is, that the Dean of Ch: Ch: is to be removed to Ireland,⁴ & Dr Gregory to be Dean:⁵ but as I heard nothing of this in town, suppose it to be without any foundation.

[Endorsed 'Dr Burton Feb 4. 1742 Waterperry Cogges']

¹ John Welsh of Lancs., m. B.N.C. 1732 a.20, M.A. 1744.

² Christopher Wells of Glam., m. Jesus 1721 a.15, M.A. 1727, B.D. 1735; C. Cogges 1741/2.

³ Henry Bland.

⁴ John Conybeare, Dean 1733–55.

⁵ David Gregory of Oxford, m. Ch.Ch. 1714 a.17, M.A. 1721, D.D. 1732, Dean 1756–67.

From Thomas Stonor¹

(ii.8–9)

Watlington Park, Mar. 3, 1742/3

My Lord

I Receiv'd your Lordship's Message last year by My Neighbour Mr Greenhill[.] And In consequence of it I gave orders to My Steward to see the Chancel of Watlington Thouroughly Repair'd. As I had not seen it My self I was extreemly Concern'd to find by My Friend Mr Barret that it had not been done to your Lordship's satisfaction which was what was Really my Intention And What Your Lordship's obligeing behaviour to me demanded of me Tho it were not otherwise My Duty. Upon My Return from London I went Imediately to View it My self As I woud not Leave it Any Longer to Servants. I have order'd The whole Pavement and Steps of The Chancel to be Taken up and Levell'd and Lay'd down with New Pavements and New Facing of Stone to The Steps Which when Compleated I hope will be to Yr Lordship's Satisfaction. I have order'd The Tiling to be Compleatly Repaired and As it was white wash'd Last Year I think it will be Then In Thourough good Repair. I cannot help Assureing your Lordship That I am Much more sensible of the Obliging Manner [*f.8v.*] in which yr Lordships [sic] has Behaved to me Than I am surpris'd at it. Since it so perfectly answers To The Great Goodness and Humanity so Eminent in your Lordship's Character. I beg Your Lordsp. will be assured That I am with the greatest Respect

My Lord Your Lordship's Most Obed & Most Humble Servt.

Tho Stonor

[Endorsed 'Watlington Chancel Mr Stonor March 3 1742/3.']

¹ Thomas Stonor of Stonor Park, 1710–78, a Roman Catholic: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 163; *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, pp. 155, 236.

From Thomas Stonor

(ii.10)

Watlington Park, Mar. 8, 1742/3

My Lord

I had The Honour of yr Lordship's Obligeing Letter by The Last Post. I have Thoroughly examin'd The Roof of Watlington Chancel and cannot discover the Least Reason to Think it ever was ceild. I am Therefore entirely of your Lordship's opinion That 'tis not My Obligation to add what for so many Ages has never been Thought necessary.

I am extreemly Pleas'd with This trifling incident since it gives me an opportunity of Shewing yr Lordship the Pleasure I shoud take in Returning the goodness you have Shewn me if ever it Lay in my Power. And I have Therefore given orders for it to be done. I beg Your Lordship woud do me The Favour to Present My Most Humble Respects to The Bishop of Gloucester when you see him next. I have the Honour to be a Little known to his Lordship.

I am with The Greatest Respect My Lord Your Lordship's Most Obed. & most Humble Servt.

Tho Stonor

From the Revd. John Gabriel

(ii.11-12)

[f.11v.] Watlington, Apr. 22, 1743

My Lord

Having been inform'd of Mr. Stonor's good design some time before the receipt of yr. Lordship's, I neglected no opportunity of recommending his generosity to the imitation of the other Parishioners: And I am very sorry, that I have any reason to complain of their indifference herein. Mr. Stonor is now preparing materials with all expedition for Cieling & Paving the Chancel; & I have lately had the pleasure of hearing him speak very well for the decency of places of publick Worship: Upon my barely representing the bad condition of the East-Window, he was pleas'd to assure me, that he would order a new one, & that nothing necessary should be wanting on his part.

I have frequently expostulated with the Church-Wardens & other leading men of the Parish upon the little regard they have express'd to decency & Beauty in their Church; but they have been always too deaf to whatever I could press upon them. Your Lordship's Letter has in some measure given me a Licence, I think, to command, as well as to persuade; which I have lately enter'd upon & frequently [f.12] repeated with the utmost discretion, but without the least success. The very particulars, which yr. Lordship was pleas'd in Person to order (the removal of the Font, & setting up the Lord's Prayer &c) are not yet done; & the answer I receive, upon ev'ry remonstrance upon this their neglect, is only, that their Church is in debt, & that these things must be deferr'd to a future time. Your Lordship may guess

from what I have related, whether any thing, but the interposition of yr. Lordship's authority, will prevail.

I shall only beg leave to observe further to yr. Lordship, that the Parish has not expended one Farthing upon the Church, since the reign of King James the First (here being an Estate of £25 per Annum to support it.) & that this Income would be abundantly sufficient to support & beautify It, only it has, & continues to be unjustly applied to Parish-Uses, (viz) to procure ev'ry thing that is incumbent on the Church-Wardens to procure: such as Bible's Common Prayer Books, Surplice's, Sacrament Wine, Clerk's Sallary, Church-Wardens visitation-expences, ringing upon State-Days &c

I hope yr. Lordship will excuse this intrusion, of, My Lord, yr. Lordship's

Most dutifull Son & most obedient Servt.

John Gabriel

[To Westminster and endorsed 'Watlington, repairs, Mr Gabriel Apr 1743.']

From Joseph Sims

(ii.13-14)

[f.14] Mar. 29, 1743

My Lord

I waited on Mr Forster who thought it proper to acquaint Your Lordship that we are like to have an alteration in the Tithes at Wheatley,¹ For Mr Jacksons Tenant lays Claim to the Tithe of Furz that are now just Cut & ready to carry away, and says, that his Landlord told him that he had consulted Your Lordsp: and that it was agreed that all Furz that grew in the common Fields belonged to the Corn Tithes, and that the Sinkfoin Hay is the Same,² and it may be so for aught I know, but I well remember that. Mr Juggins had both Tithe of Furz and Sinkfoin ever since they were planted³ & I have had them since he left them, but if it be not right I can't say it ought to continue so; but Mr Forster say [sic] he really believes it belongs to Your Lordship, & that if You had made such an agreement with Mr Jackson You would have let him or me have known of it. Mr Jackson has been come to Cuddesden more than a Week but I have not seen him tho: I have been several times at his House. If the Furz & Sinkfoin belongs to the Great Tithes in Fields probably the Corn that grows in Inclosier may belong to the small Tithes. My Lord I make bold to trouble Your Lordship with these that I may in no wise be accus'd with the breach of trust. My Brother⁴ & Sisters desires to joyn me in Duty to Your Lordship, and humble Service to the good Ladys of Your Lordships Household, And beg leave to subscribe myself. My Lord, Your Lordships most dutiful and obedient Servant

Joseph Sim's

My Lord I have not had a Letter from my Brother a great while,⁵ neither can I tell whether he be got to Gibraltar or not. The Ague is [f.14v.] the

most complain'd of this Spring in this Country as ever I remember it, but believe most people get rid of it pretty soon, and with us have been pretty Healty [sic]. Hope Your Lordship recd: my Letter in Answer to Your Lordships from Admiral Mathews,⁶ and likewise Miss Talbott her Pens.

May Health & Happiness attend Your Lordship & all the good Family, with a quick arival at Cuddesden and a safe & pleasant Journey thither

Mr Forster is still in care for more Wood but I think if Your Lordship were in the Yard to see the stock would think it sufficient there's a large parcel of Wood that was taken down at Denton besides a good deal that they bought but he fears that it will not burn well enough but I think it must so small as some of it's split

[To Westminster and added at f.14 'Recd March 29.1743. & answered the same day']

¹ Probably Thomas rather than Nathaniel who only subscribed as C. Wheatley from 1745/6.

² Sainfoin.

³ William Juggins signed as overseer in a petition to the bp. Oxford concerning Wheatley chapel, 1784: *Hassall*, p. 82; Mrs. Ann Juggins gave a silver almsplate to the chapel in 1775: *ibid.*, p. 83 n.3.

⁴ ? Thomas Sims.

⁵ John Sims.

⁶ Thomas Mathews, 1676–1751: *D.N.B.*

From Herbert Beaver

(ii.15–16)

Oxford, Apr. 22, 1743

My Lord,

By the inclos'd, your Lordship will see what is shortly intended to be brought before you; You will be pleas'd to return me the Paper, together with your Commands whether you would have me proceed or not, that I may write to Mr. Rock accordingly – Mr. Rock is chief Steward and Manager of the Affairs of Lord Harcourt.¹

At or about your Lordship's coming to Cuddesden last year, you was pleas'd to Order me to make out a License for Mr. Sawyer, to serve the Cure of Overworton;² which I accordingly did; and sent him timely Notice that he might have it at the late Visitation. – He did not appear; and Dr. Burton orderd the Church Wardens to tell him to call upon him at Oxford: He came a Day or two ago, and not meeting with Dr. Burton, call'd upon me; I show'd him the License, and told him I would provide a Surrogate before whom he might subscribe. But he [f.15v.] absolutely refus'd to take the License, because it was signed by Dr. Burton, and not by your Lordship. I beg that your Lordship will not take this as a Complaint against him from me, because he promis'd to write himself to your Lordship on the Subject in a few Days.

It was a Resignation, I am certain, that Mr. Hughes told me he had made of Southstoke.³

I am, My Lord, your Lordship's most Dutyfull Servant

Herbert Beaver

I thank God I and my Family are all got pretty well again; but I am in pain for Dr. Burton, who I am sure was pretty much out of Order through his whole Visitation.

[To Westminster]

¹ Samuel Rock, steward from 1736–56; he was brother-in-law to James Newton rector of Nuneham Courtenay where he was buried Jan. 1, 1759: *ex inf.* Mr. S.R. Tomlinson.

² *Recte* John Sayer.

³ Robert Hughes of Shrops., m. Ch.Ch. 1714/15 a.18, M.A. 1722; V. South Stoke 1721–23 reinstated 1741–43, R. Britwell Salome 1740–44/5.

From the Revd. John Sayer

(ii.17–18)

[f.18] Worton, Apr. 23, 1743

My Lord

Mr: Beaver tendered me a Licence the eighteenth Instant for serving the Cure of Worton, wch: I declin'd, as wanting your Lordship's own Hand, tho it had the Chancellor's; the reason I judge yours necessary is, because Bishop Stillingfleet says an[y? – MS. torn] Licences are Irregular and Voiadable if [MS. torn] Void. Vol. 3d: p.657.¹

I therefore humbly hope that both your Lordship and the Chancellour will excuse my not accepting that Licence upon the Presumption of this Opinion, and attribute my present declining it (if wrong) to the want of better information, which could I [f.17v.] have gained, I would by no means have troubled your Lordship with this, being ready at all times to obey the Commands of my Superiours and in a more especial manner your Lordship's with all the Duty and Respect that becomes

Your Lordship's most Dutiful Son and Servant

John Sayer.

[To Westminster]

¹ E. Stillingfleet, *Ecclesiastical Cases Relating to the Duties and Rights of the Parochial Clergy* . . . , London, 1698–1704; his *Works* were published in 6 volumes in 1710.

From the Revd. William Freind

(ii.19–20)

[f.20] Bath, May 5, 1743

My Lord,

I have the honour to inform Your Lordship, that I have at last met with a Curate recommended as I coud wish; his name is Morres, he was of Jesus

College in Oxford, & i[s now? – MS. torn] at Appledore in Kent, which Cura[cy? – MS. torn] he [has? – MS. torn] served for some time.¹ He will come to me at Midsummer; by which time I hope to be at Witney; My Wifes Condition will hardly permit us I believe to get thither sooner.

When I had the pleasure of seeing the Chancellor, he told me Your Lordsp. had enquired whether Our Altar had any Commandments inscribed over it as Yet; I once mentioned to your [f.19v.] Lordship, that I had an intention of putting them in a Frame, & wainscoting the Front of the Altar, but I begged you wou'd dispense with my doing it immediately. – The Vestry I have fitted up entirely, desiring the Parish to contribute 20sh. & enter it in their books as paid for the Repairs of the Vestry, that my successor may not be liable to any Expences from the Præcedent of my Extravagance. – I wou'd beg, if Your Lordship pleases, the favour You once promised me, Your Leave to demolish the Vicarage House, which by no means answers the Expences of Repairs by any Rent or Use that can be made of it. The Copy of the Act of Consolidation (I dont know whether this be the proper term for it) is in Mr Beavers hands. If Your Lordship wou'd give Your Assent, in such a Manner as the Diocesans Approbation of such a matter is requird, I think, [f.19] I shou'd pull it down this Summer. The Bishop of Winchester has heretofore given My father and myself, his Consent verbally, I suppose it will be necessary to procure his Lordships Consent under his Hand;² perhaps, previously to Your Lordships. My Father & Mother, & likewise my Wife, beg leave to present their Duty's to Your Lordship & Mrs Secker; who I hope finds no Ill Effects from the London Air. Our Respects attend Mrs Talbot & Miss; and I hope you will permit me to subscribe myself, My Lord

Your Lordships obliged & most dutyfull humble Servant

Will. Freind.

[To Westminster and endorsed 'Witney. Mr Freind abt Repairs & pulling down vicarage house. May 1743']

¹ ? Thomas Morres of Shrops., m. Jesus 1732 a.18, M.A. 1738, Hertford Coll. D.D. 1751; C. Witney 1761.

² Benjamin Hoadley, bp. Winchester 1734–61.

(ii.21)

Statements of Thomas Snell and Christopher Wells, builders, Aug. 29, 30, 1743, on the decayed and bulging walls of the 'Vicarage House' at Witney.

From Browne Willis

(ii.22-3)

[f.23] Whaddon Hall, May 31, 1743

My Lord

I hope this will find yr Ldshipp & my cosin & Mrs Talbott in good Health at Cuddesden – I had some thoughts of coming for 2 or 3 days to Oxf'd but as that is uncertain I trouble your Ldshipp with the enclosed recd. from my Brother Sympson at Lincolne to whom yr Ldshipp has been so generous – I would feign have your Ldshipp have all the Institutions in yr diocese – I took those few in Queen Elizabeths Time in the Lambeth Registers & I am pretty certain yr own Archdeacons Institutions at Oxf'd & what I can pick up at the First Fruits office will pretty well perfect them, & I will take care it shall not run yr Ldshipp to any charge, & it will be a noble preservative. – Mr Sympson was desired to copy these short to save him trouble, But if yr Ldshipp wants them more particular I will again write – your Ldshipp may if you please keep this Copy & send mee an abstract or a copy from any one – I thought it wd be more acceptable to send it as I recd it, than trouble yr Ldshipp with more of my scrall – It will be a great pleasure to mee to be Commanded by yr Ldshipp to whom I am so exceedingly a debtor – I was pleased in this to be set right abt Albury dedication viz that it is St Helen & not St Mary as Lord Abingdon supposed it – His Ldshipp will also be glad to know in Northmore St Dennis & Holton St Bartholomew[.] I was right in my Survey of yr Cathedral & indeed not XX of the dedications in yr Diocese are given but from [f.22v.] Authentick Accounts the only ones I need query are Bucknell St Mary *Fringford & Newton-Purcell* St Michael *Chasleton* St Mary *Ellesfeild* St Tho: Becket *Swincombe* St Thomas Becket *Norton Brill* St Brill *Blackborton* St Mary – I think verily Nuffeild is the Holy Trinity – In some Collections I saw of Church Notes; I met with this abt yr chapell of Whately – 'Here are no Inscriptions or remains of Antiquity except in the chancell Window the Effigies of St Nicholas in painted Glass with his name under it: This was taken Ao 1644 now abt 100 years agoe & I suppose St Nicholass pourtrayture is long since that vanished

I was pleased in these Institutions to see what became of our poor Prior of Snellshall a quarter of a mile below my House viz *William Maltby* : The crown to save his Pension of abt £5 gave him Ao 1541 the Rectory of Hethe in yr Ldshipp's diocese – I think the Rector of Exeter is Rector there¹ – I wish His Burial could be met with there – I found that of one of his 3 monks in 1557 in a church Register in this County – He preacht sometimes at Fenny Stratford in the old Corse chantry chapell viz Prior William Maltby & if He lived to 1560 or 1570 was not I believe a very old man – I dont forget my promise to my cosin of sending a little Book of an Authress I had a letter or 2 abt which I shewed at yr Ldshipp's & can by cutting them make them come in 2 Covers if worth while for my daughter fownd a parcell of sheets in a Box[.]² But wish the Ladys wd come and see us twd be a vy great Honour & pleasure But I doubt yr Ldshipp will never condescend to make

him so happy who is with tender of duty & kind respects to all at Cuddesden yr Ldships ever to cmd whilst

B Willis

[To Cuddesdon and endorsed 'Mr Willis May 31 1743 Institutions Dedications']

¹ James Edgcumbe.

² Possibly his wife, Catherine's 'little treatise on the Economy of the Church of England, published anonymously, but its flyleaf inscribed by her husband with a tiger's glee – "The only Connection in this Book is due to the binder" –': *Stokes*, p. xxxvii.

From Browne Willis

(ii.24)

June 10, 1743

Fryday Evening

My Lord

Not reading yr Ldships kind letter recd Wednesday with due Attention & being desirous & ambitious to pay my duty to yr Ldshipp before you went to Gloucester; I set out yesterday & came hither & designed returning back as I lost my Labour to morrow, But have unluckily sprained my Leg to day, wch will I fear keep mee till Monday or Tuesday

Mr. Sympsons remark of Bampton is I presume on the Word Presidents – Your Ldshipp says it is imperfect at [sic] and now my Lord yr diocese being taken out of L[incoln ? – MS. torn] 6 years before Bp Longlands Death[.] He carried it only to 1591 or 1592 & I think it perfect as indeed Lincoln Registers are the best of any set I know or have obtained[.] What was in Dr Hutton of Queen Elizabeth of yr diocese is here enclosed – I should have said as it was of the [? Hunter – reading unclear] Induction & not Institution & the Induction will be [? left – reading unclear] out the succession & if they are perfect no need of Lambeth Registers – I am in pain & so must pray yr Ldships excuse of my scrall & thus I dont write more – I enclose in 2 or 3 covers what my cosin [? asked – MS. torn] after & am with [? duty – reading unclear] to my good Ld of Glo[ucester & yr ? – MS. torn] Ldshipp & best [? Respects – reading unclear] to my cosin & Mr[s Talbott ? – MS. torn and illegible] not being with yr Ldshipp & c my Ld yr Ldships ever obliged & devoted Servt to comd

Bro: Willis

[To Secker 'at The Palace in Gloucester']

From Browne Willis

(ii.25–6)

[f.26] Plough Inne, London, May 14, 1743

Saturday

My Lord

I borrowed these 5 extracts of Registers of Lincoln from the Harleian Library yesterday afternoon & run them over last night: in number 3d as

mark on the Back page 2d You will find somewhat of Dorchester Abby wch shews a jurisdiction in that [? Peculiar – reading unclear]. I put a paper into it & also a 2d paper in another part in the same Register concerning yr Archdeacon p:227.

I am to return them to day[.] They were collected by Dr Matthew Hutton the worthy Rr of Aynhoe Co North[ampton ? – MS. obscured] Fellow of Brasenose who died 1711 aged 72 & in the year 16[MS. obscured] made several collections of Church notes – As they may be an Amusement to yr Ldshipp [? esp – reading unclear] the 3 last which are a continuation of what you had already from Dodsworth[.] I take the Liberty to send them to yr Ldshipp to peruse & hope to call on yr Ldshipp abt 2 a Clock & carry them into the Library again – I pray yr Ldshipp to take no notice of my letting your Ldshipp inspect them lest it should destroy the farther application in seeing other things by my Ld

Yr-Ldshipp's most devoted & obliged servt to cmd

Browne Willis

Humble Respects to the good Ladys

In the Institutions I find Rotherfeild Piperd dedicated to All Saints & Rowlisham to St German [f.25v.] See vol: five Register II p: 78[.] In the year 1293 I met with this dedication which will please I hope the Rector ignorant & incurious of it

Magister Walter de Wycomb subdiaconus presentetur per dominum Rad: Pipard militem ad ecclesiam omnium sanctorum de Rotherfend vacantem per mortem Johannis Dayrell 7 cal jul Anno Pontifical 19

The 3d & 4th volumes or Registers are what will chiefly amuse yr Lordshipp[.] The 5 is from the chapter Books chiefly & not relating to Institutions – If your Ldshipp wants any thing from Lincoln you have a Right to command it from yr exceeding great Generosity there

[Endorsed 'Dr Huttons Extracts from the Registers of Lincoln']

From Browne Willis

(ii.27–8)

[f.28] Whaddon Hall, Aug. 31, 1743

My Lord

I am greatly indebted to yr Ldshipp for 2 very kind letters the first of wch I neglected answering, because I hoped to have paid my duty to yr Ldshipp; But I being still detained here, cannot be longer rude & so on receipt of yr Ldshipp's this day set Pen & Ink to Paper; And to make my scrawl more acceptable take the opportunity to give you a series of the Incumbents of 2 or 3 churches in yr diocese since the Erection of it; & can doe so (to several – ? erased) to abt 100 of yr 130 Institutive Livings in some such manner – I

should think any young person might well spend his time in drawing up for yr Ldshipp, some acct of every parish in yr Diocese in like manner; & yr Institutions wd no doubt supply every thing, & the ministers themselves wd be glad to see their successors traced out – I want sadly to get Dr Rawlinsons Collections, & am uneasy He so shuffles & puts mee off – I am very glad Sir Geo: Fettyplace has been so charitable, I hope his estate will be thro: his goodness long continue in his Heirs [sic] & that what He has done will derive a Blessing to them¹ [f.27v.] I wish He had left somewhat to [?pre]serve the antient Abby of Dorchester & to endow that Church withall – I hope the Fabrick will be kept up & no Theatrical Building be made by Breif – I beleive wee shall have St Mary Magdalens Ch: at Stony Stratfd up again, to wch yr Ldshipp was so generous a Benefactor, & I hope some publick works will be done at the poor town of Bucks, there now seems a spirit raised in their favour – I had the mayor & the greatest part of the corporation with mee yesterday on some schemes wch are on foot: & if I can well spare time hope at end of next week to come yr Ldshipp's way which I long to doe – I had this post a letter from our Dorchester Antiquary, & hope He will publish some acct of yr old Diocese² – He has been hard at Work at Salisbury 3 weeks together & the Bp was very Indulgent to him in letting him peruse his Archives there, & I hope He has found mee out some new dedications – I wish I could find time to goe into that fine Country where I am again & again invited by my cosin Brownes³ – But I m[ust?] – MS. torn] regard the expence as I am before Xtmas to part with so much – Humble duty to yr Ldshipp wch with best Respects to my cosin & Mrs Talbott concludes from my Lord yr Ldshipp's ever obliged & devoted servt to comd

Bro: Willis

[To Cuddesdon]

¹ For summary details of this charity see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vii, p.64. Its administration caused Secker and his successors as trustees persistent difficulties. Correspondence at O.R.O. and Lambeth Palace illustrating the problems is here excluded owing to lack of space and because the charity was not limited to Oxfordshire beneficiaries. The editor hopes to publish them elsewhere.

² The Revd. John Hutchins, author of *History and Antiquities of . . . Dorset*, and co-author with Willis of *Queries Relating to the County of Dorset*, post-1736, 4pp., as cited in C.H. Mayo, *Biblioteca Dorsetiensis*.

³ Unidentified, but it may have been the Browne family of Frampton, Dorset: *ex inf.* Mr. H. Jaques.

From the Revd. Dr. Thomas Pardo¹

(ii.29–30)

[f.30] Oxford, Apr. 22, 1744

My Lord

Mr Hall an Attorney of this town² employed by young Wells of Cuddesden, laid an information against The woman of Cuddesden who has

given us so much trouble, for selling Ale without a Licence;³ I was ready to commit her, But some persons came to me with a design to persuade me that yr Lordship had been prevailed upon to let her have a licence, if Sr J. Doyley & I thought proper; my Answer was that yr Lords. had frequently complained of the House, and that we had upon yr complaint refused a licence, That I had not for some months last past discussed with yr Lords. about Her But that if you had alterd yr opinion yr Lordship would probably would [sic] have acquainted Sr J. Doyley or my self with it; I desire therefore [*f.29v.*] yr Lordship would be so good as to favour me with a line whither you would have us at any time hereafter give her or any other person a Licence att Cuddesden; I told the persons who applyd and particularly the Constable of yr own Parish,⁴ That I would write to yr Lordship about it –

My humble respects attend Mrs Secker Mrs Talbot and Miss.

I am, with all due respect yr Lordship's dutyfull and obliged servt

Tho. Pardo

My duty to my good Lord of Gloucester –

[Endorsed 'Cuddesden Alehouse 1744']

¹ Of Carms., m. Jesus 1704/5 a.17, M.A. 1711, D.D. 1727, Principal 1727–63; C. Oxford, St. Clement 1729, R. Rotherfield Peppard 1727–63, chairman of Oxfordshire Quarter Sessions 1729–57: O.R.O., Oxon Q.S. transcripts of minute books.

² James Hall, admitted as freeman of the City of Oxford in 1731 to practise as counsel in the city courts; member of Common Council in 1737 and a chamberlain, 1741–?47; ed. M.G. Hobson, *Oxford Council Acts 1701–1752*, O.H.S., N.S. x, 1954, *passim*.

³ Alehouse recognizances for Oxfordshire survive only from 1753.

⁴ William Webb was constable of the parish of Cuddesdon at this time: O.R.O., MS. D.D. Par. Cuddesdon, c.6.

To the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(ii.31)

St James's Westminster, Apr. 25, 1744

Good Mr Rector

The Approach of my visitation obliges me to remind you of the old Affair of St Michaels & All Saints: & to beg that if you & the College have been able to procure any farther Information concerning it you wd please to communicate it with the Result of your Thoughts upon it to

Your loving brother & humble servt

TO

Summary in Secker's hand

(ii.32)

Dr Edmunds to Dr Isham July 10.1744 desires to defer his Opinion till the Mary bone Cause is heard in the Court of Kings Bench wch is fixed to come on immediately after Michaelmas term. Dr Edmunds hath a Brief to attend it on the part of the Chancellor of London

From the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(ii.33)

Lampport near Northampton, July 19, 1744

My Lord

My Waiting for the inclos'd was the Occasion of my deferring paying my Duty so long to Your Lordship at Cuddesden, that a Call sooner than I expected into the Country now prevents me from having that Pleasure this Summer; at least till I return about the middle of September to prepare for a very troublesome Office, which no one I believe ever took more sincere pains to decline, nor with greater reason;¹ but submit I must. I dare say Your Lordship will be dispos'd to let our affair now wait to see this issue thô Your Patience has indeed been too much exercis'd already & my own I do assure Your Lordship not a little; but there could be no other method of satisfying the College concerning a Privilege which they imagine they have had for above three hundred Years. My Wife joins in Duty & Respects to Your Lordship & The Ladys, with my Lord, Your most Obedient Servt.

Eus. Isham

¹ Isham was V.C. between 1744-47.

To the Revd. Joseph Goodwin(ii.34-5)¹

Sent [. . .] Westminster, April 14, 1744

Sir

As there are several parishes around Dorchester² which have not had benefit of confirmation in their neighbourhood for several years, I am desirous to confirm there this summer, but I would not choose to do it without consulting whether you as official of that district approve [?and to further seek . . . your jurisdiction]. If you do I hope I can satisfy you I con[. . .]. If you do not [. . .] my proposing this [. . .] every Sunday in July [?after the first] and will come to Dorchester and will present and confirm there [. . .] request that you should show timely notice of the day to the several parishes of that deanery which lie within a distance of 3 or 4 miles and you will do all to recommend to them some [. . .] on that occasion which as vicar of Shipton you received of your loving brother and servant.

TO

[Endorsed 'Dorchester']

¹ The letter is in cipher.

² The peculiar of Dorchester comprised Benson, Chislehampton, Clifton, Dorchester, Drayton St. Leonard, Toot Baldon, Nettlebed, Overy, and Warborough: *Bacon*, pp. 808-9.

From the Revd. Joseph Goodwin

(ii.36-7)

Shipton-under-Wychwood, Apr. 28, 1744

My Lord

The Jurisdiction of the Peculiar of Dorchester I can consider in no other light, than as a Trust, which must oblige me, even in common Duty and Gratitude, to consult the Patrons of it in all cases in which it may be in the least affected, especially where I am not sufficiently versed in the Law to know whether it may or not¹

This occasioned my acquainting Mr Lacy with Your Lordships Letter, Who wishes Your Lordship would observe the usual method of confirming some where near the Peculiar, and be so obliging as to let the several Parishes of it attend You there, since this, He says, can be attended with no ill consequence, whereas Your Lordships confirming at Dorchester, He is apprehensive possibly may;² for should any of Your Lordships Successors make use of it as a Precedent to prejudice the Jurisdiction of the Peculiar, it may, He thinks, occasion a Law Suit to His Family even in future Ages; And with regard to the convenience of the People in general, He hoped, Your Lordship would consider, there could be no great difference, whether the Inhabitants of the other Villages came to Dorchester, or those of Dorchester likewise went to some other Place to be confirmed. As soon as I see Mr Bushel,³ Who is at present in Worcestershire, but daily expected at Swinbrooke Your Lordship shall be informed of His Sentiments by

Your most Dutiful Son and Obedient Servt.

Joseph Goodwin

[Endorsed 'Dorchester Mr Goodwin Apr. 28. 1744']

¹ In 1786 the patrons were Robert Fettiplace for Dorchester, the dean and chapter of Ch.Ch. for Benson and Drayton, Charles Peers for Chislehampton and Stadhampton, Mr. Yateman for Toot Baldon and Marsh Baldon, Mr. Stonor for Nettlebed with Pishill, Corpus for Warborough, with no names specified for Clifton and Overy: *Bacon*, pp. 808-9.

² Rowland Lacy.

³ Thomas Bushell, nephew of Sir George Fettiplace, on inheriting the property of the latter after his death in 1743, took the name Fettiplace: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vii, p. 43.

From the Revd. Joseph Goodwin

(ii.38)

Shipton-under-Wychwood, May 5, 1744

My Lord

Mr Bushel having been at Swinbrooke as was expected, I took the opportunity to acquaint Him with Your Lordships Letter: He concurred entirely in Opinion with His Cousen Lacy, which he desired me to inform Your Lordship of, with His Duty, Who am, my Lord,

Your Lordships mosst [sic] obedient Son & humble Servt.

Jos: Goodwin

[Endorsed 'Dorchester']

From the Revd. William Welchman

(ii.39)

Dodford, Northants., May 31, 1744

My Lord

After a much longer residence on the little Cure of Westcot Barton, than Your Lordship at length seemed to acquiesce in: I returned to Dodford on necessary business the 24th of May last year. On the seventh of June following I was seised with an Apoplectick fit, which hath miserably weakened all my faculties both of body and mind, & hath hitherto disabled me duly to discharge the work of my Ministry. Under this sad distress, my Sons who are both in Orders have been alternately my occasional Assistants both here & at W: Barton.¹ In the mean time I with patience wait for a happy providence to restore me to my former health, & thereby to a conscientious care of the Pastoral Office. I thought it my Duty to communicate to you this intelligence at once to gratifie Your Lordship's desire of *knowing what I doe* and to implore Your Lordships Candour by no means to impute my late & present absence from my Oxfordshire Cure, & Yor triennial Visitation either to a wilfull neglect of Duty, or contempt of Yor Lordships Authority: For I hope I shall always retain that reverential respect, & venerable Esteem that is due to the Episcopal Character in general, & in a more particular manner to Your Lordship as my Diocesan, who am, My Lord,

Yor Lordship's most Obedient & Humble Servant

Wm. Welchman

¹ John and William Welchman.**From Herbert Beaver**

(ii.40)

Oxford, June 1, 1744

My Lord,

Your Lordship will excuse the goodness of my Intention at least, if I presume to offer my Advice in a particular, which, as it relate's to Court practice, I may be supposed to know something of: The Clergy who ought to appear before your Lordship at the time of Visitation, have, some of them been personally Cited by the Apparitor, others only Sought; And to Distinguish who are in the one Case and who in the other, the Apparitor in his Process writes a (P) against the names of those who were personally Cited, and an (S) against the names of those who were only Sought. And this Process is deliverd into the Hands of the Chancellor, who holds it all the time that the Clergy are Calling. Now I have observed, that where some of the Clergy have not appeared, your Lordship has been pleasd to order them to be Continued, without enquiring either of the Chancellor or of the Apparitor, whether they were personally Cited, or only sought. Such as were personally Cited are without doubt properly continued or reserved (to

the next Court Day at Oxford.) but those who have been sought, cannot (as I apprehend,) be continued or reserved; but, if your Lordship would [f.40v.] have them proceeded against, a special Citation must be Decead against them, to appear when your Lordship shall think proper. This I beleive will be allow'd by all Ecclesiastical Judges to be right; and, if I had not thought it very Material, I should not have venturd to Trouble your Lordship with it. A Continuation is (as our Books call it) the Continuance of the Certificate of the Citation, by the Judge, from one Court Day to another, which binds the party as effectually, as if he had been Cited de novo: but where the party has been only sought, there has been no Citation; and consequently, there can be no Certificate to be continued. I humbly crave Pardon for this Trouble, and am,

My Lord, Your Lordship's most Dutyfull Servant

Herbert Beaver

From the Revd. George Sheppard

(ii.41)

Charlbury, June 15, 1744

May it please your Lordship.

When I saw Mr Fermer last which was sometime in April I then Beged [sic] the Favour of Him, if He had any thing in his Writings relating to the Lands and Tithes of the Rectory of Hardwicke, especially to the four pounds per year out of the Wood, that He would suffer the Perusal of them, which He readily told me I should be very Welcome to, but could not turn to them immediately if He had any, for He had no Design to Defraud me in any Respect of what was my Right.¹ This Favour is not yet granted[;] when it is I will immediately inform yr Lordship of every Particular.

As to Receits I shall strictly observe yr Ldship's directions & endeavour to inform my self in such a manner concerning the Profits arising from that Rectory, as my successor I Hope will have no Occasion to complain of.

I am yr Ldship's most Dutifull son

Geo. Sheppard.

Doctor Haywood desires his humble Duty to yr Lordship.²

¹ Henry Fermor.

² Thomas Haywood.

From the Revd. Stephen Richardson¹

(ii.42-3)

Godington, June 22, 1744

My Lord

By your order, I have made a careful enquire [sic] how many families & persons are in the Parish of Godington.

Mr Davis fifteen in Family²

Collingridge eight³

Tomkins seven

Paxton Penyard six

Paxton-Poodle Four.⁴

These families are absenters from the Church, excepting a few servants, supposed to be Papists.

Mr Hussey four in Family

Roberts six

Hore two

Friday two

Markham three

Hawkins four

Scot two

Haynes two

Stop four

[f.42v.] Cheshire three

Markham four

Turner four

These are Protestants; but none capable of Confirmation, or else I should have sent yr Lordship a list of them last Visitation. I do assure yr Lordship that I take as particular care of the Parish of Godington as any Curate in your Diocess, [? and have – MS. torn] always endeavour'd to do my Duty & behave myself as well as possibly I could for fifteen years last past in that station wch it hath pleased God to call me. That yr Lordship may long live an ornament to the Church & a blessing to yr Diocess is the hearty Prayer of my Lord your Lordship's ever Dutiful & most humble servant.

Steph: Richardson

N:B. There is not above four or five Protestant Families in Godington that can write or read & they are very neglectful of giving their Children education thô they must greatly miss it themselves.

[To Cuddesdon and endorsed 'Godington 1744']

¹ Of Oxford city, m. Magd. Hall 1720 a.16, B.A. 1724; C. Godington 1734, C. Stoke Lyne: see ii.73.

² '[Papists] assemble for Worship at Mr Davis's most Sabbath-days and the Priest resides there, and his name is Whitcraft.': *Vis. Retns.*, p. 68.

³ Mentioned in *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vi, pp. 146, 152.

⁴ There were two branches of the Paxton family, one at Poodle farm (and the other presumably at Penyard farm): *ibid.*

From the Revd. Stephen Richardson

(ii.51)

Godington, July 6, 1744

My Lord

There are none in my Parish of sufficient Age, who have not been confirmed; nor of sufficient knowledge I am certain, for very few of their Parents can teach their Children the Catechism, & we have no Schoolmaster in two miles of us, nor Mistriss in my Parish that teaches constantly, & she a very indifferent one: There is only one Boy, that I know of, can read, & I have called him to me in the Evenings to read, & have desired him to learn his Catechism, & gave to every Protestant Family Catechetical Books, & told the Children, I would give them sixpence a peice as soon as they could learn them; but their Parents are dilatory in sending them to School, being at so great a distance.¹ They bring their Children to Church indeed, but 'tis impossible for me to instruct them there wn they cannot tell a letter, only by preaching to them the Principles of Religion & the neglect of so great a Duty as the Catechism. The number of my Communicants are about seven or eight at the three Seasons, & my Congregation one Sunday wth: another about fifteen or sixteen. I take, my Lord, all the care I possibly can, & if it was to save my life, I can do no more in my Station. I am my Lord yr Lordships most Dutiful & most obedient humble servant

Steph: Richardson

[Endorsed 'Godington 1744']

¹ On education at Godington see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vi, p. 152.

From the Revd. William Welchman

(ii.52-3)

Dodford, Northants., Aug. 23, 1744

My Lord

My Youngest Son whom I sent some time agoe to supply W. Barton Church by *Personal Residence*, hath been lately Presented to a small living in Warwickshire, in the Diocese of Worcester, distant from W: Barton about 22 miles, void by the death of the last Incumbent about Mid-May last. The Circumstances of that living are such, that they have necessitated him to enter upon it, by occupying it himself at present. These accidents have diverted our purpose of personal residence, my own residence is prevented by my infirm state of health, wch still disables me for that due performance of the publick duties even of the smallest Cure. My Son's residence is hindered by attending his harvest, & the business of farming, & grasing, which in these bad times of war threatening beggery & ruin by foreign Invasion, by rents decreasing & taxes increasing may make him as rich as a new shorn sheep, In these times where people murmur that they are likely to starve in the midst of plenty, & are in danger of being undone by

Victory, My Son hath enter'd into the incumbrance of worldly affairs on those steps I have mentioned, & which he could not avoid taking. My Eldest Son went to officiate at Barton in his Brothers absence, & in a Visit to him is laid up at his house [f.52v.] with the Rheumatism, or Gout. This prevented his return to Barton. My Sons desire me to apply to Yor. Lordship to permit Mr Parker Minister of Sandford to supply W: Barton under our present distress.¹ I doe not know the Gentleman, but I believe him to be a worthy person, & of a good Character. I have good hopes that when the heats abate, God will be so gracious to me as to restore me to such a State of health as to supply Barton my self according to my earnest wish, & hearts desire. In the mean time I intreat yor Lordship to consider the case, & to acquiesce in the present proposal, till we see what Event time will produce. My Lord; it is my misfortune, & not my fault that I have not supplied Barton my self, where I kept a long, & large residence, till the disaster of an apoplexy beset me at Dodford, & prevented my return to W: Barton[.] Mr Stewart, My Lord, tells me that the Terriers of W: Barton are in Yor Lordship's Custody, I would willingly have consulted them in the Registry Office in order to doe my self, & the Ch: of W: Barton justice.² A little house that hath been in the uninterrupted possession of the Ch: of W: Barton above 60 years, being by violence, & a strong hand wrested [f.53] from me to settle therein a poor family belonging to Steeple Barton to save the Parishioners there, charges in the poor rates by renting a house. This being done without my consent almost 2 years agoe, I think my self obliged in conscience to vindicate the Churches right; Nevertheless for peace sake I am willing to acquiesce in very easie terms, if Steeple Barton Parish is disposed to seek & follow peace. Mr Taylor whom I take to be innocent of the wrong done me knows something of this affair, I hope will dispose the people there to doe me justice in some measure, & I shall be easily satisfied.³

I am, my Lord, with all reverential respect, and Esteem due to Yor Sacred & Superiour Character as my Diocesan,

Yor. Lordships most Obedient & very Humble servant

Will: Welchman

[To Cuddesdon 'To be left at the Registry Office in Oxford by way of London' and endorsed 'Westcote Barton Mr Welchman Aug 23. 1744']

¹ William Parker of Warws., m. Balliol 1731 a.17, M.A. 1738, D.D. 1754; V. Sandford St. Martin 1742-50, R. Piccadilly, St. James 1750.

² John Stewart, deputy registrar to the archdeacon of Oxford, d.1762 (described as deputy diocesan registrar in *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, Oct. 22, 1762).

³ John Taylor of Derbs., m. Ch.Ch. 1728/9 a.17, LL.D.; C. Steeple Aston 1734, V. Sandford St. Martin to ?1742; dates of his incumbency are unclear. (There may be confusion with another of the same name, hence *Foster's* uncertainty about his LL.D.)

From the Revd. William Welchman

(ii.54-5)

Dodford, Northants., Sep. 12, 1744

My Lord

I think it proper to inform you that although the hot weather is abated, that I find no increase of health or spirits sufficient for a due discharge of my ministry, & when providence shall favour me with that blessing I shall cheerfully return to Barton. I do not know what Notion yor Lordship or others may have of the value of that little Cure, this I know that it is charged with such a burthen of annual payments, that the clear profit thereof, if I mistake not, doth not exceed 60 pounds a year, not to mention great and constant charges of repairing a large overbuilt old house with all its appurtenances, several parts whereof I have not only repaired, but conveniently beautified, & to this expence the Tenants contribute not so much as straw.¹ The Tenants, I say, whose delight it is both to make and keep their Parson poor. Sure I am my Predecessor, tho' he held Steeple Barton also died wretchedly insolvent, & I preserved the remains of his family from beggery, & ruin, and altho I had no remedy [*f.54v.*] as to dilapidations very great, & expensive, yet in respect to his memory I paid for his Coffin, & a decent tomb stone, I never heard he had any vices or follies to maintain.² By the Observations I make I verily think half the inferior Clergy die miserably poor, & leave their widows & children beggars, nor doe I see how they can in these bad times avoid it, especially if they rashly, & unadvisedly marry. I hope Your Lordship will candidly excuse the trouble of these hints. I was informed that Yor Lordship was inclined to allow Mr Parker to supply Barton with Sandford, & I believed it because you was disposed to allow it in Mr Lind's case[.]³ My Son, if not prevented will soon return to Barton to settle a Curate, but whether he can transact that affair, before the Arch-Deacon's visitation, if it happens soon, I know not. I thank yor Lord's for the intelligence you gave me concerning the Terriers, & I believe the last you mention will give light to the justice of my claim. I question not Yor Lordship's goodness to excuse this trouble, since I give it you [*f.55*] in obedience to your Lordship's desire of *knowing what I doe*. I remain with all due Veneration & Esteem

Yor Lordships most Obedient and very Humble Servant

William Welchman

[To Cuddesdon 'To be left at the Register's Office in Oxford', and endorsed 'Westcote Barton Sept 12.1744', and, in cipher, 'But one person to [?officiate] [at] service every Sunday and reside in or near.']

¹ The certified value of Westcot Barton was £75: Bacon, p. 806; see also *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xi, pp. 79-80.

² Edward Cockson, V. Steeple Barton 1661, R. Westcot Barton 1680-1712.

³ Charles Lind of Edinburgh, m. Magd. Hall 1723/4, a.17, Balliol M.A. 1750; from the context here it seems that he had been C. Westcot Barton and served Sandford St. Martin. He

was later Secker's curate at Piccadilly, St. James, and held livings in Essex and Kent. He was helped financially by Secker in 1756 and 1767, but died in debt: *ex inf.* Dr. J.S. Macauley; he also received 5 gns. on Mar. 25, 1747 and again on May 4, 1748: *Account Bk.*, ff. 16, 37. See also *D.N.B.*, John Lind, his son.

From the Revd. William Welchman

(ii.56-7)

[f.57] Oct. 6, 1744

My Lord

Mr Richard Goodwin, Batchelour of Arts, late of Wadham College applied to me a few days since to serve the Cure of B Warton.¹ he some time since served the Cure or Harrington in Northamptonshire, and produced to me Credentials. I think proper of his Learning, Orthodoxy, & Morals signed by W Allicock Rector of Harrington.² Thos: Barnet Vicar of Rothwel,³ Chr Hodgson Vicar of Spratton⁴ on the part of the Clergy and a Testimonium of his good & inoffensive life & Conversation signed by Wm Perkins John Davie Church Wardens of Harrington a[nd – MS. torn] John Driver & Wm Langley Overseers of that Place on the Pa[rt of ? – MS. torn] the Laity, he told me he was ordained Priest last Christmas [?by – MS. torn] the Lord Bishop of Rochester.⁵ I take him to be a Man of Est[ee]m ? – MS. torn] I know his friends to be in reputable circumstances; but a[s – MS. torn – ? for my]self I was altogether a stranger to him. He serves at present occasionally two Churches, but expects very soon another Clergyman from Kent to enter upon the Cure of those Churches, the air of that part of Kent he now lives in being utterly inconsistent with his Health. Mr Goodwin will choose to reside at Barton being an easie Journey from his Friends & the University and he will be well satisfied with twenty five pounds a year salary for such an easy Cure & a Living of so small value to the Incumbent when all its annual payments are discharged, and the Repairs of a large overbuilt old house are [MS. torn – ? proper]ly taken care of. I shewed Mr Goodwin Your Lordship's two last letters to me and Your Lordship will impute the trouble of them not to my Fault but Misfortune; for although I amend in my Health, yet it is but slowly; neither am I at present in a Capacity duly to discharge the smallest Cure. I have met with a great many Incumbrances of Life since the first Attack upon my Health by a fatal Distemper, which have tended much to retard my Recovery I am My Lord with all due Deference to Your Episcopal Station & Authority

[f.56v.] Your Lordships most Obedient & Humble Servant

William Welchman

[To Cuddesdon 'To be carefully delivered at the Registry Office in Oxford' and endorsed 'Westcote Barton Oct 1744']

¹ Of Northants., m. Wadham 1734 a.17, B.A. 1738.

² Walter Allicock, R. Harrington 1724-57: *Longden*, i, p. 51.

³ V. Rothwell 1741-76: *ibid.*, i, p. 199.

⁴ V. Spratton 1738–76: *ibid.*, vii, p. 47.

⁵ Joseph Wilcocks bp. 1731–56.

From the Revd. William Welchman

(ii.58)

Dodford, Northants., Oct. 17, 1744

My Good Lord

It is so small concern to me that my little Cure creates you such great trouble. I will act conformably to all your commands. I wrote yesterday to Mr Goodwin to come hither to communicate to him the contents of all your late Letters without reserve. I am very willing he should enjoy all the advantages either Mr Dixon,¹ or Mr Linde were to enjoy, Easter Offerings & Surplice fees I never designed should be part of the Salary of 25 pounds a year, tho my living is considerably sunk in its rents, in these low & bad times. I hope Mr Goodwin will not lamely acquiesce in the loss of offerings, as I have done[.] My Goods & apartments finished & furnished at no small expence are at his service gratis; although as to goods he tells me he hath enough of his own. I am well pleased that he chooses to reside in the parsonage house & now I hope neither your Lordship nor my self will be any longer fatigued with incessant clamours for residence. That Yor Lordship may long long [sic] enjoy a perfect state of health is the sincere & ardent wish of

Your Lordships most Obedient & Obliged Servant

W: Welchman

P:S: If I am able, & can be tolerably accommodated with conveniences under my infirmities I will reside at Barton for the benefit of the change of Air some time in summer, tho' I be not able to perform duty. My present ill state of health makes me even good for nothing.

¹ Charles Dixon of Northants., m. Ch.Ch. 1724 a.19, M.A. 1730/1; no preferment is listed in Oldfield who only records his ordination as deacon in the diocese, 1730.

From Browne Willis

(ii.59)

Whaddon Hall, Oct. 22, 1744

My Lord

I am exceedingly obliged for yr Ldships very kind letter by yesterdays post, & very thankfull for the account of the Legacys of the richest Lady perhaps that ever was in England¹ – I am also truly glad that she has entrusted your Lordship who have a Spirit devoted to good works &, have been all yr Life so ready & zealous to Benefit the publick. – I wish Her Ladyship had considered the noble & antient Abby Chur of St Albans where she was Baptisd, & left a Pittance to support the Fabrick & minister thereof who has a prodigious deal of duty, & a small income [.] had misfortunes by his House being burnt down & sustained above £1000 loss

thereby, & been a constant devotee & observer of Her Graces commands as is well known – Mr Spencer will be amply rewarded by his Brother the Dukes being out of Favour² – I was sorry I could not well come to St Frideswides day – : next week I think of coming to Oxford against All Saints day Cuddesden dedication & if yr Ldshipp was returned I should be glad as I design to pay my respects at Cuddesden if only for one night if well: I think I gave yr Ldshipp the Inscription on the Foundation Stone of our College, which I find styled a daughter of Cardinal Wolseys. It is as follows – Twas laid I think by the Bp of Lincoln

“Reverendissimus in Christo Pater ac Dominus Thomas Wuley [sic] “miseratione divina Tituli Sanctæ Ceciliæ, Sacro Sanctæ Ecclesiæ Prebyter “[sic] Cardinalis Eborac Archiepūs; Angliæ Primas, & Apostolicæ Sedis “Legatus, Epūs Dunelmensis exemptique Monasterii Sancti Albani perpetuus commendatorius; Cancellarius Angliæ, Ac dictæ sedis Apostolice ad “Vitam suam etiam de Latere Legatus Hanc Petram posui in Honorem “Sanctæ et Individuæ Trinitatis, Gloriosissimæ [sic] Virginis Mariæ, Sanctæ “Frideswidæ, et omnium Sanctorum, Vicesimo die martii Anno Domini “Millesimo quingentesimo vicesimo quinti

But I begg pardon for taking up yr Ldshipp's time – yr goodness in affording the least minute of it on mee demands my immediate acknowledgement, who am with duty my Lord

Yr Ldshipp's most obliged & ever devoted Serv to cmd

· Browne Willis

My best Respects to Cosin Benson & duty to my native diocesan if yr Ldshipp sees them – I make bold to enclose yr Ldshipp a [? Dorchester – reading unclear] letter to pray you to seal & circulate

[To Westminster and endorsed ‘Inscription on the foundation stone of Ch Ch 1525’]

¹ Sarah, duchess of Marlborough, died Oct. 18, 1744: *Compl. Peerage*, viii, pp. 496–7.

² Charles Spencer, 1706–58, 3rd duke of Marlborough 1733: *ibid.*, pp. 499–500; the brother was presumably John Spencer, heir to the duchess of Marlborough, inheritor of Althorp and father of the 1st Earl Spencer: *ibid.*, xii, p. 489.

From the Revd. Thomas Toovey

(ii.60a)

Swyncombe, Oct. 25, 1744

My Ld.

I desired Mr. Mather of New College¹ to present himself to Yr. Ldship. for yr. approbation to supply My Church of Watlington 'til I can reside there which shall be as soon as I can with any Safety live in a New built house.² I hope soon after Xmass[.] If yr. Ldship. please to permit this yo. may assuredly depend upon a Carefull & punctual discharge of all Weekly

Duties. And when I go to Watlington Mr. Mather will (wth: yr. Ldship's leave) supply Swyncomb (if not Called away) 'til I present my Sone (of Exeter College) as a Candidate for Orders upon Swyncomb Title, which if his health permit will be at Michaelmas next.³ Besides this favour I would beg Yr. Ldship.'s directions Concerning the Baptizing an Adult person lately Come into my Parish of Swyncomb.⁴ A new married woman of about 21 or 22 years of age Bred up (at Abingdon) in the Anabaptist way, & now desiring to be Baptized. I have not strictly examined her but given her directions to prepare for it, & when I know yr. Ldship.'s pleasure in this affair yo. may depend upon a diligent performance from

My Ld. Yr. Ldship.'s Most Dutyfull & Obedt. Sert.

Tho: Toovey

I Communicated the Contents to Mr. Archdeacon who promised to acquaint yr. Ldship with them, & I had pay'd my Duty in person before Mr. Mather had not ways & weather hindered.

[Endorsed 'Watlington Oct. 1744' and, in cipher, '[? cannot] permit [? Lord] to be so served [? Baptizing] woman when sufficiently instructed and prepared [? otherwise]']

¹ John Mather of Oxford city, m. Corpus 1733/4 a.17, New Coll. M.A. 1742/3; C. Lewknor 1749. On curates at Watlington see *Vis. Retns.*, p. 164; *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, p. 239.

² On the parsonage see *ibid.*, pp. 239-40.

³ George Toovey of Swyncombe, m. Exeter Coll. 1738 a.15, B.A. 1744; C. Watlington 1756.

⁴ The baptism seems not to have taken place; there were two male baptisms only in 1744 at Swyncombe and nothing pertinent in the years immediately following: O.R.O., MS. D.D. Par. Swyncombe b.2.

From the Revd. Robert Welborne

(ii.48)

Wendlebury, Nov. 4, 1744

My Lord

On Wednesday was sennight I came over to Oxford intending to have waited on your Lordship the next day with the enclosed papers, & to have begged your Lordship's pardon for not having done it sooner; hearing there that your Lordship was gon to London I returned, and have now chosen, rather than defer it any longer, to send them by the Post, beleiving that your Lordship will excuse my personal appearance at this time. I presumed upon this indulgence, because the weather or my ill health makes it often times very difficult for me to perform a journey.

I am, my Lord, your Lordships most dutiful humble servant

Robt. Welborne

[Endorsed 'Wendlebury Distance from Lowick']

From the Revd. Gilbert Walton to the Revd. Dr. Sir John Dolben Bt¹

(ii.44-5)

[f.45] June 27, [1744]

Hond. Sr.

As I don't know but You may write to Mr Welborne to Morrow, I have thought proper to send You what particulars I have pick'd up in relation to his Affair; Mr Ekins² says the Bishop certifies the Distance between the Livings, and if they are in different Dioceses, He thinks both Bishops do it, but is not sure tho' this was his own case, for Mr Gell the Bishop of [MS. torn - ? Peter]boroughs Secretary,³ whom He made his [MS. torn - ? Fr]iend by a proper Gratuity, took all trouble from his Hands, & dispatch'd that Affair for Him, and He thinks if Mr Welborne apprehends any Difficulty, that it will be his best Way to apply to this said Gell, which He may easily do, if tis true that the Bishop visits next Month, for Gell I believe allways attends Him.

[f.44v.] Lowick field comes within two furlongs of Twywell, Twywell is two Miles from Burton and Northampton nine, which according to Mr Welborne's Scheme makes Lowick distant from Northampton eleven Miles & two Furlongs, and such a small Number of Furlongs go for nothing in the common way of Computation; The Living of Lowick is worth £105 per Ann: as Mr Poulton informs Me,⁴ The Tenant pays £80 [to] Lady Betty £17: 2s: 6d. & Tythe Wood, Dove House & Close may be reckon'd at 8Pds per Ann: Mr Poulton is very glad Mr Welborne is to succeed his Uncle,⁵ He imagines He don't intend to reside there at least not immediately, and therefore will be glad to serve the Cure for a Year, till his own House at Islip can be put in better case than it is at present.

I am Sr. Your most Oblig'd and Obedient Servant

Gil Walton

¹ D.D., V. Finedon, Northants. 1714-56, R. Burton Latimer, Northants. 1718/19-56, prebendary of Durham 1718: *Longden*, iv, p. 113.

² ? Geoffrey Ekins, R. Barton Seagrave, Northants. 1723-73: *ibid.*, p. 213, or Randolph Ekins, V. Dallington, Northants. 1706-45, R. Holcot, Northants. 1716-45: *ibid.*, p. 215.

³ ? Thomas Gill of Hanwell, m. Wadham 1729/30 a.18, M.A. & D.D. 1769; R. Hulcott, Northants. 1745-78, C. Drayton 1734: *ibid.*, v, p. 247; *Vis. Retns.*, p. 54.

⁴ John Poulton, C. Lowick, Northants. 1719, R. Islip, Northants. 1743-46: *ibid.*, xi, p. 47.

⁵ Michael Poulton, R. Lowick 1693-1744: *ibid.*

From the Revd. Lawrence Brodrick¹ to the Revd. Robert Welborne

(ii.46-7)

Islip, Northants., July 4, 1744

Sir

For Satisfaction in your Enquiry all I can say is, that We call it five Miles from Wendlebury to Mixbury and sometimes six; and from Mixbury to

Milton eleven Miles & sometimes twelve,² from whence to Northampton it is two Miles & never called more, but there is a nearer way than this. This computation You will find to agree with the Scale of Miles in Cole's Map of 20 Miles round Oxford, which map takes in Milton;³ for by that Scale if You measure the Distance betwixt Wendlebury and Milton, You will find it to be something less than seventeen Miles.⁴ I am Sir

Your most Obedt: Humble Servant

L. Brodrick

[To Wendlebury]

¹ Of Mixbury, m. Ch.Ch. 1735 a.19, M.A. 1742; holding various Irish preferments, R. Islip 1741-47.

² Presumably Milton Malsor.

³ Benjamin Cole, *A New Map of Twenty Miles Round the City of Oxford*, 1705, reissued c.1720.

⁴ According to canon 41 of 1603, benefices held in plurality required a dispensation, and could be no more than 30 miles apart: R. Burn, *Ecclesiastical Law*, (ed. R. Phillimore, 9th ed.) London, 1842, iii, p. 120.

From Browne Willis

(ii.49-50)

Whaddon Hall, Nov. 20, 1744

My Lord

I am very thankfull for the Favour & Honour of your Ldships, & hope with pleasure to wait on you soon; I find I cannot goe to London till next week as my Business is not ready for mee there. -

Mr Welborne has put mee into such Hands that I fear the Consequences will hurry mee to my Grave; I had better have pd the penalty of Sir John Dolbens Bond than be so treated as I have been & run down in my College &c by monstrous untruths.

In his mensuration no regard is had to Towns the miles terminate from both extremes - Mixbury & Wendlebury were ever accounted 7 good miles: from Northampton to Burton the 9 mile will measure I dare say 16; & I think they are computed 12.: Duty to yr Ldship & best respects to my cosin & Mrs Talbott concludes from my Lord

Yr Ldships most obliged & ever devoted poor servant to comd

Browne Willis

[To Cuddesdon and endorsed 'Wendlebury 1744']

From Gilbert Jackson, sr.¹

(ii.60b)

Titchfield, Hants., Jan. 26, 1744/5

My Lord -

When last I had the Honour of Dining with Yor. Lordship at Cuddesdon, You were so Good as to Recommend the Endowment of Wheatley Chappel

to me; God knows I am not quallified to promote so good a work, further than using my endeavours with those that are to assist in it, which inclined me to write immediately to Mr. Sims at Gibralter, told Him what Yor. Lordship said, and how strenuously You Recommended it – He answers, that the thought pleases Him, and He's ready to advance so much of the £100, as Yor. Lordship shall adjudge from His Circumstances He ought, and has wrote to His Correspondent Mr. Coswith at either Woolwich, or Debtford to advance, when Yor. Lordship shall Call. –

I propose being in Town in less than a fortnight, [*f.60bv.*] will wait on Yor. Lordship, bring Mr. Sims's Letter with me, and consult how properly to proceed.

He Presents His Humble Duty to Yor. Lordship, and, is full of His Acknowledgements, for Yor. Recommendations of Him to Mr. Matthews² –

I am (with Great Respect,) Yor. Lordships Most Dutifull, & Most Obedt Humble Servt.

Gil: Jackson.

My Complements wait on all the Ladies –

[Endorsed 'Wheatley Chapel']

¹ Gilbert Jackson, was the father of the Revd. Dr. Gilbert Jackson, incumbent of Titchfield, Hants. 1734–79; see i.31–2, n.2.

² Presumably Admiral Thomas Mathews.

From the Revd. Dr. John Audley¹

(ii.61)

Magdalen College, Jan. 30, 1744/5

My Lord,

Your Lordship's letter of January 19th. shou'd have been answer'd sooner, but that I was at that time in London in order to receive institution into a Living in Norfolk. the Curacy of Horspath is no longer under my care, & therefore I shoud excuse myself from saying any thing to your first letter, did I not think I shou'd, by such behaviour, be wanting in respect to your Lordship. the College writings are lodg'd in a Tower to which the Society can have no recourse but when all the Officers are together. It has so happen'd I have not been able to search those relating to Horspath, since I was nominated to It, so can't say whether there is any thing contain'd in them, that will plead for an Exemption from taking a licence: however, thus much I may assure Your Lordship that no Curate, in the memory of the oldest Fellow of the College, was ever licens'd, & that His present Grace of Canterbury never insisted upon It: & therefore it is hop'd, tho' the Curate shou'd be oblig'd, if Your Lordship commands, to take out a licence, You will be pleas'd to

wave your Authority in the case, & grant him the same indulgence Your Predecessors have done. I am, My Lord,

Your Lordship's dutiful Son & humble Servant

J Audley

¹ Of Warws., m. Wadham 1724 a.17, Magd. Coll. M.A. 1730, D.D. 1742/3: *Macray*, v, pp. 78-9.

From the Revd. John Pinnell¹

(ii. 62)

Fittleworth near Petworth, Sussex, Feb. 20, 1744/5

My Lord,

The last Post brought me a Letter from Dr. Audley at Magd: College, with a Copy of Your Lordships to him inclosed. This was the first Notice of my being appointed to officiate at Horspath. When I left Oxford some little time ago, I declared my Intentions of accepting the Cure of that Place, if it came to my Option; and made a conditional Provision for the Supply of the same till my Return. Since I have been in the Country some things have fallen out, which will render my Return to, & Stay at Oxford more uncertain than I apprehended. I am at present engaged in assisting my Father, who is very antient, & has very hard Duty; & some Views of another Kind will necessarily keep me here a little longer. I therefore humbly beg the Favour of yr. Lordship to dispense with my taking a Licence to the said Curacy till Michms. next, by which time I hope fully to settle all Business here, & to pay my Duty to yr. Lordship, & Attendance on that thing only. The Parish is at present taken Care of by Mr. Waldegrave, to whose Regularity the most severe Discipline can have no Objection.² I do not apprehend [*f.62v.*] that the College can produce any Evidence of a Jurisdiction independent on [sic] the Bishop of Oxford, & shall therefore humbly submit this, as a Request to your Lordship, to which if you will be pleas'd to condescend it may be of particular Advantage to

My Lord, Yr. Lordship's most dutifull & obedient Servant

John Pinnell

PS If yr. Lordship will do me the Fav., A Letter will find me, directed to Fittleworth near Petworth Sussex. —

¹ Son of John Pinnell of Fittleworth, Sussex, m. Balliol 1725 a.15, Magd. Coll. M.A. 1731, B.D. 1739; R. Ducklington 1747-98: *Macray*, v, pp. 70-1.

² Thomas Waldegrave of Lincs., m. Lincoln Coll. 1728 a.17, Magd. Coll. M.A. 1733/4, D.D. 1747: *ibid.*, pp. 71-3.

From the Revd. Coventry Lichfield¹ to Owen Davies at Westminster
(ii. 63-4)

Goring Heath, Feb. 1, 1744/5

Sir

His Lordship the Bp. of Oxford is pleas'd to observe, that Dr Busby's Will requires his Lecturers to be such poor Ministers, who have a great Flock, and small Revenue, under the Value of fifty pounds a year. And also, that no person can be admitted, without a Certificate from two or more Clergymen in the Neighbourhood, that he hath no other Preferment than—which is of the yearly Value of—and no more. Further, that the Vicarage of South=Stoke is certified to be worth £30 a year; that Dr South gave a Benefaction of £10 a year to it, which is over and above the £30;² and that there is a Charity School in the Parish, with an Income of £10 a year for the Master.³

To which I beg leave to answer. That my Income, which together with the Circumstances of my Family is required to be inserted in the Certificate [f. 63v.] to the Trustees of Dr Busby, is not so great in my apprehension, as that I cannot be called a poor Minister. Also, that my Flock is great (The Bp. I believe, has an Account of the Number of Souls in the Parish of South=Stoke, in Mr Hughes's Answers to his Lordship's printed Circular Letter of Interrogatories.⁴ – foot-note addition), and Revenue small, The Vicarage of South=Stoke being certified to be worth only £30 pound [sic] a year; tho' indeed with the addition of Dr South's Benefaction, it is now worth £40 a year: And as to the Charity School in the Parish, with an Income of £10 a year for the Master, that, as you observe is easily answer'd. The most material Objection therefore still remaining to be obviated, is the £30 a year from the Chaplainship of the Hospital. 'Tis true indeed I receive such a Salary; and, considering the Duty requir'd, of reading Prayers twice every Day in the Week, schooling 18 Charity Boys, preaching once and reading Prayers Morning and Evening on Sundays, I humbly hope, it will not be thought too great [f. 64] a Stipend: But notwithstanding, this is so far from being an additional Cure and a Certainty, that the Trustees apprehend they have a Power of removing me whenever they think fit; neither have I any Instrument whereby to ascertain the Continuance of the Income arising from it. This is at best then but a very precarious Tenure, so that it may truly be said that I have no more than one Cure; which, as the Bishop observes, is what the Trustees of Dr Busby's Will give notice to be certified.

I give you hearty thanks, Sir, and am your most oblig'd and obedient humble Servant

Covy. Lichfield

Please let me know by John Allum whether an Answer to this Effect will be proper to the Bp's Letter.

My Wife is somewhat better, but still takes two soapy Draughts and three half pints of Sea Water every Day.

Mr Etty with All Friends here desire their Service to you & to your Family.

[Endorsed 'Mr Lichfield']

¹ Of Oxford city, m. Magd. Hall 1726 a.19, M.A. 1748; C. Checkendon 1731, 1st chaplain to Allnutt's Hospital, Goring 1742, V. South Stoke 1743-85.

² For details see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vii, p. 105.

³ For further details see *Vis. Retns.*, p. 139; *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vii, p. 110.

⁴ Only the visitation returns for 1738 survive; they report 60 houses in South Stoke: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 139.

From Browne Willis

(ii.65-6)

Whaddon Hall, Apr. 3, 1745

My Lord

I am very glad to hear from yr Ldshipp at all times, & return most hearty thanks for yr Ldshipp's kind wishes of my Health wch I think was never worse – I am so low spirited on the Treatmt I have met with & returns from those to whom I have been a slave has made such an Impression on mee that wish I may get thro: it – I am not very fit for study, however as in duty bound sit down to answer yr Ldshipp's – I doubt you will find in Queen Elizabeth's sacrilegious Reign the Bp of Lincoln Instituted to Banbury Croperdy & Langford & Milton; it is certain He did so in Bp Longlands Time for as I have a copy of his Register of Institutions I have turned it over: Ao 1521 the P[atron] of Croperdy presented Will: Leson LL D to Croperdy V on the death of Robt Halame

1525 Matthew Smith P of Banbury¹ presented Roger Dingley STP² to Banbury V on the death of John Formby

1530 The P of Milton presented John Fisher A M³ to Milton V on the resign of John Burgh

1538 The P of Banbury pr John Pittes STB⁴ to Banbury on the Death of Roger Dingley

[f.65v.] I have in like manner 2 or 3 presentations to Thame but none to Langford – This seems to make for yr Ldshipp who succeed to the Right of the Bp of Lincoln:

In the first Fruits office Mr Etherington has in a great Trunk several Bundles of Institutions particularly in Elizabeth's time, & also since in all the Dioceses;⁵ & in a Book in that office is an Entry of the Patrons tempore Jacobi I in some years; Tis in a Folio paper Book – As to Dr Huttons collections, in the latter Registers of Lincoln, He took down chiefly the names of the eminent persons that were Instituted in the 8 Archdeaonrys, tho: in some particular parishes He made a series of the Incumbents to oblige Friends – The few notes I took, was to get a Series of the Incumbents chiefly; & I did not look after the Persons who gave Institutions – But will

doe any thing your Ldshipp commands mee in my poor power; & if I live to come to London again search any office or place – I am much concerned I can give Yr Ldshipp no better Information ? – cannot yr office at Oxford afford some Light – I wish I was well [f.66] able to get thither, tho: I [? have – MS. torn] been so much slighted & abused; & such false reports made of mee: Duty to yr Ldshipp & the good Bp of Gloucester, & best Respects to my cosin & Mrs. Talbott, & Cosin John Benson; with begging pardon again & again for this scrall concludes from yr Ldshipp

Ever obliged & most Bounden poor servant to command

Bro: Willis

I should write a letter into Herefordshire wch I pray yr Ldshipp to circulate.

I find I have only the Bare names of the Incumbents Co: Oxon & even have omitted the Patrons

I lookt into Rymers Fædera vol: 15 where are the crown presentations from the Patents Tempore Reginae Mariae but can find nothing for yr Ldshipp's purpose.

[To 'Pickadilly']

¹ ? Matthew Smith D.D., canon of Lincoln, d.1547.

² ? Roger Dingley D.D., fellow of All Souls from 1511.

³ V. Great Milton 1531–c.1554: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vii, p. 140.

⁴ John Pittes B.D., fellow of All Souls from 1517.

⁵ John Hetherington, deputy remembrancer and senior clerk in the First Fruits Office to 1778: *Best*, p. 120.

To the Rt. Revd. Dr. Thomas Sherlock

(ii.69–70)

St James's Westminster, Apr. 9, 1745

My Lord

I take the Liberty of sending to your Lordship, in great disorder, all the Informations, which I have been able to procure hitherto, concerning the Peculiars of the Church of Lincoln in my Diocese. For I cannot possibly methodize them, whilst your Lordship stays in Town: and you will easily from these papers, confused as they are, see enough into the Case, at least to give the Bishop of Lincoln and me Directions how to proceed in further Enquiries concerning it.¹ For that purpose I will propose to him, that we will wait on your Lordship, either on Thursday or on Saturday Evening, at what hour you shall [f.69v.] please to appoint: or on Monday next, if you stay so long and chuse it rather. I am, with the greatest Respect,

My Lord, Your affectionate brother and very humble sert.

Tho. Oxford

¹ John Thomas, bp. 1744–61.

From the Rt. Revd. Dr. John Thomas

(ii.71)

Apr. 9, 1745

My Lord

I return Your Lordship the papers You put into my Hands together with Mr Terry's The Chapter-Clerk's Letters to me on that subject. I will wait on the Bishop of Salisbury with Your Lordship at what time You please to take his Directions how we are to proceed in this Affair, but as the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln claim the Jurisdiction of the Places in Dispute I can come to no Determination before they have given in their Claim in Form and caused all their Grants and Registers to be thoroughly examined, and then Your Lordp. and I who desire only to find out the true state of the Case, will easily come to an Accommodation

I am, My Lord Yr Lordsp's Affectionate Brother and Faithfull Servt

John Lincoln

From the Revd. Dr. Daniel Burton

(ii.67-8)

Christ Church, Apr. 21, 1745

My Lord,

I have gone thro' two parts of my visitation, Witney & Ch. Norton; & had a large appearance of Clergy at each place – 33 at the former, & 26 at the latter. I have given notice of yr intention to confirm at Banbury on the 16th of June, & Ewelme at the 30th. But Swaicliffe being only 4 miles from Banbury, have not mentioned that. Perhaps great Tew might be more convenient. I have ordered the apparitor to attend yr Ldship at Banbury, but if you think it improper to make use of that officer there, can easily countermand It. – Mr Griffiths, Curate of Astal will not be of age for Priest's orders till Michaelmas, & then intends to wait on yr Ldship.¹ Mr Bonwell was ill, & did not appear; but I can learn no complaint of his behaviour.² Dr Haward intends to reside at Stanlake next May;³ He has been making some alterations in his House; nothing is done to the Chancel [f.67v.] at Steeple Barton, nor as I find likely to be done, and yet It is in a most miserable condition. Mr Ryves says, the D. of Marlborough is willing to perform his part, in proportion to his share of the patronage –

There is a Subscription for a Lecture at Ch. Norton, wch amounts to about £22. Mr Browne, who lives at Stow, I think Schoolmaster there, is the person who is chosen.⁴ Mr Tucker neglects none of his Duty at Cornwell, to assist Mr Sturges.⁵ Mr Ford, Fellow of C.C.C. is Curate of Enstone, He bears a very good character, & has taken great care of the Parish.⁶ He resides in the winter, but lives at College the Summer half year, by yr permission as He informs me, I suppose in consideration of the College statutes, wch require half a years residence. He leaves this Curacy at Michs. – Mr Williams is Curate at Fifield & Dr Smyth at Idbury, the same as last year.⁷ The Rector of [f.68] Alkerton has delivered in to me at Court a

certificate of his residence, & regularly performing the whole Duty.⁸ I believe yr Ldship will not find him so intractable; as He has been hitherto. He seems very sensible of his ill behaviour to You. His Barn is well repaired, & his House improved. There is a Dispute about the Mounds of the Ch. yd here, & I am at a loss how to determine it. The Parishioners being a party concerned, I know not whether their Evidence ought to determine my opinion. They are clear, that the Rector has constantly repaired it. – These are all the particulars I think yr Ldship inquired about in these 2 Deaneries.

I am much obliged to yr Ldship for inquiring after my wife, she is in a good way at present: but it will be necessary for me, with my Ld. of Landaff's leave,⁹ to stay here three weeks longer. [*f.68v.*] The Rector of Tadmarton is resident.¹⁰

I am yr Ldship's Most Obligated & Dutiful Humble Servt.

Dan: Burton

In my last, I misinformed yr Ldship, as to the number of persons that Have quitted Hartford Coll: There being in the whole, only seven.

I have just heard, but not with certainty, that Dr Walker is to have Tovey's Hall.¹¹–

¹ Richard Griffiths of Glam., m. Univ. 1708 a.18, B.A. 1712; V. Astall 1731–63, with Thomas (?his son) acting as his curate and following him as V. 1763–85.

² Thomas Bonnell m. Jesus 1713/14 a.19, B.A. 1717; C. Brize Norton, C. Yelford: *Vis. Retns.*, pp. 27, 182.

³ William Harward or Haward of Yorks, m. Merton 1720 a.17, M.A. 1727, Magd. Coll. D.D. 1742; R. Standlake 1744–56.

⁴ Henry Brown M.A.; Chipping Norton corporation nominated the school master at Stow-on-the-Wold: Gloucs. R.O., GDR 381A; *V.C.H. Gloucs.*, vi, p. 171.

⁵ John Tucker and Nathaniel Sturges.

⁶ Edward Ford of Gloucs., m. Corpus 1729 a.14, M.A. 1736/7, B.D. 1744.

⁷ Thomas Williams of Glam., m. Jesus 1748/9 a.17, M.A. 1755, B.D. 1763; C. Fifield 1744 and V. 1755–66.

⁸ Joseph Butler of Wantage, m. Exeter Coll. 1732 a.16, M.A. 1738; R. Alkerton 1742–61; (given as LL.B. in *Oldfield*); 'he also served Shutford chapel': *V.C.H. Oxon.*, ix, p.50.

⁹ John Gilbert bp. Llandaff was a canon of Ch.Ch. and may have been resident at this time. Burton held no office in the diocese of Llandaff.

¹⁰ ?Robert Harrison of Westmeath, m. Ch. Ch. 1723 a.21, B.A. 1723/4, or of Kent, m. Balliol 1738 a.18, M.A. 1745, D.D. 1766; R. Tadmarton 1744–80.

¹¹ William Walker of Oxford city, m. St. John's Coll. 1719 a.15, D.C.L. 1736, President July–Nov. 1757, principal New Inn Hall 1745–61; R. Tackley 1744–61: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, iii, pp. 257–8.

From the Very Revd. Dr. Thomas Cheney¹

(ii.72)

Jermyn Street, London, Apr. 22, 1745

My Lord.

I received this day by Mr A. Deacon Taylor the enclos'd paper from My Ld. of Lincoln, being One of those Extracts I gave his Ldship last Summer²

— His design in sending it seems to be that I shd. wait upon yr Lordship with it, but as I goe out of Town to-morrow early in the morning that is impossible, therefore hope yr Lordship will excuse this manner of Conveyance in the only peice of paper I'm at present master of.

I am, My Lord, yr Ldshp's most Obedt. & Humble Servt.

Tho: Cheney.

[Endorsed 'Dr Cheney Apr 22']

¹ Dean of Lincoln 1744–47.

² John Taylor D.D., archdeacon of Bedford 1745–56, and of Leicester 1756–72.

From the Revd. Dr. Daniel Burton

(ii.73–4)

Christ Church, May 2, 1745

My Lord,

I have finished my visitation. In relation to yr inquiry concerning Ambrosden, I had no opportunity of getting information: Mr Cockerell did not appear, being lame, and the Cch-wardens know nothing of the application of the rent of the Church Lands.¹

Mr Richardson assures me, that He does Duty at Goddington always twice every Sunday, and in the summer catechizes the children.² There is also a Schoolmaster there at present; and to induce him to stay there, Dr Ayscough has promised to give him 2 Guineas a year,³ if Mr Farmer will contribute,⁴ wch Mr Richardson doubts not but He will. Mr Richardson at present serves Stoke-Lyne, and promises to do the whole Duty at both places all the Summer, [f.73v.] and if He is indulged to continue there longer, to wait on yr Ldship or me, to acquaint yr Ldship in wt manner the Duty is done. The distance from these 2 places is but 3 small miles.

The Ch-yard wall at Heath is agreed to be repaired by the Minr. & Parishioners together, tho' the Rector of Exeter is a little dissatisfyed with doing any share —⁵

Mr Bruges of Piddington says, He brought his parishioners to be confirmed at Burcester.⁶

Dr Pickering, who is nominated to the curacy of Kirtlington, is not yet returned;⁷ nor as I am informed does He ever serve it himself; but changes with Dr Shute Cur. of St Giles's.⁸ I will inquire more particularly about it, as soon as either of them are in Town.

Chalgrove. The Ch-wardens tell me, they have [f.74] paid £20 of their Debt, & observe yr Ldship's directions in the application of yr Rents.

Cuxham. Dr D'oily resides. who is very well.⁹

Lewkner. Nothing done.

Watlington. Mr Mather is Curate. but I beleive, does not reside.

Crowell. Church-wardens say, the Chancel is repaired.

South Stoke. Nothing done. Mr Litchfield is in hopes of recovering something from Mr Hughes: as soon as That is settled, He proposes to repair it: Dilapidations estimated at 14. or 15 pounds –

St Aldate's. The Wash-house not pulled down. The Parish not willing to give any compensation to the Rector for the loss of the rent of it.¹⁰ wch is £2 18s. per annum. It is in hopes of getting this or something towards it, that He has delayed it: however He is very ready to do wtever You shall require. –

[f.74v.] Elleshed. Mr Seely still Curate.¹¹

Noke. The Rector is come to reside, and is putting every thing in good condition.¹²

Waterperry. Mr Twycross serves it himself; He did not appear, but is pretty well.

I shall take care to send yr Ldship an account of the presentments, as soon as I have examined them, and am Yr Ldship's

Most Obliged & Dutiful Humble Servt

Dan: Burton.

[Endorsed 'Chancellors Visitation']

¹ Thomas Cockerell of Northants., m. Univ. 1700 a.17, M.A. 1706/7; C. Mollington 1715, V. Ambrosden 1721–65.

² Stephen Richardson.

³ Francis Ayscough of Surrey, m. Corpus 1717 a.15, M.A. 1723, D.D. 1735; R. Godington 1741–63, dean of Bristol 1761–3.

⁴ The Fermor family owned land in Godington between the 17th cent. and 1828: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vi, p. 148.

⁵ James Edgcombe.

⁶ Henry Bruges of Thame, m. Corpus 1715 a.14, M.A. 1722; C. Piddington 1736–58.

⁷ Thomas Pickering of London, m. St. John's Coll. 1725 a.16, M.A. 1733, D.D. 1742/3.

⁸ Thomas Shute of Gloucs., m. St. John's Coll. 1722 a.15, M.A. 1729, D.D. 1742.

⁹ Sir John D'Oyly of Chislehampton 4th bt. 1759, m. Merton 1720, a.18, M.A. 1728; R. Broughton Poggs 1730–4, R. Easington 1734/5–43, R. Cuxham 1743–73, R. Ibstone 1743–73: *Compl. Btage*, iv, p. 34.

¹⁰ Roger Brent of Thrupp, m. Pembroke Coll. 1707 a.17, M.A. 1714; R. Oxford, St. Aldate 1743–54.

¹¹ Elsfield. Francis Seeley of Oxford city, m. Trinity Coll. 1722/3 a.16, M.A. 1729; C. Elsfield 1731.

¹² Gilbert Stephens of Berks., m. St. Mary's Hall 1738 a.31, B.C.L. 1752; R. Noke 1739–73, P.C. Beckley 1764; see also *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vi, pp. 274–5; also iii.70–2 *infra*.

From the Revd. Edward Lewis¹

(ii.75–6)

[f.76] Waterstock, May 29, 1745

My Lord

Since I had the Honour of yours I have had Recourse to Ecton,² and will give Mr Ashhurst a Title in the requisite Form.³ I could indeed have wish'd the yearly Sum might have been slurr'd over in general Terms, but since

that will not be accepted, I will mention it in particular, after first humbly intreating your Lordships Patience to attend to some of my Reasons for its being so small.

To exaggerate matters, to one of your Lordships discernment, will, I know, be of no use. I shall therefore point out only bare matters of fact, and leave the Event to a superior determination.

The Living is small.

Taxes &c are high.

The business required of the Curate is only Sundays Duty.

Upon these and such other Motives I shall presume to set down Twenty Pounds. And I am well assured your Lordship will be as indulgent to me as Equity will permit. For which Reason, If I am so unhappy, as to think too favourably on my own side, any commands Your Lordship shall [f.75v.] think fit to lay upon me, shall with cheerfulness be obeyed, by, My Lord,

Your Lordships most Dutiful and most Obedient Humble Servant

Edward Lewis

[Endorsed 'Mr Ashurst', 'Waterstock Cur 1745']

¹ Of Ches., adm. St. John's Camb. 1719, M.A. 1726; R. Emmington 1725-84, R. Waterstock 1726-84.

² J. Ecton, *Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum*, 1742.

³ Allin Ashhurst subscribed as curate of Waterstock in 1732 and Thomas Ashhurst in 1745. Thomas Henry Ashhurst held the manor of Waterstock to 1744 and thereafter Sir William Henry Ashhurst to 1807: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vii, p. 223.

From the Revd. Robert Harrison

(ii.77-8)

[f.78] Tadmarton, June 24, 1745

My Lord

I send the following Answers to Your Lordship's Queries. I hope they will prove satisfactory. To the first Question (why I sent none of my Parishioners to be confirmed by You at Banbury?) I reply, That ever since the Chancellor gave Notice of a Confirmation I made it my Business to enquire of the Masters of Families whether any one under their Care, or themselves, had as yet been confirmed; if they had not, I told them that they should by no Means neglect the present Opportunity; that, if they intended to be confirmed themselves, their Children or Servants, I expected that, according to Your Lordship's Directions, they should send me in an Account of their Names. Which had they done, I should have thought it my Duty to have waited upon Your Lordship with them myself, & would scorn to be wanting in Respect to my Diocesan any more than the Rest of the Clergy. As I have the Testimony of a good Conscience of having done my Duty in the Affair above mentioned there is nothing will make me uneasy but Your Lordships thinking I did not. To the other Question

[f. 77v.] (Whether I reside as yet in my Parsonage House) I answer that I do, & have done for some Time. Not to trouble Your Lordship with a tedious Letter any Longer – I shall conclude with saying that by God's Help I will endeavour that you shall have no Cause to complain of,

My Lord, Your Lordship's Dutiful Son & Servant

Robert Harrison.

[Endorsed "Tadmarton Mr Harrison June 1745"]

To the Very Revd. Dr. Thomas Cheney

(ii. 79–80)

Cuddesdon, June 25, 1745

Good Mr Dean

Having had no Opportunity either of discoursing you in Town or of seeing you, as you passed through Oxfordshire, I take the Liberty of troubling you with this Letter in relation to the Parishes in this County, belonging to the Church of Lincoln: wch are Langford, Cropredy, Horley & Hornton, Banbury, Milton, Thame. The Bishop of Lincoln & I agreed last year, that after informing our selves as far as conveniently we could, concerning the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of those Parishes, we wd lay the Result of our Inquiries before the Bp of Salisbury, & be determined, so far as we were concerned, by his Opinion. Accordingly we sent our Papers to him a little before Easter: & soon after, he gave us a verbal Opinion to the following Effect.

The Charter of the Bishoprick of Oxford having these Words, Ipsam Civitatem –unimus, he was clear, that whatever power the Bp of Lincoln had in this County, the Bp of Oxford had thenceforwards. Therefore [sic]

As to Confirmation in these Parishes, since the Bp of Lincoln cd not have alienated that power from himself whilst they were part of his Diocese, it must be transferred to the Bp of Oxford by the Charter. It did indeed appear from Hearsay & private papers, that Bp Fuller, Bp Gardener & Bp Wake of Lincoln,¹ had confirmed at Banbury. And till I confirmed there in 1740, it did not appear that any Bp of Oxford had confirmed in any of these Peculiars. But they had confirmed the Parishioners of them in other places.

As to Institutions to the Vicarages of these Parishes: it appearing from the Register, that the Bp of Lincoln gave them, till Oxfordshire was taken from his Diocese, the Bp of Salisbury thought there was no Doubt but the Bp of Oxford ought to institute afterwds. It did not appear that the Bp of Lincoln had ever instituted to either of the two first Parishes abovementioned since that time. Nor did it appear that the Bp of Oxford, whose Register Books are very imperfect, had ever instituted to the third. Sometimes one, sometimes the other had instituted to the remaining three. And no other person or body of men appear to have instituted to any of them, excepting the Archbishop during the vacancy of the See of Oxford. Wn the Bp of

Lincoln instituted, he always directed his Mandate to the Dean & Chapter of Lincoln, to whom it appears that the Archidiaconal Jurisdiction had been anciently granted. But wⁿ the Bp of Oxford instituted, or the Archbishop during the vacancy of the See of Oxford, the Mandate was directed to the Archdeacon of Oxford. And the Charter of Foundation hath these words: *Et per præsentēs statuimus – auctoritate ejusdem*. By these words, or by the general Intent of the Charter, the Bp of Salisbury apprehended that the Right of receiving the Mandate for Induction was restored to the Archdeacon. Note, there is no saving Clause [*f. 79v.*] in this Charter to the Church of Lincoln: or to the Bp of Lincoln, excepting in relation to the University of Oxford

As to the Right of visiting these Parishes, there was no Doubt made, but the Church of Lincoln had a Right to the annual and archidiaconal visitation of them. And the following ancient Appointmt appeared to have been made by the Bp in relation to the Prebends of the Church of Lincoln, excepting such as were in the City, or such as the Bp & Archdeacons had usually exercised Jurisdiction in: *statuimus – semper salvis*. Whether these 6 Parishes in Oxfordshire were such as the Bps of Lincoln had usually exercised Jurisdiction in, did not appear. But even if they were not, the Bp of Salisbury apprehended, that by Virtue of the abovementioned Exceptions, the Bp of Lincoln might visit them triennially, unless there be any thing to the contrary in either of the abovementioned Titles; which he thought shd be inquired into; & also, w^t the practice was before the Erection of the Bishoprick of Oxford; & w^t it had continued to be in relation to such peculiars of the Church of Lincoln as are within the Diocese of Lincoln. It did not appear, that since Oxfordshire was divided from that Diocese, either Bp had visited those Parishes. The Archbishop indeed in the Vacancy of this See had granted Commissions to visit in places exempt as well as not exempt. But whether these Parishes were ever visited by virtue of such Commissions, I do not find. Mr Terry in a Letter to the present Bp of Lincoln, mentions Information which he hath recd of Bp Wakes visiting the Peculiars & confirming at Banbury in 1706 and 1709. But if he means, that Bp Wake then visited as well as confirmed at Banbury, or any other of the Oxfordshire Peculiars, he is misinformed. For it appears from a Letter of Dr Mandeville, who was Chancellor of the Church of Lincoln, to Bp Wake, dated 24 Sept. 1711 that the Bp wanted to know, whether he might not visit these Peculiars.² Dr Mandeville gives his Opinion, that since he cd confirm, he might visit: yet saith, that no body at Lincoln remembers any Bp of Lincolns visiting them; but that they all wish his Right of doing it might be retrieved, if possible; & will make further Inquiry for this Purpose. This letter is amongst Archbishop Wakes papers at Christ Church.³ And it shews, that the Church of Lincoln were then satisfied, that there was no Inconsistence between their annual Visitation & the Bps triennial one.

Thus, Sir, I have given you an account of wt was laid before the Bp of Salisbury, & of his Opinion upon it. The Bp of Lincoln intirely agreed with him, so far as he was concerned: & accordingly declared, that he wd not attempt to do any one Episcopal Act in Oxfordshire. I hope you will consider the matter so far as you think the Church of Lincoln concerned [*f.80*] in it. Your Predecessor made no Complaint of my confirming at Banbury.⁴ And I promise my self, that you will have no Objection to my confirming in any other of these Parishes: as I purpose to do at Thame about two months hence, unless you have some Reason to desire, that I wd forbear it. As I do not find, that the Dean of the Church of Lincoln ever claimed the Power of Institution in these Peculiars, we can have no Dispute on that Head. And as the Bp of Oxford, & the Archbishop acting for him in the Vacancy, have always directed the Mandate for Induction to the Archdeacon of Oxford, I hope you will acquiesce in that also. For surely I cannot direct it to you. I apprehend you have a clear Right of visiting annually. Whether I have not a Right also of visiting triennially, will better appear, when the abovementioned Inquiries, which the Bp of Salisbury recommended, have been made. For I suppose my Right is de jure communi, unless it have been taken or given away. And they, who plead that it hath, shd shew that it hath. I heartily wish therefore, that you wd direct this matter to be looked into: & shall be full as well pleased to find, that I am not to visit, as to find, that I am. Bp Robert (Groshead I suppose)⁵ remitted for ever to all the Prebendaries of the Church of Lincoln omnia jura Episcopalia & omnes Exactiones. Therefore no Profits can accrue to me or my Officers from Visitation: which might probably occasion dropping it. And for Power, I do not think it worth the Trouble. But I am desirous of doing, to the best of my Understanding & Ability, wt my Oath binds me to do. And I am extremely desirous to have it settled what that is, if possible, whilst I have persons to deal with, who are so well disposed to settle it amicably, as the present Bp of Lincoln & you.

And now I have only one Addition more to make to this long Letter; which is, to tell you that the Vicar of Banbury,⁶ till I informed him better last week, was granting Licences in the Name of Bishop Willes as being still Dean of Lincoln. So I suppose it frequently happens in the Czarinas or Emperor of Chinas Dominions, that the Officers of the extreme parts may not know who is the reigning Prince till some years after his Accession. With my best wishes of a happy Reign to you, Mr Dean, it wd be no Compliment to say a long one, I am very sincerely your loving brother & humble servt

Tho. Oxford

[Endorsed 'To Dr Cheney Dean of Lincoln June 25. 1745'; n.b. folios 81-2 contain a second copy omitted in this edition.]

¹ Bishops of Lincoln: William Fuller 1667–75, James Gardiner 1695–1705, William Wake 1705–16.

² John Mandeville, chancellor of the diocese 1695–1713, and dean of Lincoln 1724/5.

³ Ch. Ch. Archives, MS. 234 (Wake Papers vol.1) no. 281.

⁴ Edward Wiles; see i.3 for Secker's confirmation there in 1738.

⁵ Robert Grosseteste bp. Lincoln 1235–54.

⁶ John Wardle of Staffs., m. Oriel 1723 a.19, M.A. 1734; V. Banbury 1738/9–58.

From the Very Revd. Dr. Thomas Cheney

(ii.83–4)

Lincoln, July 3, 1745

My Lord.

I have the favour of yours dated June 25th &, after considering it wth all the Attention I can, find the Subject-matter very difficult, & by reason of various & inconsistent Practices involv'd in great Obscurity.

As yr Ldship & the Bishop of Lincoln have thought proper to submit their respective Claims to the Bishop of Sarum's Consideration, so far as I am concern'd that appears a very good Precedent for our Chapter to follow, tho' at present I have no Opportunity of conferring wth. my Brethren, nor does it appear that my Lord of Sarum's Verbal Opinion, as represented by yr Lordship, rests itself upon anything more than Conjecture & Probability.

Yr Lordship may be assur'd I shall use my utmost Endeavours to answer yr Expectations, & will not fail at my return into the South to let you know the full result of such Enquiry as I can make whilst here, wch perhaps may prove more satisfactory [f.83v.] & afford some new Light, if I chance to meet wth. my Brothr. Dr Geo: Reynolds, who seems by a Book he has publish'd to be more conversant in the Records both of the Chapter & Bishoprick than any other I can yet hear of.¹ When I mention'd yr Lordship's lettr to Mr Terry, I mean that part of it wch concern'd him, He assur'd me wth much Positiveness that Bishop Wake Visited as well as Confirm'd at Banbury, & this upon the Authority [sic] of a living Witness, Dr Davd. Trimmell, who attended as his Chaplain.

Whenever yr Lordship shall proceed to confirm at or near Banbury, I think you wd. doe well to contrive some new Office for the Confirmation of Marriages, as, by the Account you are pleas'd to give of the Form of granting Licenses there, the Validity of 'em for the last Year may justly be call'd in question. I am, My Lord,

Yr Lordship's Most Obedient & Faithfull humbl. Servt.

Tho: Cheney.

[f.84] Yr Lordship will please to excuse the liberty I have taken to enclose a lettr for Dr Barton, wch. is in no haste, but may be deliver'd the first time any servt. shall goe to Oxford on other occasions.

[Endorsed 'Dr Cheyney Dean of Lincoln July 3. 1745']

¹ G. Reynolds, *An Historical Essay Upon the Government of the Church of England, From the Earliest To the Present Times*, London, 1743.

From the Revd. Samuel Thornbury

(ii.85-6)

[f.86] Tetsworth, July 16, 1745

My very much Honoured Lord,

Yesterday I receiv'd the Favour of your last Letter, and, in Answer to your Request, will not fail of giving the several Gentlemen within-mentioned Notice of your Design as soon as possible.¹ Your Lordship is likewise therein pleas'd to intimate, that you have ordered a Parcell of Religious Tracts to be sent us, to be distributed by us amongst our several Parishioners: As this extraordinary Care of your People, My Lord, justly demands our warmest Acknowledgments; so I beg Leave to return you my most hearty Thanks, for the very bountiful as well as valuable Present that you intend us;² not doubting, my Lord, but, by the Blessing of God, they will prove of great Use and Benefit to our Flocks. I hope I shall soon have the Honour of paying my Duty and Respects to your Lordship at Cuddesden, to receive any farther Commands that you may have for,

My Lord, Your most dutiful Son and Servant,

Saml. Thornbury.

[Endorsed 'Mr Thornbury']

¹ His plans for confirmation; see ii.80.

² Secker stressed the value of tracts and other religious books in pastoral work in his second visitation charge: *Porteus*, v, p. 354.

From the Revd. Joseph Butler

(ii.87-8)

Alkerton, Oct. 18, 1745

May it please your Lordship,

The Visiter last Visitation so strictly examining into my life & morals, & so publickly, gives me no little Uneasiness;¹ not that I am afraid of having my character stand the Test of a publick Court, but it gives a great deal of room for Suspicion (wch soon prejudices weak minds) among those sort of people who are then present from all the Neighbg: parishes attending yr Office, & who don't rightly consider that the Scandal is not in the nearly being suspected, but in the deserving to be so. From the Interrogatories I am sorry to say, I can't but imagine Yr Lordship has a very different opinion of me, wch I doubt not has proceeded from the private aspersion of some prejudiced person; I humbly presume, I can't be wrong in my conjecture as yr Lordship can form no judgment of me but from hence. Now my Lord as my character is what I relie on for my success in life, I hope You'll be so good, so kind to acquaint me from whence the Accusation arises, & give me leave to defend myself; as I can without Vanity say, since my first setting out in life, my character was never before cal'd in question, I was never thought to be an Immoral man, & I can safely apply for this Truth to all the Clergy in my Neighborhd: who have been my chief

Acquaintance since I have lived in this Country, as also to those parishes where I have been more immediately concern'd.

As to the Duty of my church I do it wth as much zeal, and regularity as any of yr Lordships Clergy, and as much to the satisfaction of my parish, and have as real a regard for every part of the Liturgy.

[f.88] I Catechized all the Lent only wch is the custom of this place & I beleive of all the Neighbg: parishes round me, wch are six times as big, as then I had only one or two at the most besides my own servt boy.

My Lord, as I have the greatest reason to beleive yr Lordship to be a lover of Justice, I the more readily apply for the motive of my being made so distinguish'd a mark of yr Lordships displeasure, wch upon just grounds would be the greatest concern to me, & should be always both ready, & glad upon only a private admonition to reform any of that part of my life, where I break in upon the characters of a good Christian, a good Moralist;

Who am wth all due Respect Yr Lordships Most dutyfull, most obedient Son, and Servt:

Jos: Butler.

[To Westminster and endorsed 'Alkerton Mr Butler Oct 18. 1745']

¹ The chancellor, Daniel Burton; for a report on Butler see ii.67v-68. On Nov. 17, 1744 Butler had appeared in the consistory court charged with non-residence and neglect of his parish; he was admonished and paid expenses of 14s. 4d.: O.R.O., O.D.P. c.2139, f.38.

To the Revd. Joseph Butler

(ii.89)

St James's Westminster, Oct. 21, 1745

Sir

I did direct the Visitor to inquire concerning your Character: but did not imagine he wd inquire in such a manner as to hurt it & hope he hath not. His report is not yet come to my hands. What my Reasons for the Inquiry were I do not think it proper to inform you and therefore shall only say that you are by no means the first Clergyman in my Diocese concerning whom I have given such directions nor probably will be the last but that I shall never believe ill of any of them on slight grounds & shall constantly endeavour to do all of them as much justice in this & every respect as is in the power of your loving brother & servt

TO

From the Revd. John Pinnell

(ii.90-1)

Fittleworth near Petworth, Sussex, Dec. 12, 1745

My Lord,

I humbly beg your Lordship's Pardon for giving you this fresh Trouble upon the Subject of Horspath: I am very lately returned from Oxford where

I found the Society of Madg: College generally of Opinion, that their Cure of Horspath was exempted from your Lordship's Jurisdiction, & that I could not, consistently with the Duty I owed to the College, submit to it; at least, till things had been further examined. They likewise apprehend, with Submission to yr. Lordship, that where the Right of an Exemption is claimed, the Presumption lies in Favour of the Claimant & Possessor of that Privilege, & not in Favour of the ordinary Jurisdiction. During my Stay at the College, I made all the Enquiry I could, but through the Confusion & Hurry in which I found every thing on Account of the Death & Election of a President,¹ was not able to get any Sight of the old Writings relating to it, which lie deposited in the Archives of the College, & the Keys were then in Possession of the Presidents Executors. Your Lordship may find some Satisfaction in this Point by consulting the last Edition of Bp. Tanner's Notitia Monastica under the Articles of Magdalen College, & St. John's Hospital;² where several Exemptions from the Jurisdiction of the Bp. of Lincoln are taken Notice of, particularly under the latter, where the Estate of Shotovre [sic], of which Horsepath is undoubtedly a Part, is said to be exempt from The ordinary Jurisdiction: When he comes a little lower to mention Horsepath, he does not [f. 90v.] indeed repeat it there, as being unnecessary, because what was said before of the whole, extended to all its Parts. He takes notice of the Appropriation of Horsepath, & refers to the particulars of it; A Sight of which may possibly give some further Light into it. I have been informed that there are few or no Appropriations of this Kind, but wt. were exempted from the ordinary Jurisdiction, & your Lordship may have Instances of several others within yr. Diocese. If your Lordship insists on my Promise of taking a Licence to Horsepath, which for want of due Information of the Sentiments of the Society, I made to you in my last; I will by no means forfeit my Word to your Lordship, or be accessary in giving up the Privileges of the College, but shall be ready to resign all Title to the Cure, as the means of extricating myself from the Difficulties I lie under with Respect to both Parties. The Death of my Father, & the very troublesome Situation in wch. my afflicted mother is left, has called, & will detain me longer in Sussex than I could foresee, in the mean time yr. Lordship may have this Satisfaction, that the best Care shall be taken for the regular Supply of the Parish, whilst I have any Concern therein; & when any Authentic Writing relating to the Privilege in question can be found, I will not fail of communicating it to yr. Lordship; I am with the greatest Respect

yr. most dutifull Servant.

John Pinnell

[f. 91] P.S.

Since the writing this Letter we have been under the most terrible Apprehensions, it having been confidently asserted & generally believed, that a large Body of French were landed at Pevensy Bay in this County, &

messengers were sent to the Duke of Somersets, & to all the People of Distinction in this Neighbourhood with Accounts of it. Expresses have been dispatched by the Governor of Portsmouth,³ & several other Persons to the Place & we are this Night released from our Fears by positive assurance that there is not a man landed. There is a great Fleet of Ships off at Sea, but of what Nation, or on what Design, is not known. The Gates of Chichester were kept locked all Day, & a general Consternation ran through all Degrees of People, whose Fears had magnified the Number to twenty thousand.

[Endorsed 'Horsepath. Mr Pinnell Dec. 12. 1745']

¹ President Edward Butler died Oct. 29, 1745, and was succeeded by Thomas Jenner on Nov. 13, (1747 according to *V.C.H. Oxon.*, iii, p. 202) presumably 1745, as in *Macray*, v, pp. 53-4.

² T. Tanner, *Notitia Monastica or a Short History of the Religious Houses in England and Wales*, Oxford, 1695, reprinted in 1744.

³ General Philip Honywood, governor of Portsmouth 1741-52: ed. N.W. Surry and J.H. Thomas, 'Book of Original Entries, 1731-51', *Portsmouth Record Series*, iii, 1976.

From the Revd. Gilbert Walton

(ii.92-3)

Burton near Kettering, Northants., Jan. 4, 1745/6

My Lord.

I have had the pleasure of being inform'd, that the Curacy of Nether Worton in a fair Way to be augmented this Year with the Queens Bounty, in a Letter I had the Honour of receiving from your Lordship about a Fortnight ago; I should immediately have made my Humble and thankfull Acknowledgments for it, as I do now, to your Lordship, but that I thought it would be impertinent to trouble Your Lordship, before I had provided my self with an answer to every Query in Your Lordship's Letter; I have subjoyn'd the Entry made in the Register Book by Mr Harris¹ who was Mr Yerburch's Predecessor, which may serve as an answer to that Query of your Lordships, wherein You ask, whether [f.92v.] in case of Augmentation there is any Security that the £10 a Year will continue to be paid;² The Estate, late Parsons's,³ out of which the £10 per Annum arises I am inform'd is Tythe-free, and is at present in the possession of the Dutchess of Argyll who has the Right of Nomination, and who pays the said £10 regularly once a Year at the feast of St Michael.⁴ There is no other stated Income belonging to the Curacy, or any casual Profitts that I know of; The Surplice Fees are so inconsiderable that I question whether they have amounted to a Shilling in the Year since I have been concern'd there; The Church Yard belongs to the Dutchess of Argyll; Mr Sayer my Curate constantly resides at Upper Worton which is but half a Mile distant from Nether Worton, and Divine Service is perform'd every Sunday in the Year in both [f.93] Churches. I heartily wish the Curacy may be found properly

qualified for the Queens Bounty, if it is, for whatever steps may be necessary to be taken afterwards. I humbly hope to have your Lordships Advice and Instructions, especially when I reflect on the great Care and Regard Your Lordship has shewn for all your Clergy, and particularly My Lord, for your Lordships most oblig'd and dutifull and Obedient Sert.

Gil Walton

Sr John Dolben who is as well at present as I have known Him to be the last Year or two sends his Respects to yr Lordship.

[f.93v.] Entry in the Register Book of
Nether Worton

William Parsons Esq. who died March the sixteenth one thousand seven Hundred and fourteen left by his Will dated but a little before his Death ten Pounds a Year rent Charge on his Estate for the Service of the Church of Nether Worton for Ever.⁵

Enjoy'd for many Years by Me
Nath. Harris Rectr of Over Worton⁶

This Mr Harris died in the Year 1729

[Endorsed 'N. Worton']

¹ Nathaniel Harris of Fritwell, m. All Souls 1682/3 a.15, Hart Hall M.A. 1689; R. Over Worton 1693-1729.

² Francis Yarborough of Yorks, m. Univ. 1712/13 a.17, B.N.C. M.A. 1719, D.D. 1746, Principal 1745-70; R. Over Worton 1729-39.

³ For details of this estate see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xi, pp. 288, 291.

⁴ Jane Campbell, 2nd wife and widow of 2nd duke of Argyll, d.1767: *Compl. Peerage*, i, pp. 207-8.

⁵ The Parsons were one of the principal families in Nether Worton: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xi, 289-92 *passim*.

⁶ R. Over Worton 1696-1729.

From Henry Montague

(v, no.1)¹

Lincoln's Inn, Jan. 11, 1745/6

My Lord,

By your Lordships Accot. of the C[uracy] of Wheatley, within the parish of Cuddesden & C[hurch] of Oxford, which was drawn by Lot in Decr. last, it appears, that £10 a year have for many years been Given, to the Minister who Officiates there, by the Bishops of Oxford; I presume, as they are Vicars of Cuddesden, the Mother Church, and as such, have the Right of Naming the Curates of Wheatley:²

Your Lordship knows very well, that by the Act of the 1st. of King Geo. 1st. Chapr. 10th. Sectn. 16th. the Govrs. before they Augment any Curacy or Chapel are expresly [sic] Impowered to Treat & Agree with any Patron, or parson or Vicar of any Mother Church, for a perpetuall yearly payment,

to be made, to the Minister of such Chapel, in all succeeding times, by such patron . . . & his & their Heirs & Successors; And for Charging & Subjecting, the Improprate Rectory, or the Mother Church, or Vicarage, therewith, in such manner, & with such Remedies; as shall be thought fit; and in case such patron . . . will not make such Agreemt., the Govrs are Impowered to refuse their Augmn. & apply the Mony for Augmg. some other Cure:³ – And, indeed, if Every patron . . . of any Mother Church, were to be left at Liberty after the Augmentation, to withdraw only so much out of their former Allowance, which had been usually paid, as is equall to the Annuall Income arising from the Bounty (which too many, perhaps wo[ul]d be inclined to do) in such case, the poor Curacy wod. be no ways Benefitted [sic]. Nor wod. the Maintenance of the poor Curate be at [f.1v.] all increased, by the Augmn.; But the patron . . . wod. by this means, take to his own Use the whole Advantage of the Govrs. £200, and, in effect, put the Mony into his own pocket:

As the Preventing the Royall Bounty from being so manifestly perverted, & misapplied, seems to be One of the Chief, if not the principal View & Intent of the Legislature, who, however, have not thought fit to make use of any other means, to Compell such patrons . . . to Comply with such Terms as the Govrs. shall think reasonable; but only by Authorizing the Govrs; in case of their refusall, to withdraw their Augmentn., For that reason, in order that an Act, so well intended, may not be rendered quite Vain & ineffectuall, the Govrs. look upon themselves to be under a Kind of Necessity, & have, therefore, laid it down as a Rule, to withdraw their Augmn., in all Cases, where the Patron . . . shall refuse to Secure, at least such reasonable Stipend, as appears to have been usually paid, before their Augmn.:

After I have thus fully Apprizd Your Lordshipp, of the General Grounds & Reasons which Induce the Govrs. always to insist, on Every Patron . . . their securing such reasonable Stipend, as has been usually paid, I am perswaded it is needless and sensible it wod. ill become me, to add any thing more, upon this subject, I shall, therefore, only desire Your Lopps Answer whethr. in case the Augmn. of Wheatley can be Compleated, (which for the reason, I shall afterwds. Mention, seems somewhat dubious) [f.2] You are willing effectually to Secure, the usuall Stipend of £10 a year, to the Curate of Wheatley & his Successors for ever, and to Charge the Vicarage of Cuddesden, with the perpetuall payment thereof, in such manner as the Govrs. Councell shall advise, & as has been usually done in the like Cases:

Tho in your Lordships Accot. of the C. of Wheatley, it is said, that neither the Incumbent of Cuddesden, nor of any other Church, is Obligated to do any Duty at this Chapel, or to provide for doing it; yet by Ectons Liber Valorum, fo: 270 (which Book was Compiled from the Originll [sic] Returns, made in to the Excheqr. in pursuance of the Discharging Acts, in Queen Annes Reign) the Vicarage of Cuddesden appears to be Entered

thus, Vizt. Cuddesden V. cum Capella Wheatley; wch looks as if the Chapel were annexed to the Vicarage:

What foundation Mr. Ecton had to put it, in this manner I cannot say, for as the V. of Cuddesden, is a Living remaining in Charge, Consequently its Value cannot have been Certified into the Excheqr; And since I wrote the foregoing paragraph, there being no Return into the Excheqr., the Records returned into the First Fruits Office, in the time of King Henry 8th., have been Searched, And there, indeed, The V. of Cuddesden is Mentioned alone, without the Additon of cum Capella Wheatley; This I thought proper to Apprize Your Lordshipp of. And am, with sincere Wishes of many happy Years to your Lordshipp,

My Lord Your Lordships Most Obedient and Very Humble Servant
Henry Montague.

[Endorsed 'abt Wheatley Chapel Jan 11. 1745-6']

¹ L.P.L., MS. 1120, item 13.

² See ii.135-6 n.3.

³ 1 Geo. I St.2 cap.10, An Act for Making More Effectual Her Late Majesty's Gracious Intentions for Augmenting the Maintenance of the Poor Clergy (Queen Anne's Bounty Act, 1714).

From the Revd. Gilbert Walton

(ii.94-5)

[f.95] Burton Latimer, Northants., Feb. 1, 1745/6

My Lord.

In answer to your Lordship's of Jan. 18th I beg leave to assure Your Lordship that Nether Worton is a distinct Parish by itself, not annex'd to or united with any other Parish whatever; it is rated separately to the Land Tax, and No Parish Officers of any other Place have any manner of concern there; I am further to inform Your Lordship that Divine Service is perform'd once on Sundays at this Place and once at Over-Worton, the stipend for which is £35 per annum and in answer to your Lordship's last Query I assure Your Lordship, that I still continue Curate to Sr John Dolben at his Living of Burton, the place where I have been Curate ever since I enter'd into Holy Orders. I am, My Lord with all Respect & Duty Your Lordships most Oblig'd and Obedient Humble Sert.

Gil Walton

[To Westminster and endorsed 'Nether Worton']

From Henry Montague

(v, no.2)¹

Lincoln's Inn, Feb. 4, 1745/6

My Lord,

I thought it proper to Acquaint your Lordshipp that your Accot. of the

C. of Wheatley, togethr. with your Letter, was, yesterday, laid before the Board, when, upon Considern, and in order to Attain what your Lordshipp proposes, it was thought proper, first, to Confirm & Compleat the Augmentn. of Wheatley, by Lot, without requiring any Assurance, from your Lordshipp, of the usuall Stipend of £10 a year, or taking any Notice of your Lopps Letter, Agreeing to secure that Stipend; By this means, it seemed to be the sense of the Board, that now the Augmn. by Lot, is Completed, Your Lordshipp is at liberty to make what offer, or proposall, you shall think fit, in order to obtain a second Augmn., by benefaction:

As there was a pretty deal of Business, to be laid before the Board, I had not, then, leisure maturely to Weigh the Expedt. proposed, But upon Considn., I am afraid it may be Attended with some difficulty; for as, by this Means, the securing the Stipend cannot be founded upon that Clause, in the Act of the 1st. of King Geo: 1st. I shod. much doubt whethr. Your Lopp., either as Bishop of Oxford, or Vicar of Cuddesden, can, without the Aid & Assistance of that Clause, Voluntarily Charge the Vicarage with the perpetuall paymt. of £10 a Year, in such manner as effectually to Bind Your Successors; I shod, at the same time, inform your [f.1v.] Lordshipp, that I do remember, in the Year 1740, the C. of Little Budworth, in the D. of Chester, was Augmd. by the benefn., upon the Ld. Bishop of Chester,² securing a Rent Charge, or stipend, of £20 a year; This Objection in its nature, extends to the Title, and as, in all Cases of benefns., with Lands or Rent-Charges, the Benefacts Title is first laid before, & approved by, the Govrs. Councell, I cannot take upon my self to say, how far Mr. Barker, (Who was then Council to the Govrs.)³ Catered into the Considn. of this difficulty, when he approved of the Ld. Bishop of Chesters Title, in the Case of Little Budworth; And to be sure, the Objection will be properly Considd. by Mr Pilsworth, when the proposed augmn. of Wheatley shall be laid before him;⁴ I have only taken the liberty of suggesting what Occurs to me, upon the Occasion, which I humbly hope Your Lordshipp will be so good as to Excuse; and am, with sincere Respect, My Lord,

Your Lordships most Obedient, and Very Humble Servant,

Henry Montague.

[Endorsed 'Mr Montague abt Wheatley Feb. 4 1745-6']

¹ L.P.L., MS 1120, item 14.

² Samuel Peploe bp. 1726-52.

³ Unidentified.

⁴ Inner Temple called 1715, M.P. Aylesbury 1741-47, d.1749: *Hist. Parl.*, ii, p. 348.

From Henry Montague

(v, no.3)¹

Lincoln's Inn, Feb. 10, 1745/6

My Lord

Since the late Act of Mortmain no proposall, or promise in Writing,

under hand & seal, (which was formerly Used) can be Accepted by the Govrs., either for the Giving of Money, or for the Conveying & Settling any Lands or Rent Charges, in order to Obtain an Augmn., by benefaction; that Act requiring the same to be Actually Given, Granted, Conveyed, & Settled, by Deed Indented, sealed & delivered in the presence of two or more Credible Witnesses, Twelve Kalendar months at least before the death of the Donor; which Indre. must be Inrolled in Chancery, within six Months after the Execution:²

In all Cases, therefore, where Augmentations are to be founded on a benefaction, wch. consists of a Rentcharge, the Course & method, wch. has been necessarily introduced since the Act, is, in the first place, to issue the usuall Comission, to Enquire into the Nature & Value of the Lands & premises, out of which the Rentcharge is to be issuing; But as, in the present Case, the V. of Cuddesden appears, in Ectons liber Valorum fo: 270. to be a Living remaining in Charge, & of the yearly Value of – £17 00s. 5d. in the Kings books, there seems to be very little, if any, Occasion for such Enquiry; and if the Govrs. shall think themselves to be, already, sufficiently informed & satisfied, as to the Value of the premises intended to be Charged

The next step is, to lay the Benefactor's Title, to the pr[e]m[is]es, before the Govrs Councill, for his approbn., & for him to prepare a proper Deed of Conveyance, or Grant; for wch. purpose, I apprehend, Your Lordshipp can, probably, have nothing else to produce but the Act or Instrumt. (if any such there be) whereby [*f. 1v.*] the Vicarage of Cuddesden is annext to the See of Oxford; And if nothing, even of this kind, can be produced, so as to be laid before the Councill, then Your Lordships Intention to Grant & secure such a Rentcharge with the manner in which the same is proposed to be done, must be laid before him, by way of a Case; when, the Question, I have Mentioned to your Lordshipp, will fall properly under his Consideratn.; as the Augmentn. proposed to be Obtained, for the C. of Wheatley, is attended with some Circumstances not Common arising, partly, from the particr. Nature of the Title under wch. Your Lopp, (the intended Benefactor) Holds, I have troubled You, with what Occurs to my thoughts, in relation to the sevell. steps Necessary, to the Compleating such Augmn., if it can be done:

The only thing which seems to be Wanting, in order to Compleat the intended Augm. of the C. of Netherworton, is the Consent of the Duchess of Argyle; for which purpose I shall apply to Her Grace, in the Name of the Govrs. as soon as I can learn where she is, & how to Direct to her:³

I am, My Lord, Your Lordships most Obedt. Humble Servant

Henry Montague.

[Endorsed 'Mr Montague abt Wheatley Chapel Feb. 10 1745–6']

¹ L.P.L., MS. 1120, item 15.² An Act to Restrain the Disposition of Lands, Whereby the Same Become Unalienable, 9 George II cap. 36.³ Jane Campbell.

From the Revd. Dr. John Audley

(ii.96)

Magdalen College, Feb. 15, 1745/6

My Lord,

I have communicated Your Lordship's letter to the Society, who are by no means dispos'd to have any dispute about the matter with Your Lordship; but think themselves oblig'd to You for the kind and friendly manner You have been pleas'd to convey Your Sentiments to them. Mr. Pinnell, the present Curate of Horspath, is not now in College, but I have wrote to him and sent a copy of Your Lordship's letter, and doubt not but he will make use of the first opportunity that offers to wait on You.

I am, My Lord, Your Lordship's dutiful Son and very humble Servant
J Audley.

From the Revd. Dr. Thomas Pickering to the Revd. Dr. Daniel Burton at Christ Church

(ii.97-8)

[? Kirtlington] Apr. 22, 1746

Sr.

I beg the favour of you to return this Answer to his Lordship's Question – whether I have been resided at Kirtlington from Saturday to Tuesday according to my Promise last year? I think I made his Lordship that promise about the Middle of October since which time I have kept a residence of three Months at least. Particularly I staid at Kirtlington from the beginning of December to the End of January without returning once to College. And if ever I omitted keeping the residence requir'd by his Lordship it was owing to a bad state of Health which has sometimes oblig'd me to desire the Assistance of my friends. I hope you was satisfied with the Reason I offer'd by my servant for not waiting upon you at the Visitation, and beg leave to Assure you that I resolve and desire to attend upon his Lordship and your self whenever it is in my Power.

I am Sr: Your most humble Servant

Tho: Pickering

[Endorsed 'Kirtlington 1746 Curates residence']

'Mr Pilsworths Opinion abt Wheatley Chapel 8 May 1746' (v, no.4)¹

I am of Opinion that the Lord Bishop of Oxford cannot, at present, Charge the Vicaridge of Cuddesden with the Payment of £10 a year to the

Curate of Wheatley and his Successors, in order to obtain a second Augmentation from the Royal Bounty, so as Effectually to bind his Successors in the Bishoprick of Oxford. For the Statute of 1. Geo. I. Chap: 10. Sectn. 16. has Authorized the Governors to agree, with the respective Persons there described, for securing the Payment of such Stipends from their Successors, in those Cases only where it shall fall to the Lot of any Donative, Curacy, or Chapelry to receive an Augmentation from the Bounty, and, in such Cases, the Governors (by the Express words of the Statute) are to make the Agreement for securing the Stipend before they make the Augmentation; Therefore as the Augmentation of the Curacy of Wheatley has been already made by Lot and Confirmed, the Stipend cant be Effectually secured, by Virtue of that Statute, by way of Benefaction for a second Augmentation; But such intended Stipend may hereafter be secured, when it shall again fall to the Lot of Wheatly to receive a second Augmentation in its proper Course and Time.

Cha: Pilsworth
8th. May 1746.

¹ L.P.L., MS. 1120, item 16.

From Thomas Bushell¹

(ii.99-100)

[f.100] Swinbrook, May 28, 1746

My Ld.

The bearer Mr Russell² waiting on you in regard to Swinbrook School I thought it my duty to send you the will of the foundress³ & to inform you as far as I can how the case is[.] a purchase was made as the will directs but the estate lying in common fiellds it has proved a very bad purchase & has been for severall years by which means there was not money enough raised to pay the £20 to the Schoolmaster[.] Mr Daniell⁴ the present Master having preferment in Darbyshier did not attend the School as he ought & indeed has not been near it for severall years so a person was put in to teach & Mr Coney the minister⁵ read prayers both with Mr Daniells consent[.] the person who was appointed to teach the school deserting[.] Mr Lacy & Mr Parker the two surviving trustees⁶ have appointed Mr Russell schoolmaster as yr Ldship will see[.] whether Mr Daniell has made any other [f.99v.] resignation than by deserting the place & giving up the possession of the house I know not[.] I have no exception to Mr Russell on any account for since he has been here he has behaved very well & been very diligent in his attendance on the school[.] had I been a trustee should have been desirous to have had the schooll went with the living of Witford as Mrs Pytts seemed by her will to have it so if her trustees had thought proper & the fund had been sufficient but as trustees think otherwise & if yr Ldship is of the same opinion am quite satisfied[.] the estate is now let at £34 per ann the landlord

paying taxes of all sorts so there may be enough for the schoolmaster but little for repairs which I am afraid are much wanting[.] I proposed waiting on yr Ldship when I was last in London but I was sent for down on a sudden but will certainly do myself that honour at Cudsden in a week or ten days

I am my Ld begging the blessing with the greatest esteem yr Most Dutifull & Most Obligated Humble Servant

Thos: Bushell

please to keep the will till I have the pleasure of waiting on you

[Endorsed 'Mr Bushell May 28 1746']

¹ One of the governors of the free school at Swinbrook: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 157; see also ii.36, n.3.

² John Russell of Northleach, Gloucs., m. Magd. Hall 1726/7 a.19; school master Swinbrook 1746, P.C. Swinbrook 1746–59, R. Wilcote 1761–74.

³ Mrs. Anne Pytts, 1652–1716, sister to Sir George Fettiplace: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 157; Secker filed the will with the Fettiplace charity papers: O.R.O., O.D.P., box 44 (not yet numbered).

⁴ ? Alexander Daniel of Bristol, m. Balliol 1734/5 a.16, M.A. 1741; see also *Vis. Retns.*, p. 157.

⁵ Thomas Coney of Witney, m. Balliol 1723/4 a.17, B.A. 1727; C. Eynsham 1729, C. Swinbrook 1731.

⁶ 'Rouland Lacy Esqr . . . and Captain Parker' were the other governors: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 157.

From the Revd. George Underwood¹

(ii.101)

Burford, May 31, 1746

My Lord

I recd. yrs of the 27th Instant last night, and am very sorry to find, that I have, to so great a degree, incur'd yr Lordship's displeasure. When I first waited upon yr Lordship at Cuddesden for Institution to Kencote, I told you, upon yr saying You hop'd I should live there, that I intended to do so, but added that I had a Family. When, My Lord, you Confirmd last at Bampton, you repeated the same thing, and I answer'd after the same manner. My Lord, the Truth of the Case is this; my wife will not consent to live there, upon any Consideration whatsoever. If therefore yr Lordship should insist upon my Residing, I must live apart from my family, which would be terrible indeed. – From Michaelmas last, I have had the parsonage in my own hands; since which time, I have often urged the necessity of my being on the spot; but to no purpose. I beg leave, My Lord, to say this, that I serve my Church punctually & regularly; and endeavour to keep my house barns &c, in as good repair as possible. But if, after all that can be said, yr Lordship should not be inclined to dispense with my residence, but proceed against me with all the rigour, the Law puts in yr hands; rather than to give yr Lordship so much trouble, or myself so much uneasiness, I believe, I should be almost willing to resign the little preferment I have, or however to exchange with any one for a place, where my family would not dislike to dwell, were the duty a great deal more, and the Income something less. Thus, My Lord, I have told you the whole truth, which, if throughly

consider'd, will, I hope, render me a fit object of yr pity, not of yr resentment.

I am, My Lord, Yr. Lordship's most dutifull Son and humble Servant
Geo: Underwood

¹ Of Burford, m. Ch.Ch. 1723 a.18, B.A. 1726/7; C. Burford 1731/2, R. Kencott 1743-79/80.

From Thomas Bushell

(ii.102)

[?Swinbrook] July 2, 1746

My Ld

The inclosed I recd this morning on Mr Daniells leaving this countrey & going into Derbyshire where he has a living[;] he agreed to have Mr Coney read prayers here on Sunday mornings & another person to teach the Schooll which he continued to do till Mr Russell was chose Master[.] Mr Coney still continues to read prayers though Mr Russell has offered to do it so hope yr Ldship will direct to what time Mr Coney shall be paid (date of the Licence to Mr Russell – marginal addition in Secker's hand) for I am afraid there will be a dispute[.] I am much obbligated to you for the great civilities at Cudsdon & am begging yr Ldships blessing
yr Most Dutifull & Most Obedient Humble Servant

T Bushell

From Herbert Beaver

(ii.103)

Oxford, Oct. 9, 1746

My Lord,

You receive herewith the Instruments for Mr. Hawkins's Institution to the Vicarage of Duns-Tew;¹ which I would not have made without your Lordship's Orders first received, if he had not pressd me very much to it, and told me, that, in the Case of a former Institution, your Lordship had signified to him, that this method was not improper. If I have done wrong, I beg that your Lordship will call upon him to justify what he has alleged to me. Mr. Hawkins is one of those Gentlemen who are pretty much in Arrear to your Lordship: Indeed he has never paid any Thing. He was Instituted to Begbrook March 5. 1739, and to Yarrington the 7th. of the same month. I hope your Lordship will not be surprizd, at least, not suspect any Danger, on finding the Institution Instrumt. ready seald; having two or three Instruments ready (saving the Blanks) when I seald the last orders, I took that opportunity of sealing those Instruments. Next Munday I go into Hampshire upon some Affairs of our College; and shall [f.103v.] in all probability be absent near a fortnight: I hope nothing material will happen during that time. The only Thing relating to your Lordship, must be some

Institution, of which I will take the best Care I can, by leaving one or two Blank setts of Instruments. –

I mentiond the Affair of Synodals and Procurations to Mr. Hawkins; but all the Answer he gave me was, that his Predecessors had never paid; which I beleive to be true, so far back as my Time goes, (viz. 1736) but no sufficient Argument to exempt him from the Payment of them. If your Lordship pleases, you will give him Orders to come to me upon his return, and clear those Scores. I am,

My Lord, Your Lordship's most Dutyfull Servt.

Herbert Beaver.

P.S. Oct. 12.

I am not forgetfull of the return to the Exchequer writ. Mr. Hawkins has not call'd for the Instruments, as he said he would, but I suppose will do it in my Absence.

¹ Richard Hawkins of Bloxham, m. Magd. Coll. 1723/4 a.18, M.A. 1730, chaplain 1729–64; V. Yarnton 1733–46, V. Begbrook 1739/40–64, V. Duns Tew 1746–64.

From the Revd. George Sheppard

(ii.104)

Charlbury, Nov. 8, 1746

May it Please Yr Lordship

The Enclos'd is a Letter from Mr Wardle who serves the Church of Hardwicke, in which he setts forth his Reasons for not serving that Church every Sunday as He Promis'd me he very Faithfully would do according to Yr Ldship's Directions when he first undertook it – I do assure Yr Ldship I knew nothing of any Omission, if I had, I should have disired Mr Wardle punctually to have obey'd Yr Ldship's Commands, therefore I hope Yr Ldship will excuse me for Giving You all this Trouble,

I am Yr Ldship's most Dutifull Son and humble Servant

Geo. Sheppard

My humble Duty to Yr Lordship.

From the Revd. Daniel Wardle

(ii.105–6)

Fringford, Dec. 12, 1746

My Lord

Inclosed from Mr. Sheppard I have receiv'd two Letters of your Lordships concerning the Parish of Hardwick, &, in Obedience to your Commands, send the following Particulars relating to it.¹ – The Protestant Inhabitants of Hardwick are, Samuel Knibs, Mary Knibs, & one Child about ten Years old, Samuel Wharton Eliz. Wharton & three little Children, Thomas Taylor & Ann Taylor, John Young & his Wife, a Boy Servant to Robert Day – The Popish Persons are Robert Day, (the Farmer that rents

the whole Parish) his Wife, three Sons, two of which are at Mens Estate, one Daughter, & a Maid Servant, Mrs. Short & her Maid Servant, Ralph Collett & his three Children, John Williams & his Maid Servt. Catherine Brock (& her two Sisters Sojourners only.)² – Now several of the above Protestants, tho' Persons of sober Lives & Conversation, hardly ever attend divine Service at their own Parish Church, excepting on Sacrament Sundays; The Reasons by which they, excuse themselves are as follow; Samuel Wharton is constantly employ'd as Labourer by Henry Fermor Esqr. of Tusmore, & on Sunday Morning is obliged to look after the Cows, & such sort of Cattle, to carry Wood & Coals unto the Kitchen &c: John Young is employ'd by Mrs. Short (Widow of Mr. Short late Steward to Mr. Fermor) & waits upon her every Sunday Morning; his Wife alledges old Age & Infirmitys as an Excuse for her non attendance. The rest (as is too much the Practice in other Places likewise) have frequent Avocations, so that we seldom can assemble more than three [f.105v.] or four, but never above half a Dozen. Not one Person ever complained of, or urged the Earliness of Service as a Plea for neglecting it, which never begins sooner than half an Hour past eight, tho' I am always there by eight, & I wish the Distance I reside from the Parish wou'd allow me to stay half an Hour longer. – In the Year 1741 I told your Lordship at Hethe, that I had given the Sacrament the Easter preceding to thirteen Persons; but at that Time Robert Day had a Protestant Wife, since dead, who always kept Protestant Servants, & for the most Part had a Protestant Relation in the House with her: Richard Heyton a Protestant of the Parish is since dead, & a Daughter of John Young is since married & gone. At that Time too Thomas Bignell a Protestant rented a Farm call'd Pimlico in the Parish of Tusmore, who, together with his Family, always attended the Church & Sacrament at Hardwick, which Farm is now in the Occupation of Mr. Fermor himself the Landlord of it, & the House is inhabited by his Butler's Wife, a Papist. This, My Lord, accounts for the Alteration in the Parish with Regard to Numbers; & that none has happen'd since I first knew it by the Insinuations of our Enemies with Regard to Principles; I do affirm upon the Word of a Clergyman; for tho' I can boast of no Proselytes from the Church of Rome, yet it is a Pleasure to me to reflect, that I have added none to it. If this (considering the Danger the Parish is exposed to from its Vicinity to Tusmore) be no Argument in Favour of my Care & Diligence as a Parochial Priest, the Inhabitants [f.106] themselves will bear Witness for me under their Hands whenever your Lordship shall require it, that I've not been wanting in my Duty either in publick or private, excepting only in the Instance that first led your Lordship to make these Inquiries, at which they never express'd the least Dissatisfaction; & That, if your Lordship thinks it a Neglect, upon the Grounds I have done it, shall for the future, God willing, be effectually removed, by a constant & regular Attendance every Sunday Morning, so long as I serve the Cure, If there be any other Particulars your

Lordship wants Information about, I shall be very ready to give it,
whenever you shall please to command, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most dutifull, & obedient Servant,

D Wardle

*In Confirmation of the Truth of the Account above, I have added the
Testimony of two, the most reputable Protestants of the Parish.

Hardwick Decr. 14th

The Contents of this Letter are true,

Witness our Hands Samuel Knib

Thomas Taylor

[In the hand of ? Samuel Knib from *, and endorsed 'Hardwick 1746']

¹ George Sheppard.

² *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vi, pp. 169, 172; *Vis. Retns.*, p. 72.

From the Revd. Dr. Lancelot Jackson¹

(ii.107-8)

Blethingdon, Dec. 31, 1746

My Lord,

As I was willing to give Your Lordship a true, & I hope, a satisfactory account how the Duty has been perform'd at Blethingdon since I had the Living of Launton, I deferr'd answering Your Lordship's Letter untill I had seen Mr. Lowry.²

In May forty four I was Instituted by Your Lordship to the Rectory of Launton, at which place I have resided constantly ever since, except for about a fortnight in each winter, when I always came to Blethingdon; and Mr. Lowry assures me, that, to the best of His knowledge, He has resided here eighteen Months, at least, during that time. Indeed He says He cannot promise Your Lordship to reside so much the two next summers, because He is Bursar of the College, & consequently His attendance there will be more requir'd. But then I shall be here more than I have hitherto been.

It is a Month since I left Launton, and I propose staying here at least two Months longer: And I intend to reside as long every other winter. If therefore Your Lordship [f.108] has been inform'd of any neglect of Duty here, I do not doubt but Your Lordship will be satisfy'd from this account that there have been no just grounds for such Information.

As I hope I shall always have a just sense of my own Duty, & shall endeavour to perform It in the best manner I am able, so I shall ever study to approve myself,

My Lord, Your Lordship's most dutiful & most obedt. humble Servt.

Lance'. Jackson

[Endorsed 'Dr Jackson Blethingdon. 1746']

¹ Of Westmld., m. Queen's 1724/5 a.19, M.A. 1731, D.D. 1743; C. Launton, R. Bletchington 1743-50/1, R. Launton 1744-50/1.

² John Lowry of Westmld., m. Queen's 1723/4 a.15, M.A. 1731, White's Prof. Moral Philosophy 1742; R. Charlton-on-Otmoor 1753-84.

From John Sheldon and others

(vii, no.2)¹

Wheatley, Feb. 11, 1746/7

To the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Oxford humbly present.
Whereas Your Lordship has lately thought fit to withhold Your Bounty which your Lordship and Ancestors has been pleas'd to bestow for some Years on several poor people (chiefly Widows) by giving them a weekly allowance of Bread; and also an allowance for putting six poor Children to School in this town of Wheatley; which we do, and alway must acknowledge to be your Lordships free Bounty & goodness, as knowing the numerous Poor we are constantly burdened with. – We therefore the chief Inhabitants of Wheatley aforesaid do humbly intreat Your Lordship to restore this your late favour & free Bounty to those poor & real Objects of Charity: And furthermore we do assure Your Lordship that we never had any other pretentions or thoughts but that it was alway a free gift; and if Your Lordship has heard of any Reports to the Contrary we are utterly ignorant of it, and are well assur'd that where there is no Signification there can be no Obligation, and do Attest the same with our own Hands this 11th. day of February 1746/7

John Sheldon Chapelwarden Richd Sheen

Tho Sheldon	}	Overseers
John Richmond		
John Sims		Constable

his

Thomas ^H Harper
Mark

Joseph Sims
Anne Adeane
John Speed
Richd. Williams
John Costar

[Endorsed 'Wheatley Gift to Poor & School']

¹ O.R.O., O.D.P. charity records, not yet referenced; listed in Canon W.J. Oldfield's 'Parochiae Oxon.', p. 286.

From Browne Willis

(ii. 109–10)

[f. 109v.] Whaddon Hall, May 8, 1747

My Lord

I recd yr Ldshipp's kind letter this evening at Eton where I was looking after my workmen at my mills;¹ no less than 18 in number – It will allmost break mee; £200 will not rebuild them: This gives mee (with many other things) great uneasyness & vexation. The Instrument of most of the Troubles I now undergoe and must for Life submit to I may truly lay to Mr Welbornes Charge – I had a Warrant agst the person who did the villany – But the Constable my son Toms Tenant neglected to serve it on him & let him get out of the Way for fear of his displeasure as the villan was Toms Landlord, when He lived in Mrs Welbornes House at Blechly, & so I lost my Labour in going to the Easter Sessions at the County Town of Bucks on Monday; & dont know when I may ever meet with such another opportunity, as wee have not a single justice in the 47 parishes in Newport Hundred, where Blechly Eton & Fstratfd lie – Tho: it was late viz past 8 on my coming Home – I could not omit sitting immediately down to transcribe my Rental of yr Ldshipp's Bpprick & so yr Ldshipp has it literatim from my MSS^t; but I [f. 110] find I needed not have been at this Trouble on looking into my printed Survey of Lincoln Ely Oxf^d & Peterbrgh Cathedrals I see I have allready printed it;² & accounted in that Book for Edwd 6ths Sacrilege Ao 1547 on changing the Cathedral; & also for what Queen Elizabeth did 1589 when she took away all the mannours & gave the Impropriations; the Rental of which I have given – I see yr Ldshipp stands charged as high as at the first founding the see within less than 10 shillings – I shall much rejoyce if I have any thing in my Collections that will be acceptable to yr Ldshipp[.] I shall on yr Ldshipp's Commands most willingly look them over & send them – I can I beleive find a Rent of Stewkley Overton Bray Walfd & Sibertoft Rectorys; & will gladly endeavour it or any thing else yr Ldshipp commands – I hope wee shall have a good Prebendary of yr Cathedral in Dr Foulkes place;³ I should like to have a Brother Antiquary there; if the University could be made so happy – I do not doubt But yr Ldshipp's Predecessor will Pluralist over & over again all his Sons & Sons in Law to the uttmost⁴ – But Mr Mills best deserves it;⁵ as He has a regard to venerable Antiquities – I cannot tell But in abt a Fortnight I may elope to Oxf^d; & I wish yr Ldshipp was then at Cuddesden that I might again spend a day there.

My duty to yr Ldshipp & the Bp of Gloucester & best respects to the Ladys concludes from my Lord yr Ldshipp's ever obliged & devoted servt to comd

Browne Willis

[f. 109] Anno 1291 18 Edw: I Ecclesia de Bray valuit 42 marcas Vicaria 12 marcas Eodem Tempore Eccl: de Stevecle or Stewkley valuit 18 marc' Vicaria 3 marcas Anno 1620 Richd Corbet STP was pr: by the Bp of Oxf^d

to the vicaridge of Stewkley He was the same year made dean of Xtchurch, & Ao 1628 Bp of Oxf'd & 1632 Bp of Norwich⁶ But held Stewkley with all of them for I find Ao 1634 it returned; that Dr Richd Corbet was vicar of Stewkley & Mr Sympson his Curate; He is not called by any title except Dr: on october 17 1635 Thomas Jones AB was Instituted to Stewkley vicaridge vacant on the death of the last vicar not named no doubt Bp Corbet

Your Ldshipp may correct or add the dedication of Horley near Banbury[.] It is *St Ethelreda* or *Audrey* the Tutelar Saint of Ely Cathedral whose Festival is october 17, the day before St Luke October 18; they hold their Wake or Feast by St Luke; St Audrey being forgot – In Registro Mainwaring in the Prerogative or will office at London I meet with the will of Thomas Lyght Ao 1515 to be burid in St Audreys Church at Horley & to have a Marble laid over him – I found in the Patent, mention of St Margarets Chapell at Chalgrove, But Mr Delafeild says Berwick, Capella to Chalgrove is St Helen: Bucknell is St. Peter not St Mary as I supposed it in my Survey of Lincoln as Heyford ad Pontem is St Mary Assumpta viz Feast observd after August 15 not St Lawrence as they told me [? from Aug 10 – reading unclear] The Patronage of Bucknell belonged to Osney, Charlton on Otmoor to Sheene[,] Finmore to yr Abby of Bristol. Hethe to Kenelworth[,] Lillingston Lovel to Notley Abby and send yr Ldshipp more of these Advowsons ante 1542 before the Founding yr See Ao 1542

[To Westminster and endorsed 'Mr Willis May 1747']

¹ Water Eaton, Bucks., the manor of which was held by Browne Willis: *Stokes*, p. xxxvii.

² B. Willis, *A Survey of the Cathedrals of Lincoln, Ely, Oxford, and Peterborough*, London, 1730.

³ Peter Foulkes of Ches., m. Ch.Ch. 1694 a.17, M.A. 1701, D.D. 1710, canon 1724, d. Apr. 30, 1747. Succeeded as canon by Paul Forester of Surrey, m. Ch.Ch. 1711 a.18, M.A. 1718, D.D. 1745, canon from June 20 1747, brother-in-law to 1st earl of Egmont, d.1761: *Record of Old Westminsters*, p. 342.

⁴ For Potter's sons Thomas and John see *Foster* and *D.N.B.*

⁵ Jeremiah Milles of Hants., m. Corpus 1729 a.15 M.A. 1735, D.D. 1747; dean of Exeter 1762–84; pres. Soc. of Antiquaries 1768–84, m. Edith dau. John Potter archbp. Canterbury whereby 'ample preferments came to him': *D.N.B.*

⁶ Corbet's career as stated here concurs with *Foster*.

From the Very Revd. Dr. John Conybeare

(ii.111)

Christ Church, June 6, 1747

My Lord,

I would have answer'd Your Lordship's by the Return of the Post had it been possible for me to have examin'd our Chapter Book soon enough. I have now That Book before me; and it appears that when You were inthron'd Your Lordship took the following Oaths; First The Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy prescrib'd by an Act made 1^o. Gul: & Mar: 2. The Oath against Simony. and 3. another Oath in the following Words,

"I – Bp of Oxon do swear, that I will as well observe all and every the Statutes and Ordinances, as keep all & singular the Rights, Privileges, Preheminences, Prærogatives, Honour & Dignity of the Cathedral Church of Christ in Oxon.

So help me God &c.

I presume Your Lordship in your Letter had a Regard to this Oath. The others are too well known to be distinctly recited. If Your Lordship shall have any other Commands for me, they shall be punctually obey'd as becomes

Your most Obedient, & most Affectionate Humble Servant,

John Conybeare.

[Endorsed 'Bps Oath']

From the Revd. Thomas Bonnell

(ii.112)

June 27, 1747

My Lord,

I desire that Your Lordship will be pleas'd, to accept of my very humble and sincere Thanks for the good present (viz: five Guineas) You have sent unto me by Mr Snell.¹ They, who appear before Your Lordship, are all of them past fourteen, and I hope sufficiently instructed. It was my Duty and it would have [been] my Business to wait on Your Lordship at Woodstock and Whitney too, did my Lameness permit it[.] Therefore I humbly beg that You will condescend to excuse My Lord, Your Lordship's most obligd. and obedient Son and Servant

Tho: Bonnell

¹ Thomas Snell.

From Mr. Jordan¹

(ii.113)

My Lord

It has been the Custom of the Parish of Kencott to have the Rector or Curate Resident in the Parish

To Have prayers on Sts. Days & Holiday's

For the Rector on the Tuesday before Holy Thursday to give once in Two Years Bread Cheese Butter Eggs & Ale towards a Breakfast to the poor of the Parish before they go Round the Bounds of the parish.

And on St. Stephens Day yearly to provide a Dinner for the whole Parish

None of the above Articles have been fully Complied with & performed since the present Rector has Enjoyed the living as they were by his Former predecessors²

[Unaddressed, undated, unsigned and endorsed 'Kencote. Mr Jordan']

¹ Unidentified, though a William Jordan, an inhabitant and freeholder of Burford is listed in the 1754 county poll book.

² Underwood's immediate predecessor was Seymour Loder of Gloucs., R. Kencott 1722-43.

From the Revd. George Underwood

(ii.114)

Burford, July 13, 1747

My Lord

Last week Mr Webber & I waited upon Mrs. Loggan, (the person I mention'd to your Lordship when at Burford) who gave us the following Account.¹ – That at Christmas her father Mr Oldisworth, with whom she lived, during his Incumbency, upwards of forty years, suffered no one to come to the Custom, (as the Inhabitants call it) but those, whom He invited;² and that the provisions for that purpose, were a Loin, a Rib, two Rumps and two Udders of Beef; two Legs of Mutton, with Bread and convenient Garden-Stuff, four Plumb Puddings and a Barrell of Ale; And that He did not always keep it upon one & the same day. But now, My Lord, every man & his wife in the parish, whether invited or not, insist, they have a right to be at this Feast, and come accordingly; Whereas Mrs Loggan affirms, that only the farmers & their wives were the constant guests; that indeed sometimes other Inhabitants of the Town were allow'd to be there, but not without an Invitation from her father, but that the Poor never were admitted. Ever since I have had Kencote, I have annually upon St. Stephen's day provided the things abovemention'd, and as well Poor as the better sort of people, with the Farmers & their wives, have constantly partook of them. So that there is not the least room to find fault upon that score. – In relation to the Possessioing [sic] Custom, the same Gentlewoman inform'd me, that her father once in three years, and no oftner, us'd to give a Loaf of Bread, a Cheese, half a pound of Butter, twelve Eggs, Salt, and a Gallon of Ale. Now, My Lord, two years ago I kept this custom, and therefore there could not be any ground for complaint this year, when, according to this account, I was not to provide any thing. Thus, My Lord, you see, what base treatment I have had from Mr. Jordan, and how undeservedly I have been accused to your Lordship of altering or neglecting any one Custom in my parish. – I hope your Lordship will not blame me, if for the future I shall exactly pursue Mr Oldisworth's method, and admit none to my Entertainment at Christmas, but such as shall receive an Invitation from

Your Lordship's most dutifull and Obedient humble Servant

Geo: Underwood

¹ Francis Webber of Devon, m. Exeter Coll. 1725 a.17, M.A. 1732, D.D. 1750, Rector 1750-71; C. Merton 1731, R. Oxford, St. Clement 1734-51, V. Burford 1746-7, dean of Hereford 1756-71.

² James Oldisworth R. Kencott 1666-1722.

To Mr. Jordan

(ii.115)

Cuddesdon, July 17, 1747

Sir

I received by the last post Mr Underwood's Answer to your Complaints agst him. And with respect to the Custom on St Stephens day he saith, that Mr Oldesworth, who was the last Rector of Kencot but one, & lived there above 40 years, kept to no certain day: but that he hath however yearly on that day made some Provision, and invited or permitted more persons to partake of it, than Mr Oldesworth did: of whose Practice in this matter his daughter Mrs Loggan, who lived with him, hath lately given Mr Webber & Mr Underwood an Account. He saith farther on her Authority, that the Custom of giving a Breakfast at the Procession was then but once in 3 years, & that he gave the usual Breakfast 2 years ago. I hope you will be able to satisfie one another concerning the truth of these Facts. If not, you may, if you think fit proceed agst Mr Underwood in due Form of Law. But I cannot ex officio take notice of such Customs. As to the point of Residence he pleads Family Reasons to excuse himself from it; but affirms, that no Inconvenience hath ever happend to any Parishioner from his not residing. Concerning Prayers on Holidays he hath given no particular Answer: nor indeed have you made any particular Charge upon him. Therefore I desire to hear from you wt is alledged agst him on these two Heads, wch belong properly to the Cognizanc [sic] of your humble servt

TO

[Endorsed 'To Mr Jordan at Kencote near Burford']

From Herbert Beaver

(ii.116)

Oxford, July 23, 1747

My Lord,

I will take Care to be punctual in obeying the Orders you have been pleas'd to Send me by Mr. Forster.¹ The Vice-Chancellr. will pay your Lordship his half Buck next week, and it will be orderd to be left at my house on Wednesday morning.² I suppose it will not be proper to desire the Keeper to go on with it to Cuddesden; because when he has deliverd the whole at Lincoln College he has executed his Commission: wherefore your Lordship will please to send for it. I did not Chuse to fix the Day for the Election, in the Citations, till I had your Lordship's approbation of my Design.³ On Munday (if I can get my Letters to the several Apparitors tomorrow, and Saturday, as I hope I shall) I shall deliver to the Apparitors their respective Citations. They will then have all that week to serve them in: The week following the Clergy will have time to adjust their Schemes; And the Tuesday or Thursday following (viz: Augt. 11, or 13) I would propose for the Day of Election. The Instrument of Return may be

preparing in the mean time, and soon after the Election, dispatchd to his Grace. Your Lordship will now excuse me, if I trouble you, with asking your Advice in Relation to my [*f. 116v.*] Self and the Apparitors about these Elections: You must be fully sensible, that in regard to abundance of Things belonging to my office, I am quite in the Dark; Mr. Cooper having left no minutes concerning them, and there being no living person whom I can consult about them.⁴ Of this Sort are the Elections I am speaking of: In 1741 I made out all the Instruments and Attended at the Day of Election, The Apparitors too served their respective processes, and attended in like manner, but not a peny had either of us for our Trouble; And for my part I was £0. 15s. 4½d. out of pocket for Stamps and other Things necessary in the Affair. The same Trouble and the same Expence is now coming round again, And I expect to find the Apparitors very Clamorous; for 'tis to me they will apply, and me they will blame if they fare no better than formerly. I wish therefore, That your Lordship would take this Matter into your Consideration, and give me your Directions how to proceed. In 1741, after the Election was over, I waited on Dr. Holmes to Enquire of him concerning this Matter, but his memory did not serve him;⁵ and finding him very unconcern'd about it, I e'en desisted from any farther pursuit, hoping to be able to manage better if I lived to see another Election. But I think I am just where I was; and without your Lordship's Interposition, must, together with the Apparitors, be satisfyd with my Labour for my Pains.

I am, your Lordship's most Dutyfull Serv

Herbert Beaver.

¹ Nathaniel Forster.

² Euseby Isham.

³ The election referred to is that by the clergy of proctors for convocation and the return of the results to the archbp. Canterbury. O.R.O., O.D.P. c.90 fols. 1-5 are papers relating to the 1741 elections, but none exist for 1747: *ex inf.* Dr. D.M. Barratt.

⁴ George Cooper of Oxford city, m. Merton 1682 a.15, M.A. 1689; diocesan and university registrar 1701-37 in succession to his father, Benjamin Cooper.

⁵ Presumably Dr. William Holmes.

From the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(ii.117-18)

Lincoln College, Oct. 13, 1747

My Lord

I have communicated to those Fellows who are now resident what Your Lordship was pleased to mention relating to our Churches when I had the Honour to wait on You last at Cuddesden; &, as I have appointed Dr Hutchins to succeed Dr Vaughan at All-Saints, I particularly mention'd what Your Lordship expected from the Curates themselves.¹

I am obliged to acquaint Your Lordship that the present Opinion of the

Society is that this College in general should by a Syndic appear at Visitations, & likewise the College should receive Your Lordships Orders directed to the Rector & Fellows, who should answer for their being carried into Execution by the Minister appointed to the Service of yr Churches.

[f.118] The Truth is I find a great indisposition to a personal Appearance of the Minister in any Act of Submission but to the College, as Dues which have been paid are paid by the College & not the Curate; if Your Lordship therefore would be pleased to accept of our Compliance in that Shape I imagine it may easily be obtained, & this is what is apprehended to have been the Opinion of Dr Edmonds. but if Your Lordship does not approve of that Method, there will be a general Meeting of the Society on the sixth of next Month, which we call our Chapter Day, & at which Time I will communicate any Letter or Message from Your Lordship, which I am sure will have the justest Claim to a speedy & peremptory Answer; in the mean time relying on Your Lordships good Disposition to make every thing as easy to us as You can allow of, perhaps yielding a little to the stiffness of an Opinion which has been bent our way upwards of 300 Years.

Dr. Hutchins has enter'd upon his Office since Michaelmas, & I have been out of Town for three or four days, otherwise I should have thought it my Duty to have acquainted Your Lordship with the reasons for the Drs. not waiting upon You before; for I am sure no One is more Obliged to be punctual in all Articles of Respect & Duty to Your Lordship than, my Lord,

Your most Obedient & Dutiful Servant

Eus. Isham

[Endorsed 'Dr Isham Oct 13.1747']

¹ Richard Hutchins of Northants., m. All Souls 1716 a.16, Lincoln Coll. M.A. 1722/3, D.D. 1747, Rector 1755-81, and Thomas Vaughan of Northumb., m. Lincoln Coll. 1726 a.19, M.A. 1733.

From the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(ii.119-20)

Oxford, Dec. 15, 1747

My Lord

I fully purpos'd to have paid my Duty to Your Lordship this Week, but am now obliged by Dr Frewins Directions to attend my Wife to Bath to-morrow.¹ I communicated Your Lordships Letter to the Society & have only Authority to say at present, that they look upon themselves as obliged not to part with any thing that has been apprehended to be a Right or Privilege of the College without the Visitors Consent; & therefore if Your Lordship pleases in order to put an End to this tedious affair, for your sake as well as my own, we will have our respective Cases drawn & put into the hands of the Bishop of Lincoln, & oblige our selves to abide by his Determination of the Point.

[f.120] If, my Lord, You approve of this, give me leave to mention, for some reasons, that I could wish Your Lordship would let the Motion come from Yourself, with which fair honourable proposal I think the Society must comply, & that You would be pleased in my absence to direct to Dr Hutchins Subrector, having understood from me their Opinion of their not being able to make any Compliance of their own Authority.

I beg Pardon for presuming to say any thing which may seem dictating to Your Lordship, but as Your good Sense will lead You into the reasons of it, I know You will excuse it.

I love Truth & Justice from the bottom of my Soul, & cannot but think that this is the most likely method of arriving at 'em in the Case before us.

Your Lordships most Dutiful & Obedient Servt.

Eus. Isham

[Endorsed 'Dr Isham Dec 15 1747.']

¹ Richard Frewin M.D., c.1681–1761, Camden Prof. Ancient History 1727–61.

From the Revd. William Stockwood¹

(ii.121–2)

Henley-on-Thames, Apr. 10, 1748

My Lord

Mr Brown has left me havg Got a Living in Buckinghamshire² & in his room I have lately employd as my Assistant & by way of probation Mr Hayman of an unexceptionable Character from Queens College in Oxford after he was chose by the Trustees of the Free Grammar Schole in this place to be the Under Master³ He was Ordaind both Deacon & Priest by the present Bishop of Lincoln having been a Curate in his Diocese. I say I have employd him by way of probation for I am not certain whether I shall be able to continue him since there is a Gentleman in this Neighbourhood, who I hear desired a Licence of your Lordsp upon your last Visitation, who has made great interest with my people to succeed Mr Brown havg recommended himself to them by what he calls a social Life & siting up at Inns here several nights in a week sometimes till six & often till four a clock in a morning

I am My Lord Your Lordships most dutifull & most Obedt Servt

W Stockwood

[f.122] [Added in Secker's hand 'This Letter relates to Mr Liddel Curate of Rotherfield Grey⁴ – then only a Deacon. Before I ordained him Priest Tr S 1748 I inquired concerning his Character. The Bishop of Glocester assured me that he had behaved unblameably at Cirencester though a very divided place. See also his Testimonial. He absolutely denied that he had ever been late at Henley excepting one night when the rain kept him from going home' and endorsed 'Mr Stockwood Apr. 10. 1748. abt Mr. Liddel']

¹ Of Worcs., adm. Clare Hall, Camb. 1708, M.A. 1716, D.D. (? Lambeth), R. Henley-on-Thames 1737–84.

² Tobias Browne of Bucks, m. Hart Hall 1737, m. Caius Coll. Camb.; C. West Wycombe, Bucks. 1741, V. Great Missenden, Bucks. 1747–53, d. 1763.

³ Henry Hayman of Devon, m. Queen's 1743 a.19, B.A. 1746/7; C. Henley-on-Thames 1750.

⁴ Thomas Liddel of Gloucs., m. Exeter Coll. 1742/3 a.22; C. Rotherfield Greys 1747.

From the Revd. Dr. William Freind

(ii.123)

Witney, May 28, 1748

My Lord,

Your Lordships Letter to Mr Smyth being brought to him yesterday before I left Islip,¹ He communicated the Contents of it to me. We shall take care to attend Your Lordship on the 31st. of July; My Wife is in so bad a State of Health, that a Journey to Bristol is judged indispensibly requisite for Her, I shall go to see her safe lodged there about Misdummer, & I trust she will be well enough to let me return hither again.

I have taken an Exact Account as yet only of *Half* the Parish of Islip, in which I find very few that are Unconfirm'd; I am assured the Proportion will be as small in the other Part of it; I must attribute this to the Great Care of my Predecessors,² one of which was so remarkably assiduous in bringing his Parishioners to Confirmation, that I found a Girl there who was confirm'd at five years old, & several before they were ten. All This Family join their Respects & Duty's to Your Lordship with Those of

My Lord, Your most obliged and most dutyfull humble Servant

Willm. Freind.

[Endorsed 'Islip Mr Freind 1748']

¹ Lawrence Smyth, C. Islip 1744.

² Freind's immediate predecessors were George Rye of Northants., m. Wadham 1691 a.15, Oriel M.A. 1698, D.D. 1715, canon Ch.Ch.; R. Adwell 1705–28/9, R. Islip 1716/17–41, archdeacon of Oxford 1724–41, followed by Lawrence Brodrick, R. 1741–47/8.

From the Revd. Dr. William Freind

(ii.124–5)

Witney, June 6, 1748

My Lord,

I have taken the liberty to desire Mr Hoskins to pay his Duty & Mine to Your Lordship in his Way to London, whither he is now going to renew his Sollicitations to succeed to our Free School; He met with so much Encouragement from the Company of Grocers, when last in Town, that I hope he will be elected before His Return.¹

The College of Oriel have raised an Objection to Him as Curate of Witney; I myself shou'd have made the same Objection for the Sake of The Parish, had he not determined to take an Assistant that wou'd serve him in Both Capacity's. – Perhaps If He might be permitted so far to make use of

Your Lordships Name, as to declare that He has *Your* Concurrence and Approbation in his present Pursuit under the same Conditions that He has mine, It wou'd help to overrule the Objectors of Oriel.

[f.124v.] I hope to hear from Mr Hoskins a perfect good Account of Your Lordships Health; & of That of Your Family; the Diminution of which I was truly concerned to hear of, tho' I did not presume to trouble You with any Condolence.²

All This Family beg leave to join their Duty's & Respects with those of My Lord, Your Lordships Most Obligated and Most dutyfull humble Servant

William Freind

[Endorsed 'Witney School 1748']

¹ Charles Hoskins of Carm., m. Univ. 1740/1 a.18, M.A. 1747, B.D. 1755; C. Witney 1762.

² Secker's wife, Catherine, died of gout in the stomach at this time: *Porteus*, i, p. xix; *Autobiography*, p. 26.

To the Rt. Revd. Dr. John Thomas

(ii.126)¹

Cuddesdon, June 21, 1748

My Lord

I am informed that Mr Thornbury vicar of [?Thame] is dangerously ill and feared unlikely to live long. Now this is one of the parishes in Oxfordshire to which [? one of/a number of] your Lordship's predecessors and [?one of/a number of] mine have given institution and therefore I take the liberty [of] reminding your lordship that [the] Bp of Salisbury's opinion, given us April 15 1745, after we had laid before him all information we could get concerning this matter, was that your lordship had no right to institute or propose any episcopal act in Oxfordshire, but that whatever [authority] bishops of Lincoln had in this county, except as visitors of colleges, was transferred to the bishops of Oxford and in this opinion your lordship acquiesced. I have since that time had a letter of [the] late dean of Lincoln with some [? evidences] in defence of the dean and chapter's jurisdiction which I have no intention of [?disputing] with here, but he made no claim at all to the right of institution. This [. . .] therefore I hope is to confirm that. I should not have troubled your lordship with mentioning it but that Mr Thornbury was presented to and instituted by one of your lordship's predecessors and therefore Lord Granville² [?would be] patron all through one vacancy under [?his consideration] to your lordship unless you prevent it by agreeing my right which therefore I trust may occur. You will [. . .] to do. I warmly wish your lordship a healthy and pleasant summer and am with great respect my lord your loving brother and humble servant.

TO

[To the Lord Bishop of Lincoln]

¹ Letter written in cipher.² John Carteret 1690–1763, 2nd Earl Granville 1744: *Compl. Peerage*, pp. 89–90.

To the Rt. Revd. Dr. John Thomas

(ii.127–9)

Cuddesdon, July 4, 1748

My Lord

I thank your Lordship for your kind & friendly Letter: particularly for your promise to cause the Grants made by your Predecessors to the Dean & Prebendaries of Lincoln to be laid before you. I believe you will find them to be no other, than those which you have seen, & joyned with me in laying before the Bishop of Salisbury.¹ I have Copies of three. The two first, made by Bp Robert, I suppose Grosthead, give only an Exemption from all Payments due from the Prebendaries to the Bp & Archdeacons. The third, by William Grey, Bp in 1431,² recites that in their Prebends they had anciently full Jurisdiction free & exempt from all power & jurisdiction of the Archdeacon, over all their own Subjects & Parishioners: this jurisdiction it confirms; and further enlarges their Jurisdiction by appointing that the Bishops of Lincoln for the future shall abstain from all exercise of Jurisdiction in those Prebends, unless they are in the city of Lincoln, or unless the Bishop & Archdeacons have exercised Jurisdiction in them immemorially: excepting however Causes of Heresy, Schism, Apostasy & Usury, and the Corrections of the Vicars of the said Prebends which the Grant especially reserves to the Bp and his Successors: and lastly saving to the Bp all causes of Appeal &c Visitations & Jurisdictions, of which a preceding title *De Dignitate Episcopi* had treated. Now this Grant I think relates wholly to holding of Courts & hearing of Causes. Indeed not only the general tenour of it but the reason given in the preamble for making it, plainly shews it doth: which reason is, that the subjects & parishioners of the Prebendaries may be the more willing to dwell under [f.127v.] their jurisdiction the less they are burthend by frequent calls from different Judges to places remote from them. This reason hath nothing to do with Institutions. Nor is it likely, that the Bishop shd reserve to himself the power of Correcting the Vicars, and not reserve that of instituting them. Whether Instituting may sometimes be called exercising Jurisdiction, I know not. It is certainly exercising power & authority: but these I conceive are words of larger extent than Jurisdiction ordinarily is, which ought not to be understood in a more comprehensive meaning, than the subject directs to. Or even if it would otherwise comprehend Institutions here, it may be worth your Lordships Inquiry whether the title *de Dignitate Episcopi* doth not mention them as belonging to the Bishop. For if it doth, the Grant continues them to him. Possibly there may be still other Grants. But I cannot think that in any Grant the Bp gave away his power of instituting:

for it appears from the Registers that he all along exercised that power; and neither the Dean & Chapter nor any person delegated by them ever exercised it once so far as I have been able to learn. Now I am told that an ancient Grant, unless enjoyment under it can be proved, is nothing. It hath, I find, been suggested to your Lordship, that the Bishop acts as their Delegate. But is there any proof of this, of any kind? I believe no Instrument of such Delegation will be found. Nor I conceive do the Register books refer to any such Delegation in any Institution granted by Bishops to these Parishes, but represent them as acting by virtue of their ordinary Authority: and they must be understood to act by that, unless the contrary appears nor I suppose are presentations made to the Bp as the officer of the Dean & Chapter, but as Bishop. Indeed I should not imagine, that there ever was an instance in the Christian world of a Bishop granting away to his Chapter the power of Institution and afterwards instituting as their Deputy. He would not grant it with this Intention: for to what use could it serve? And with whatever intention else it was [f.128] granted, why should they chuse to make their Bishop, of all men, their Servant in executing the power, which as their Superior he had bestowed on them? And why should he submit to be such? Your Lordships directing your Mandate in the case of these Livings, not to the Archdeacon, but to the Dean & Chapter, is indeed an evidence in favour of their having Archidiaconal Authority, but a full proof that they have not Episcopal. For the power by which you command them to induct, cannot surely be a power derived from them. No instance of such a thing can be produced in any Church. It is not they therefore, that have given your Lordship power to institute: but your Lordships Predecessors have given them power to induct. You are not their Commissary: but they are in the place of your Archdeacon; as the Chapter of Durham, & I believe several others, are to their Bishops. But supposing the Bishop of Lincoln had become one knows not how in this particular a kind of Legatus natus to his Chapter: still when the Bishoprick of Oxford was erected, that Bishop one shd think must succeed, within his Diocese, to this Privilege, amongst others, of the mother See: and may institute now, as the Bp of Lincoln did before, without any especial appointment from the Dean & Chapter of Lincoln, and without shewing any mark of acting by their Authority. To speak more seriously: as it is neither in the least proved, nor in the least probable, that your Lordship derives any power of Institution from them, I cannot but think you are concerned, neither to admit this Claim of theirs in your own Diocese, nor to act under it in mine. And I hope they will think themselves concerned not to continue it, without inquiring into the Grounds of it, and communicating them both to you and me & hearkening to our Objections against them. For thus they would certainly wish to be treated, were our case theirs. Concerning the right of Institution I apprehend there can be very little doubt: about that of Induction there can be some. For I suppose the Dean & Chapter were intituled to induct Vicars into

the Pre [f. 128v.] bendal Parishes in Oxfordshire, before the See of Oxford was founded. But since that, as your Lordships Mandate wd not be a legal one, they ought not to obey it: and I doubt whether they would or indeed should obey mine. The Bishop of Salisbury had a thought that I should send a letter of request to them to induct. But whether that was ever done in a like case, or whether they would accept of it, I know not. And if there be no legal and practicable way left of applying to the Dean & Chapter to exercise that peculiar authority of inducting, which hath been granted to them; the rational Method seems to be returning again to the original ordinary authority of the Archdeacon for that purpose. Accordingly whenever the Bishops of Oxford have instituted to these Parishes, they have sent their Mandates for Induction to the Archdeacon nor hath any Remonstrance ever been made against any part of their proceeding. And if the Charter of Foundation had given any particular Direction concerning the Affair, it wd probably have given this; and have expressly taken away the power of induction from the Church of Lincoln, at the same time that it took away the power of instituting from the Bishop. For it hath no clause to save any Rights of any kind to that Church: nor indeed to any other persons, excepting such Rights as relate to the University. And it hath exempted the Archdeacon of Oxford from all authority of the Cathedral Church of Lincoln: and given him all the same rights in mine, that any of his Predecessors ever had in your Lordships. But the question between your Lordship and me is only Which hath the right to give Institution. Your Lordship is convinced you that you have it not as Bishop. If this letter shd convince you have it not as Commissary of the Dean & Chapter, you will certainly refuse to be their Instrument of Injustice against your poor Neighbour. Now the quietest way of your avoiding this will be preventing Lord Granville from sending his Presentation to you. A letter from me to him would not prevent it, I conceive. And therefore I refer it to your Lordships prudence to take what steps you shall think the properest, and begging your pardon for the length of this letter, subscribe my self with great truth & regard

Your Lordships loving brother and very humble servant

Tho. Oxford

[f. 129] Postscript to my letter to the Bp of Lincoln dated July 4 1748

Since I wrote the inclosed letter, I have found some more Extracts from the Registers of Lincoln which I had overlooked. But they have nothing relating to Institution or Induction[.] And I have no design of claiming Jurisdiction[.] But there is one Extract from Reg. Nov. fol 91 concerning the Deans power of holding a Triennial Visitation which is so much abridged in the Paper sent to me that I am not sure I understand it & shd be glad to have it at large

[Endorsed 'Letter to the Bp of Lincoln July 4. 1748']

¹ Thomas Sherlock.² Bp. Lincoln 1431–36.

From the Rt. Revd. Dr. John Thomas

(ii.130–1)

Buckden, Hunts., July 11, 1748

My Lord

I agree with your Lordp. that it is not likely there should be any Delegation of Power from the Chapter to the Bishop, tho I cannot see the necessary Consequence of his being thereby only their Deputy or Commissary. For a Corporate Body may delegate their Power to one Person in such a Manner, as to enable him to act not only for them but over them as must have been the Case here had there been a Delegation, as they receive the Bishops Mandate of Induction – But I only gave your Lordp. their Surmises, wch were not likely to be in favour of the Episcopal Jurisdiction.

Yesterday I discovered upon this Subject with one of the Residentiaries, who is just come from Lincoln, but find that whatever your Lordp and I have to say will have little Effect upon the Chapter [sic]. They say, that they are the immediate Ordinary of those Peculiars having a Right of Lapse, and if your Lordp. grants Institution to any of them they shall look upon such Institution to be void (as your Lordship has no Jurisdiction in their Peculiars) and present by Lapse in order to try their Right at Common Law, supposing that I will not refuse to give Institution upon their presentation in order to defend the Rights of a Chapter, of wch I am the Head and Protector.

[f.130v.] Your Lordp says in the Postscript of your Letter, that You have no Designs of claiming Jurisdiction – You must claim a concurrent Jurisdiction at least before you [? can – reading unclear] have a Right of Institution. For it is an adjudged Case, that even an Archbishop cannot give Institution to a Peculiar belonging to an Ecclesiastical Person or Body, but upon Supposition that he has a concurrent Jurisdiction, and if he has no Jurisdiction his Institution is null and void – Vid. Bp of Lond. Cod. Tit. 34 Chapt. 5,¹ or Gray's Abridgment. Page 295.² where the whole Passage is transcribed in answer to the Question. Can an Archbishop give Institution to a Peculiar? –

In short, My Lord, as the Dispute is not between your Lordp. and me, but between You and the Dean and Chapter, and not likely to be determined but by a Law suit I will keep as clear of it as I can[,] not to give Offense to a Body of Men whom I am concern'd to live in Harmony with. I am My Lord

Yr Lordps affectionate humble Servt & Brother

John Lincoln

¹ E. Gibson, *Codex Juris Ecclesiastici Anglicani . . . With a Commentary*, 1731.² R. Grey, *A System of English Ecclesiastical Law, Extracted From the Codex Ecclesiastici Anglicani of the Lord Bishop of London*, eds. 1730, 1735, 1743.

To the Rt. Revd. Dr. John Thomas

(ii.132-3)

Cuddesdon, July 19, 1748

My Lord

I recd the favour of your Lps Letter as I was preparing for a Confirmation from wch I returned last night & I will be as sparing of yr Lps time in my Answer to it as I can. If there hath been no Delegation of power from the Chapter of L. to the Bp as yr Lp is persuaded there hath not, it is by no means worth disputing wt such a Delegation if there had been one might have been called: tho' I shd think it wd properly have born the name of a Deputation or Commission & that yr Lp wd have been their Deputy or Commissary. But the material thing is that there never having been such a Delegation yr Lp hath no authority from the Chapter & you acknowledge you have none of your own to institute to any Benefice in Oxfordshire and as the Chaptr have neither exercised such Authority themselves nor delegated it to any other person, but the Bp of L formerly instituted as in his own right & the Bp of O hath all the same rights it surely follows that not the Chapter but he hath the right of Instituting now. The Gentleman indeed with whom your Lordship discoursed saith it seems that the Chapter hath a right of lapse[.] But I wish he or any body wd give some instance or proof to support this[.] For persons shd not assert things without grounds[.] And as I have very frankly set forth the Grounds of my opinion I hope the Gentlemen of the Ch. of L will think it but equitable to shew the same Candor: & I beg yr Lps Interest with them for that purpose[.] For to use only threatnings instead of answers to Argumts they will surely own is not the proper method[.] nor with me till it be the effectual one[.] Yr Lp saith they will look on my Institution as void & present by Lapse. What [f.132v.] they will do I know not[.] But I know they have had frequent opportunities & never done it yet. And I cannot but persuade my self that they will consider Conscience as somewt concerned in the question what they have a Right to do & wt not[.] For the expence & trouble of a Law Suit is too considerable for one person to give another without having weighty reasons to think himself in the right; or without taking pains first to make those reasons as apparent as he can[.] Yr Lp adds that the Chapter suppose yr Lp will not refuse to give Institution on their presentation as you are their head & protector[.] But not to say again that if yr Lp institutes to the prebendal Vicarages as by a right derived from the Chapter you acknowledge the Chapter to be your head even within your own Diocese if there be any such Vicarages in it[.] I beg leave to observe that yr Lp is not to protect yr Chapter by doing for it wt you think is not your Right to do but wd inroach on the Rights of another. Nor surely will the members of it ever make this a Condition of yr Lps living in harmony with them: though if they did I conceive it cd not justifie yr Lps compliance wch wd indeed be injurious to the Rights of yr own See, as well as mine[.] For if I cannot institute as Bp to the Prebendal Vicarages that are within my Diocese yr Lp

cannot institute as Bp to those that are within yrs: & the Chapter for ought I know may if they will appoint some body else to institute in yr stead. Yr Lp is pleased to argue that I can have no right of Institution because I say in my Postscript that I have no design of claiming Jurisdiction[.] But I had explained my self in my letter to mean by Jurisdiction only that power of holding Courts & hearing causes wch the Bps of L anciently granted to the Chapter. Now this is very separable from the Right of Institution. After they had parted with the former they continued to exercise the latter & this is all that I desire to do. The Case wch yr Lp mentions from the Codex is of a nature intirely foreign from the present[.] The Point there determined is not that the ABp [f.133] cannot institute where he cannot hear causes: but that if he institute in Eccl. Peculiars where he may have some power his Act shall not be deemed void till it is proved that he hath not this power: but if he institute in Lay Peculiars where he can have no power at all it shall be deemed void from the beginning[.] The Codex uses the word Jurisdiction here in the larger sense to signifie any kind of Authority And in this sense I do not disclaim all Jurisdiction. Some Jurisdiction which I shall probably never have occasion to exercise the Bps of L reserved to themselves & consequently to me by the express words of the Grant[,] and the Jurisdiction of it must be called so, of Institution they shewed themselves [to] have reserved by their subsequent practice. Upon the whole I really think I am intitled to give Institution. If I am not, I shall be glad to have it shewn me in a friendly manner. If I am I hope yr Lp will not put any difficulties in the way of yr loving brother & humble servt

TO

I had forgöt to mention that in the District of Dorchester in this County the Bps of Oxford always institute & never exercise Jurisdiction.

[Endorsed 'Letter to the Bp of Lincoln July 19. 1748']

From the Revd. Dr. Phaniel Bacon

(ii.134)

Marsh Baldon, July 29, 1748

My Lord

I am greatly obligd to You for the favour of yours, & I will most punctually, & wth the greatest Pleasure, obey Your Orders. I will immediately apply myself to every family in my Parish. & beyond the private Instructions I shall give them, I will use those other means Your Lordship has directed, I most heartily thank You for those excellent Tracts you sent me, will dispose of them as You have appointed, & take care that they are duly perus'd, & Hope by God's Blessing, they will answer Your pious Purposes in them. I apprehend the Number of Tickets will be sufficient, but if upon Enquiry I want more, I will do myself the Honour of waiting upon Your Lordship

Who am Your Lordship's Most Dutyful & Obedient Humble Servt.

P. Bacon

From Henry Montague

(ii.135-6)

Lincoln's Inn, Dec. 13, 1748

My Lord

The only Living Augmd, on Monday the 5th. instant, in the D. of Oxford, was the C. of Drayton, by Benefaction, in Conjunction with the Dean & Canons of Christ Church, as the Trustees in Dr. Stratfords Will:¹

I do not find any Living, not exceeding £10 a Year, in your Lordships Diocese, which remains Unaugmented, but only the R. of Barford Michaelis, which appears, by Ectons Liber Valorum fo. 272. to have been Certified into the Exchequer at £8. 10s. 0d. a year:²

The Curacy of Barford St. Michael was, also, Certified to the Govrs. at £10 a year, and as such, a Ticket appears to have been made out for it, and it was, accordingly, Augmd. by Lot in the Year 1732; but it seems very doubtfull, whether any Ticket has ever been made out, for the Rectory of Barford Michaelis; or if any such there were, at least it remains, hitherto, Undrawn;

Whether, therefore, there be really, in fact, Two seporate & distinct Cures, the One known by the Name of the Rectory, And the other by that of the Curacy, seems to be proper for Your Lordships Enquiry; and such Enquiry is the more requisite, as the Rectory may, otherwise, be deprived of any Chance of an Augmn, even tho it shod be really a seporate & distinct Living; They are both Certified as in the Deanry of Dedington.

[f.135v.] As to the C. of Wheatley, enquired after by Your Lordship, I find it has no other Certain Revenue but what arises from the Chapel Yard, let at no more than 0. 2. 6. a year (Your Lordship having Certified, the annuall paymts. which have been made, for sevell. years, by the Bishop, & the Inhabitants, to be intirely Gratuitous) And Consequently the present Certain yearly Value of Wheatley, even including the Lot which fell to it, in Decr. 1745., Amounting to no more than £7 2s. 6d. per Ann: it will, still, remain Capable of a second Augmn. by Lot, as not exceeding £10 a year; as soon as all those Livings, which do not exceed £10 a yr., have been once Augmented, which is not yet quite Accomplished:³

I have only to Add that I am, with Sincere Respect, My Lord, Your Lordships Most Obedient And Very Humble Servant,

Henry Montague.

[Endorsed 'Mr Montague, abt Barford St Mich']

¹ On the value of the living of Drayton see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, ix, p. 109, and the stipend of the curate there *Vis. Retns.*, p. 54. William Stratford D.D., canon of Ch.Ch., will proved 1731.

² For information on the value and augmentation of Barford St. Michael see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xi, pp. 54-5.

³ Wheatley was endowed in 1745, 1749 and 1755; for further information on its status see *ibid.*, v, pp. 114-15; in 1746 Secker began the custom of licensing curates to Wheatley: *ibid.*, p.115.

[From the Revd. Thomas Toovey]

(ii.137-8)

There are in the Parish of Watlington several lands & tenemts. the rents of which have been long apply'd to the use of the Church, so as to save the Parishoners the Charge of Ch: rates[.] Whether any of these lands & tenemts. were given or settled for these uses dos [sic] not appear. I once had the perusal of an Old Deed by which it appear'd that one William Dancaster gave some of these lands to Charitable uses;¹ Notwithstanding this, these & other lands & tenemts. have been long apply'd to the use of the Ch: in Manner aforesd. But these lands & tenemts. being Vested in Feofees, & the tenemts. most of 'em become ruinous & some actually fallen down, the Feofees (who 'til within these four or five years last past permitted the Ch: Wardens for the time being to take the rents) have since that time taken the rents & apply'd them to the repairing & rebuilding some of these tenemts. & propose so to Continue 'til they are all repaired or rebuilt. This is the true State of the Case, & upon this the late Ch: Warden is Considerably out of pockett, & the Ch: destitute of a tolerable Common prayerbook & Surplice as also the ten Commandmts. Kings Arms &c. [f.138] And to prevent the haveing these necessarys, or the repairing & finishing the Church houses, a Plott was lay'd to Choose a Ch: Warden that should refuse to joyn in making a Ch: rate, & accordingly a parcell of the most inconsiderable fellows in the Parish (that pay to the publick rates) were placed ready within a Call to Come into the Ch: & Vote for a Ch: Warden & accordingly did Come in, & Voted for a fellow so Infamous that I could not prevail upon the former Ch: Warden (tho Considerably out of pockett) to be Sworn into the Office for the present year. I wrote to Dr. Burton before the last Visitation & gave him an Acct. of this affair but the lettr. being sent to Oxford & lodged there I Suppose did not Come to his hands 'til after the Visitation, else I perswade myself the Chancellr. would not have sworn him into the Office. His name is Ri: Wheeler, he keeps a little alehouse in Watlington, & to speak without the least partiality has long been a very Infamous lewd fellow & to Compleat his Character has had another Bastard Sworn to him since he was Sworn in Ch: Warden so we have no Ch: Warden but this fellow, & how fit he is to discharge the main branch of this Office I need not observe to yr. Ld.shipp. The Ch: Warden that I mention'd to be out of Pockett is willing to be Sworn into the Office agn: but refuses to serve (without Compulsion) with such a partner. If therefore [f.137v.] Yr. Ldship is not pleased to Interpose & enquire into the State of this affair & give yr. directions upon it, we Can't expect any presentmt. of the most Scandalous immoralities nor Indeed the discharge of any part of the Ch: Warden's Office. I thought myself Oblig'd to lay this before yr Ldship & Submitt it to yr. Ldship's Consideration²

[Unaddressed, undated, seemingly in the hand of Thomas Toovey and endorsed 'Watlington 1748 church lands & Ch Wn']

¹ Lancaster probably flourished c.1492 and gave a house, a cottage and 12 acres of land: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, p. 249.

² For the affair with the churchwarden see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, p. 239. Richard Wheeler, the churchwarden, made a presentment on Oct. 10, 1748, 'We have no Resident Curate[.] The Viceridge house is very much out of Repair and Pairs are Neglected upon the several Hollydays': O.R.O., O.A.P. c.110.

From the Revd. Dr. Lancelot Jackson

(ii.139-40)

Launton, Jan. 23, 1748/9

My Lord,

Business in College not permitting Mr. Lowry to serve the Cure of Blechingdon in such a manner as Your Lordship requir'd; about a Month before the last Ordination I recommended one Mr. Milner, Batchlour of Arts of Edmund Hall, to succeed Him;¹ & He accordingly waited upon Dr. Burton with Letters Testimonial & a Title. But I was sorry to find by a Letter from Dr. Burton, that Your Lordship refus'd to ordain Him upon account of His Age; but as He will want very little more than two Months of three & twenty at the next Ordination, I hope this Objection will have no weight with Your Lordship then. Indeed His not being ordain'd at the last Ordination has prov'd some inconvenience to me, as I have been oblig'd to have a Person from Oxford to supply at Blechingdon on Sundays without keeping any Residence at all. For as I think myself oblig'd to take [*f.139v.*] Him for my Curate (unless Your Lordship have some real Objection against Him) I could not meet with any Person that would reside there, as their Stay would be so uncertain.

He is the Son of a very worthy Clergyman of my acquaintance in Westmorland, & was recommended to me as a Young Person of strict Sobriety, & every way qualify'd to perform the Office of a Deacon; and, I hope, when Your Lordship shall examine Him, You will find him so.² At least I can assure Your Lordship, if I did not think so myself, I would not have recommended Him to be ordain'd by Your Lordship.

Dr. Burton, I find, made some Objection to one of His Testimonials, as it was not sign'd by the Bishop of the Diocese.³ This, had it been possible, would have been done. But as His Lordship has not been above a Month in His Diocese, He has seen few of His Clergy, & is acquainted with the Hands [*f.140*] of fewer. And as Mr. Milner is now with me, & will continue with me 'till He shall be ordain'd, I hope Your Lordship will not require any farther Testimonial of His Life & Conversation. If Your Lordship have any other Objection to Him than that of His Age, when Your Lordship shall be pleas'd to acquaint me with it, I do not doubt but I shall be able to answer it to Your Lordship's satisfaction.

Dr. Burton seems to think that Blechingdon is a large Cure. It is not, I think, half so large as Kidlington, Merton, or Kirtlington, where, I am told no Clergyman ever resides. For there are not above fifty three or fifty four

Familys in the whole Parish; & of these above a Dozen have not above one or two in a Family.

I beg Your Lordship's pardon for giving You this trouble, & am, My Lord, Your Ldship's most dutiful & most obedt humble Servt.

Lance'. Jackson

[Endorsed 'Blechingdon Dr Jackson Jan 23 1748.9']

¹ Henry Milner of Westmld., m. S.E.H. 1744 a.18, B.A. 1748; C. Blethingdon 1750.

² William Milner of Askham.

³ Westmld. fell within the diocese of Chester, but Samuel Peploe had been bp. since 1726; new bps. entering their dioceses in 1748 were Ely, Norwich, Salisbury and St. Asaph.

From the Revd. Thomas Cockerill

(ii.141a)

Ambrosden, Feb. 11, 1748/9

My Lord!

Sr. Edward Turner has, I presume, acquainted yr. Lordship, that he has taken into his View, before his House, part of the Church yard, & proposes, with yr. Lordship's leave, to give as an aquivalent to the Church, a piece of ground that lies contiguous to the Farm, wch was procur'd to the Church, by the Bounty of Queen Ann & his Father.¹ If Sr: Edward will consent to wall in the said piece of ground, it will, in my opinion, be a very sufficient aquivalent to the Church & to yr Lordship's

most Dutyfull humble Servt

Tho: Cockerill

¹ Sir Edward Turner held the manor of Ambrosden; m. Balliol 1735 a.17, cr. M.A. 1738, D.C.L. 1740; m. the niece of Theophilus Leigh, master of Balliol; he was also patron of Ambrosden: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, v, pp. 18, 224, 254; *Compl. Btage*, v, pp. 77-8; *Bacon*, p. 792. His father was also Sir Edward Turner: *Compl. Btage*, v, p. 77.

From the Revd. Thomas Cockerill

(ii.142)

Ambrosden, Apr. 2, 1749

My Lord!

I am solicited, by the better part of My Parish to apply to Yr. Lordship in behalf of an Honest poor man, who rents the land given for the repairs of the Church of Ambrosden. He has by the Distemper amongst the Horn'd Cattle, lost all that he had of that sort, & by some other ill accident his hoggs & two of his horses. If yr. Lordship pleases to give yr. consent, that I shall, upon this his misfortune, give him a Receipt for a year's rent, it is I am inform'd, what many Gentlemen doe, & our Church is now in a condition to spare it, being in good repair and having thirty pounds in my hands. The Person rents of me six pounds per annum, I shall be as kind to him as my Circumstances will permit, the little that he holds besides he rents of one, in not much better Circumstances than himself.

Yr. Lordship will receive with this, a Certificate, as directed by yr. Lordship, from

My Lord yr most Dutyfull humble Servt.

Tho: Cockerill

[Added in Secker's hand 'agreed but directed the Rent to be varied.']

From the Revd. John Lowry

(ii.143)

The Queen's College, Apr. 10, 1749

My Lord,

In Obedience to your Lordship's Directions, when I waited upon You in London, I have acquainted Dr. Jackson by Letter,¹ that your Lordship expected a Resident Curate at Blethingdon immediately, & have accordingly withdrawn my Attendance on that Cure, ever since your Lordship express'd yr. Disapprobation of the present Method of Supply.

I thought it my Duty to acquaint your Lordship with what I had done in this Matter, not doubting but the Rector will appoint such a Person to succeed me, as will supply my Defects in every other Point, as well as that of Residence, & give more satisfaction to the Parish & your Lordship than I fear has been done by

My Lord, Your Lordship's most Obedient Humble Servant

J Lowry.

¹ Lancelot Jackson.

From the Revd. Dr. Lancelot Jackson

(ii.144-5)

Launton, Apr. 27, 1749

My Lord,

As soon as I heard Your Lordship would not allow Mr. Lowry to serve the Church of Blethingdon any longer, without keeping more Residence than He had hitherto done; I waited upon Dr. Burton, & desir'd Him to acquaint Your Lordship that I would take care of that Parish 'till Trinity Sunday, & reside there, at least, three Days in the week. For I beg leave once more to recommend Mr. Milner to be ordain'd by Your Lordship then, when, I hope, Your Lordship will have no reason to complain of His Ignorance in the Scriptures. – He will then be full three & twenty years of Age; & tho' it will be a Year more before He can do all the Duties of His Function; yet as I am always, at least, once a fortnight in Summer, & several Weeks in Winter at Blethingdon, I think no great inconvenience can attend the Parish by that means. – As He has liv'd with me ever since November (except whilst He was [f.145] determining in Lent at Oxford) I can assure Your Lordship He has behav'd in a very exemplary manner ever since; so that I hope You will not require any farther Testimonial of His Good Behaviour since that time.

I did not mention Kidlington, Merton, & Kirtlington in order to excuse Non-residence at Blechingdon. For, I believe, I am as much against It, as any person well can be. And I doubt not Your Lordship will think so too, when I acquaint You that I have pay'd Mr. Lowry thirty five pounds a Year, besides the Benefit of the Orchard, Church Yard, the House & Garden when He would make Use of them, & all Dues, ever since He was my Curate. But as I knew when I resided at Blechingdon, no person resided at Kirtlington, so I find it is now. And as I am of the same Opinion with Bp. Kennet, that great inconveniences have arisen by not having any Person residing at Merton for so many years, so I cannot help thinking that once in three Years the College & the Persons that officiate there receive near as much as I do from Blechingdon in the same time.¹

I beg Your Lordship to excuse this, & believe me to be, My Lord, Your Ldship's most dutiful & most obedient humble Servt.

Lance'. Jackson

[Endorsed 'Blechingdon Dr Jackson Apr 1749']

¹ Merton was served by a fellow of Exeter Coll. appointed on an annual basis: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 101. Its yearly value was £12, while that of Blethingdon was £12 9s. 4½d.: *Bacon*, pp. 793, 790.

To the Revd. Nathaniel Forster¹

(vi, no. 1)

[f.107] Cuddesdon, June 4, 1749

Sir

I have just now received a Letter from my Lord Chancellor,² in which he desires me to acquaint you, that as soon as he is properly informed that the Rectory of Hethe is vacant, he will present you to it.³ I am

Your loving brother & servant

Tho. Oxford

[f.108v.] [To Corpus Christi College]

¹ B.L., MS. Adds. 11275, ff.107-8.

² Philip Yorke, 1st earl of Hardwick.

³ The Crown held the patronage of Hethe: *Bacon*, p. 791, and James Edgcumbe was R. 1732-49. For Secker's role in Forster's promotion see correspondence in B.L. MS. Adds. 11275.

From the Ven. Dr. John Potter

(ii.147-8)

Canterbury, Dec. 11, 1749

My Lord,

I hope you was informed that before I left London, which was indeed a few Days sooner than I expected to have been at Liberty, I did endeavour twice to pay my Duty and acknowledgments to your Lordship in Piccadilly. Since that time I have been wholly taken up with my Affairs at

Wrotham, & the Business of the Chapter here, which ended not till late last Saturday Night; & I now therefore take the first opportunity of returning my hearty Thanks to your Lordship for the very kind & obliging Reception given me at Cuddesden & in London.

To the Enquiries which your Lordship directed me to make in the Deaneries of Henly & Aston my last Day of Visitation the following Answers are the best I could get.

Mr Mayo Brother to the late Curate of Chalgrove is now the Curate of that Parish, resides there, & has a Salary of £35 a Year, but is not licensed, being desirous I believe to save himself that Expence, if your Lordship will be so indulgent as to overlook it.¹

[f.147v.] Mr Coulson is still Curate of Stoke,² but neither he nor Mr Thornbury appeared,³ and as he resides at Oxford, I could get no Satisfaction with regard to his Salary, or his being with or without a License.

The true State of the Case recited in the enclosed Petition I find to be this. That at the Time therein mentiond Mr Cope & Mr Eyre & some others of the chief Inhabitants of Ewelme did agree with the Petitioners to repair & beautify the Chancel as it is there described. Mr Eyre undertook only the Care of the Pavement, employed a proper Workman for that purpose, & paid him as it was agreed partly by my Father's Subscription as Rector, & partly out of his own Pocket a Sum more than he intended to subscribe, which has never been reimbursed to him. Mr Cope employd the Petitioners upon the Wainscot, Rails, Painting, &c. but has never paid his Subscription, & being now settled at a great Distance in a very different Way of Life will probably think no more of it. Most of the other Subscribers if not all the chief of them, are long since dead or removed, & the present Parishioners being quite a new Set of People, & not in such affluent circumstances think they cannot [f.148] be obliged to make good the Deficiency of a voluntary Subscription in which they could have no Concern. Yet they allow that the poor Workmen should be paid, & wish they were able to do it, but don't know how to raise such a Sum. I thought I could do nothing more than I did, which was to admonish the Churchwarden to call a Vestry, & with the advice of Mr Eyre & others of the chief Parishioners endeavour to get the Debt paid before your Lordship's next Visitation. I apprehend it will be very difficult to settle this Matter to the Satisfaction of the Petitioners, unless Mr Cope by some means could be influenced to recollect and contribute at least what he promised towards it.

I beg the acceptance of my sincere Wishes of much Health & many happy new Years to Your Lordship, and am,

My Lord, with great Esteem Your Lordship's most obliged & obedt Son & Servt

J Potter.

[Endorsed 'Ewelme. Archdeacon abt the Chancel Dec 11. 1749']

¹ Herbert Mayo of Herefs., m. B.N.C. 1739 a.18, M.A. 1745, D.D. 1763; C. Chalgrove 1743/4, and William Mayo m. B.N.C. 1742 a.16, M.A. 1749, C. Swyncombe 1758: the latter is not listed in Oldfield as having subscribed as curate of Chalgrove.

² John Coulson of Northumb., m. New Coll. 1739 a.20, Univ. M.A. 1746, of which he was a fellow and therefore resident there.

³ For information on Samuel Thornbury's residence see *Vis. Retns.*, p. 152.

From Thomas Bishop and Thomas Adean

(ii.146)

Wallingford, Oct. 20, 1749

My Lord.

Your Petitioners humbly Sheweth,
That on the 12th of December 1730. An Agreement was made between the Church=Wardens of the Parish of Ewlm And your Petitioners, for the Compleating An Alterpiece with wainscoat, Rails, And bannisters with Painting writing And Gilding the Lords prayer, Believe, And ten Commandmts, And Fixing And finishing the same in the Chancel of the sd Church for the Sume of twenty pounds, (And also for ten pounds to pave the bottom Which sd ten pounds is paid to the mason)

But yr Petitioners Debt of twenty pounds remains due, Notwithstanding your Petitioners have severall times Apply'd to the Yearly Vestry who have as Often made proposals to Discharge the same by Subscriptions &c. who Afterwards take no manner of notice of their said Proposals. Therefore yr Petitioners take this Oppertunity to acquaint yr Lordship of their case Humbly desiring Your Lordship will be pleas'd to take this their Case in Consideration

wee humbly beg pardon for this trouble, wee are your Lordships Most humble And most Obedient Servants

Thomas Bishop. Thomas Adeane
mr Charles Eyre who was Church warden, And made the Agreement is now living at Ewlm. but will grant us no relieve

A Copy of this was delivered to mr Eyre at the Visitation held at Ewlm Oct 10th 1748. to be presented to yr Lordship. but yr Lordship not being there twas presented to the Register. of which wee have heard nothing since.

[Endorsed 'Ewelm. Petition 1749 abt a Debt incurred by beautifying the Chancel']

From the Revd. Gilbert Walton

(ii.149-50)

[f.150] Finedon, Northants., Oct. 30 [174?]

May it please Your Lordship.

Mr Foxley who I told your Lordship, when I had the Honour to wait upon You at Cuddesdon, was design'd to be Curate of the Wortons is at Manchester,¹ and My Lord Bishop of Chester² has promis'd Him

private Ordination before He leaves that place, if Your Lordship will be pleas'd to grant Letters demissory to that purpose; I do therefore humbly beg the Favour of Your Lordship, if it shall seem proper, to gratify Mr Foxley herein, because He will then so much the sooner be able to take upon him the Care for which He is design'd; I waited for an Opportunity and beg leave to make use of this to acquaint your Lordship [f.149v.] that I can as yet get [MS. torn - ?n]o other information concerning the Donation at Nether Worton than what Mr Yarborough told me he gave your Lordship, which was that Mr Parsons left ten Pounds per Ann: to be paid out of his Estate there, and of this there is a Memorandum in the Register made by Mr Yarborough's Predecessor, in whose Time it was left;³ The Duke of Argyll⁴ gave me a short Nomination in writing to the Cure of Nether Worton, which I shall lay before your Lordship whenever Your Lordship shall require it; I beg Leave to make my humble Acknowledgments to Your Lordship for all your Favours, and to subscribe my self Your Lordships most duty[ful? - MS. torn] and obedient Servant

Gil Walton

Sr John Dolben sends his Hu[mble Duty? - MS. torn] to your Lordship.

[Endorsed 'Worton']

¹ Thomas Foxley of Lancs., m. B.N.C. 1730 a.15, M.A. 1740; fellow of Manchester Collegiate church, C. Over Worton 1739, C. Nether Worton 1739, R. Great Rollright 1736-40.

² Samuel Peploe bp. 1726-52.

³ See ii.92-3 & nn.5-6.

⁴ John Campbell, 1680-1743, 2nd duke 1703, or Archibald Campbell, 1682-1761, 3rd duke 1743: *Compl. Peerage*, i, pp. 206-9.

To the Revd. Nathaniel Forster

(vi, no. 2)¹

[f.99] St. James's Westminster, Feb. 1, 1749/50

Sir

An Augmentation of £200 having lately fallen by Lot to the Chapel of Wheatley, I have agreed to settle upon it, in due form of Law, the £10 a year, which the Bishops of Oxford, for some time past, have voluntarily paid to it; and have approved of a draught of a Deed for that purpose, in which you are made a party; and which will be executed, probably on Monday next, by the Governors of the Queens Bounty and me. But I am apprehensive, that when the former and the present Augmentation come to be known at Wheatley; as by one means or other, sooner or later, they must; the Inhabitants, or many of them, will withdraw their present Contributions; and so the Income of the Chapel be little mended: whereas, if any thing could be settled by them for a perpetuity, instead of their precarious Gifts, it might be greatly improved: I would therefore propose to

you, to try, whether they could not be induced to do something towards procuring [f. 99v.] a third Augmentation: which you need not call a third in speaking to them; but only tell them, that if land or money can be got, to the Amount of £200, the Governors of the Queens Bounty will add £200 more to it; and their usual payment of £6 a year, or whatever it is, shall cease for the future; they shall have constant service in the Chapel; and the Chapel Yard shall be consecrated for the burial of their Dead. One way of doing it, which might be proposed to them, is this. There are some Lands, which from ancient time have belonged to the Chapel. Some persons in Queen Elizabeths reign, pretending the Chapel to be a Chantry, and the Lands to have been given to it for superstitious uses, got a grant of Both from the Crown. But the people of Wheatley recoverd them, by procuring a Decree, by which, on what evidence I known not, both the Chapel and lands were declared to have been given for the sole use and benefit of the poor of the place: since which, the profits of the Lands, I believe, have been so applied; but Divine Service hath been performed in the Chapel, at least for a considerable time. I have a particular Account of these Lands at Cuddesden; but do not remember the value of them: probably the Sims's can tell you, what it is. If they [f. 100] amount to abt £7 a year; and could be settled on the Chapel, as a new Benefaction; the Governors of the Queens bounty would give £200 more, in consideration of it. But if the inhabitants would do this, I am afraid the Lawyers wd object against it; and say, that either the lands belong to the Chapel already; and therefore cannot be proposed, as an Augmentation to obtain the Bounty: or they belong to the Poor, and cannot be appropriated to the Minister. And therefore I believe the only method will be, to try, what can be got amongst them towards raising £200 in money: which I own may seem a very hopeless project. Mr Jackson, who hath the great Tithes, I doubt, is very poor.² But if any thing can be had from him, the Sims's are the proper persons to apply for it. Whether they can coax Mr Smythe out of a little of what he could well spare, is a question, which you may ask of them:³ or whether some lower body might not be likelier to succeed with him. There is one Richard Griffin, who, I am told hath much Interest in him. But his man John Young hath probably still more. Mr Sims of Gibraltar would be likely enough to do something handsome; if his brothers & sisters were willing, that he should. What the Abilities or Dispositions of Mrs A Deane are, I know not:⁴ nor who else hath any property at Wheatley. The late Lord Abingdon promised me to give either [f. 100v.] Land or Money, at a proper time: whether the present could be influenced by his brother of Albury to give anything, I cannot say.⁵ But I should think somewhat might be hoped from Mr Whorwood.⁶ To encourage the Design, you may say, when and where you think it proper, that I will contribute £50 towards it: but I doubt, whether saying that to Mr Smythe will have any good Effect. You were so kind as to offer your Attendance every Sunday, when I should think it a proper time. But I

would keep both that, and the Consecration of the Chapel Yard, in reserve; as inducements together with the saving of their £6 a year, to this Contribution. Indeed the Consecration of that Ground might be liable to the same difficulties, if one would regard them, with the Appropriation of the other Lands to the Chapel: for it is comprehended together with them in the Decree, as belonging to the poor. But I think that blot is not at all likely to be hit; and therefore shall make no scruple about it: nor require any thing further than a Petition from the Inhabitants, requesting me to make that a perpetual Burial Ground for them. But I think it is too small: and believe there is some little matter of Land, and, if I mistake not, a Cottage, adjoining to, and originally part of, the Chapel Ground: and I should hope, you might get them to consider these things, as encroachments upon the Chapel; and to restore them to it, to be consecrated, after [f.101] pulling down the Cottage. For I conceive it will scarce make a proper house for some future Curate. If the perpetual payment of what they give now, in money and dinners, could be secured, it would be sufficient to procure the £200. But of that I see no possibility. If any of their substantial people would secure it only for a moderate number of years: there might be some body found, who would purchase that Annuity: and so much as the Gifts, that could be procured, fell short of £200, might be thus supplied. I have written thus largely, to acquaint you with every thing that I know or can propose upon the subject, because I think there is no present appearance of any more favourable Opportunity of doing something further for this poor Curacy. If you can bring the Scheme to bear, in any Shape, you will be a benefactor to your Successors, and give much pleasure to

Your loving brother and servant

Tho. Oxford

[To Corpus Christi College]

¹ B.L., MS. Add. 11275, ff.99–102.

² Gilbert Jackson, sr.

³ Sebastian Smythe III.

⁴ Anne Adeane.

⁵ Willoughby Bertie, 1692–1760, 3rd earl of Abingdon 1743: *Compl. Peerage*, i, pp. 47–8.

⁶ Thomas Whorwood.

(ii.141b)

From Joseph Sims at Wheatley, Feb. 12, 1749/50, concerning an apprenticeship and support for Secker's scheme for endowing the chapel (*Hassall*, p.78)

(ii.141c-d)

From the Revd. Nathaniel Forster at Oxford, Feb. 20, 1749/50, on the augmentation of the minister's income and the likely response of substantial Wheatley inhabitants to requests for money (*Hassall*, p. 79)

To the Revd. Nathaniel Forster

(vi, no. 3)¹

[f.103] St. James's Westminster, Mar. 2, 1749/50

Sir

You will certainly do well in applying to the Principal of Jesus.² I know not whether he will venture to press him much upon the Subject, or indeed whether that will be likely to do good. But the Principal understands the Management of him much better than I do:³ and could probably advise you, whether an Application to him from you also would be proper, and of what sort. I believe he is very well with Mr Whorwood too. And possibly your name sake could speak to him when he returns from the North.⁴ I cannot direct to any way of applying to Lord Abingdon, unless by his Brother. I thank you for your kind Offer of giving up the £6 a year, wish you good success in all you attempt and am

Your loving brother & servt

Tho. Oxford

[f.104v.] [To Corpus Christi College]

¹ B.L., MS. Add. 11275, ff.103-4.

² Thomas Pardo.

³ Possibly Sebastian Smythe; see Secker's letter of Feb. 1, 1749/50.

⁴ Presumably Thomas Forster.

From the Revd. Dr. Daniel Burton

(iii.1)

Christ Church, Mar. 20, 1749/50

My Lord,

I have this morning been with the Master of University, who has told me the true reason of his declining to preach at your Ldship's visitation; wch is, that He has accepted a living from the church of Peterborough, wch He intends to take possession of in June next, & wch will vacate the living of Brightwell, so that He shall not be one of your Ldship's Clergy at yr visitation, otherwise He would readily obey your commands:¹ that He was unwilling to tell Mr Beaver, whom I desired to deliver the 1st message, the true reason, & therefore talked of Mr Stapylton's being qualified at that time to offer himself for orders, & that He should resign then;² but that He never said, yr Ldship had appointed the exact time of 3 years, but understood it to be about the time of his taking his Degree. I shall

endeavour [f.1v.] to engage one of the other persons whom You name.

Mr Browne of Forresthill tells me, his curacy is worth only £20 a year.³

I suppose your Lordship has heard that Mr Venables is dead:⁴ Mr Pagett, I believe, has behaved very well there.⁵

The Rector of Exeter is in a very bad way, & thought to be past hopes of recovery.⁶

The Relaxation of yr Ldship's inhibition in the year 1747. is dated the 13th of September.⁷

I am My Lord Yr Lordship's Most Dutiful Humble Servt

Dan: Burton.

¹ John Browne of Yorks., subs. Univ. 1704 a.17, M.A. 1710, D.D. 1745, Master 1745-64, V.C. 1750-3: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, iii, p. 71. It is not clear which living he accepted, having become archdeacon of Northampton in 1737/8 and a prebendary of Peterborough in 1743; nevertheless, he resigned his rectory of Brightwell Baldwin, held from 1747/8, on Sep. 21, 1750: *Longden*, ii, p. 253.

² Sir Martin Stapylton of Yorks., m. Univ. 1747 a.24, M.A. n.d.; 7th bt. 1785, R. Brightwell Baldwin 1750-1801: *Compl. Btage*, iii, p. 50.

³ Richard Brown of Oxford city, m. Hart Hall 1727 a.15, Trinity Coll. M.A. 1734, D.D. 1752, Lord Almoner's Prof. Arabic 1748-80, Regius Prof. Hebrew 1774-80; C. Forest Hill 1744: see *Vis. Retns.*, pp. 64-5.

⁴ Charles Venables of 'Hatherop', m. Merton 1724/5 a.18, B.A. 1729; C. South Newington 1729, C. Charlbury 1731, V. Chipping Norton 1739/40-50.

⁵ Thomas Pagett of Somerset, m. Queen's 1721 a.15, Corpus M.A. 1728, B.D. 1738, d.1783; Oldfield lists no preferments.

⁶ James Edgcumbe d. May 16, 1750: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, iii, p. 114.

⁷ An inhibition suspended the administrative functions of an archdeacon and his officers during the period of a bishop's visitation; thereafter a relaxation was issued to cancel the inhibition.

To the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(iii.2)

St. James's Westminster, Apr. 12, 1750

Good Mr Rector

As I purpose God Willing to visit my Diocese this Summer, I am obliged to remind you again of the old Affair in Question between your Society and me. The last thing wch passed in relation to it was, that you acquainted me by your Letter of Dec. 15. 1747 that the College did not think it proper to part with any thing wch had been apprehended to be a Right or a Privilege without the Visitors Consent. This brought the matter back to the state in wch it was abt 10 years ago: wn the College promised that a state shd be drawn up by Dr Edmonds & laid before the Visitor. But he desired time till a Cause then depending wch he thought wd give Light into this point shd be determined. And it pleased God, that he died soon after. You will not wonder therefore if I beg the Favour wch I shd have done some time ago of knowing whether any other person hath been employed in this Work, or what I may hope will be

done concerning it. I am with great Regard, Sir, Your loving brother and
Servt

TO

[Endorsed 'To Dr Isham Apr 12. 1750']

From the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham,

(iii.3)

Lincoln College, Apr. 15, 1750

My Lord

I have the Honour of Your Lordships letter, & beg your indulgence for a fuller answer to the contents of it till after the sixth of next month, which being one of our two statutable Chapter days for College business, there will be a better authority for such answer than I am at present able to obtain. I am sorry your Lordship has had so much trouble about this affair, which I assure You was never in my power to prevent; which I should have rejoiced to have done on many accounts, but particularly in regard to that sincere inclination I have to give Your Lordship ease & satisfaction in every thing I am able; being, my Lord, with great Truth,

Your most Faithful & Obedient Servt,

Eus. Isham

From the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(iii.4-5)

Lincoln College, May 8, 1750

My Lord

I communicated the contents of Your Lordships Letter to the Society at their meeting on the sixth of this month, & am obliged to acquaint Your Lordship that I find a greater reluctance than ever to the thoughts of parting with any right or privilege that is apprehended to have descended down to us from the foundation of the College to this time; & with which we are intrusted as guardians & defenders in behalf both of our selves & our posterity. — this only from the Society: with regard to my self, my Lord, give me leave to add —

What information & advice we have yet had relating to this affair makes it appear to be a point of so much intricacy & difficulty, that I heartily wish Your Lordship, out of your known affection for peace, could prevail upon Yourself, as Your Predecessor did, to let the matter rest upon its present footing, without injuring or receding from your Claim.

[f.5] I am indeed, my Lord, the more earnestly desirous of this, because (tho' I have already had much more trouble & uneasiness in the affair than Your Lordship I believe apprehends) yet I have too much reason to foresee more difficulty & vexation in it than ever, & am not without my fears it may come to an extremity, which we should all be sorry for. I beg leave to repeat that this is only & bonâ fide from my self, & which I have

communicated to no one; my hearty sincerity in wishing there is nothing very unreasonable in the thing having drawn it from me; but however as I am sure it proceeds from a good principle, & believe it will be lookt on in that light by Your Lordship, I am happy in the reflection of having an easy pardon granted, for any possible impropriety in the request, to, my Lord,
Your Lordships, most Obedient & most Dutiful Servant

Eus. Isham

[Endorsed 'Dr Isham May 8. 1750']

To the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(iii. 6-9)

Cuddesdon, June 20, 1750

Dear Mr Rector.

I have been hindred, by a multiplicity of Business, from expressing to You sooner the great Concern, which your last Letter hath given me. When this Question, concerning the Exemption of your Curacies, was first moved by Dr Brook in 1739, it was agreed between You on behalf of the College and me, that we should carry on the Examination of it in the most friendly manner, & communicate on each side whatsoever might contribute to throw Light upon it. Accordingly I laid before You several Evidences, which appeared to me strong ones in favour of the Episcopal Jurisdiction. And doubt not but you remember, that in a principal one, produced by you to support the Exemption, that Jurisdiction is in express terms saved. In pursuance of the same design, I consulted the late and present Bishops of London:¹ who gave their Opinions, that your Curacies were not exempt: And the Letter of Bishop Sherlock [*f. 6v.*] at least, I believe you have had ever since.² Not long after this, the College, as I learnt from you, judged it would be proper to apply to the Bishop of Lincoln, their Visitor, on the occasion,³ But, on second thoughts, they chose rather to have the previous advice of a Civilian:⁴ and lastly, determined, that it would be best of all, if some method could be found of accomodating the Affair, without troubling the Visitor. Being informed of this, I declared myself ready to receive any such proposal: And you gave me hopes in April 1741, that one would soon be made me.⁵ But Dr Edmunds, who undertook to consider the Case for that purpose, after desiring longer and longer time to qualifie himself more fully, died at last, without having given, it seems, any opinion in Form. But his judgment, as you acquainted me by Letter, Oct 13. 1747 was apprehended to be, that the College should appear by a Syndic at Visitations, and receive my Orders, directed to the Rector & Fellows, who should answer for their being carried into execution by the Curates: And this, You further informed me, was the present opinion of the College, to whom you would communicate any Letter or Message [*f. 7*] of mine on the subject.⁶ Accordingly, I wrote what seemed to me requisite: And the Resolution of the College upon it, transmitted to me by you Dec. 15. 1747.

was that they could not part with any thing, that had been apprehended to be one of their Rights and Privileges, without the Consent of their Visitor.⁷ On this, after too long a delay, I lately requested to know, whether any step had been taken, or whether I might hope any would, to procure the Visitor's Direction in the Affair. And the whole answer given me, is, that the College have a greater reluctance, than ever, to the thoughts of parting with any Right or Privilege, that is apprehended to have descended to you from the foundation, & with which you are intrusted as Guardians &c.⁸ Now God forbid you should ever part with what is really such a right. But then surely you should be just as unwilling to withhold from any other persons what is really their Right: And in Particular, to withhold from the Bishops of Christs Church any Right, which hath descended to them from Him, and with which they are intrusted by Him. It deserves to be well considered, whether any Presbyter, Officiating in the Church, can be freed, consistently with the [f.7v.] Laws of Christianity, from all Episcopal Authority. For if He can, every Presbyter may be freed, & so that Authority abolished. But, at least, no such Exemption ought to be pleaded, without careful Inquiry first, whether the Power able to grant it, if any such there be, hath indeed granted it. And if the power, under which you claim this exemption, either could not, or hath not given it you; instead of being bound in Conscience to maintain it, you are bound to the Contrary, even though you had been in possession of it ever since Your Foundation: Which yet I think it plainly appears You have not. I may be partial indeed; or mistake, though impartial: and so may you: I have considered the Matter, as fairly & diligently as I can: & verily believe what I claim to be a Right of my Bishoprick, which I am bound by Oath to preserve. Whether your Society can say, that they have considered in the same manner, & verily believe the Exemption to be a Right, which they are bound by Oath to preserve, is not quite clear to me from your Letter. If they can, we are so far on a Level. But then I have the opinions of learned Men on my Side: & I have [f.8] laid them, with the Reasons of them, frankly and openly before the College: who have also confessed, that the Person, whom they pitched on to consult, seemed to think them subject to my Jurisdiction; and indeed that they thought so at that time themselves. But whether they have changed their minds, & why: Whether they have since had any different opinion from any eminent person; and how they now prove their claim, or answer the arguments brought against it: they have not been pleased to acquaint me. Nay, when they had themselves proposed a method to proceed in, for coming to a final Resolution on good grounds; they do not now so much as grant my request of knowing, whether they will pursue that method, or substitute any other instead of it; but are content to say, that they have a greater Reluctance, than ever, to the parting with any thing, that is apprehended to be a Right.

I beg of You, Gentlemen, to reflect, for it is the law of Christ that you

should, whether, if any one were to treat you thus, you would think it equitable and kind treatment: And [*f.8v.*] if not, to resume your Deliberations on the subject. I am very sensible, that the best and ablest Men may, through inadvertence or imperfect views of things, act as they are far from intending. Therefore I do by no means think ill of any one Member of the Society, for what has passed on this occasion; and am, in particular, with true and great Regard & Esteem,

Good Mr Rector, Your loving Brother and humble servant.

[TO]

[In the hand of Secker's amanuensis and endorsed 'Letter to Dr Isham June 20.1750']

¹ Edmund Gibson bp. 1723-48, Thomas Sherlock bp. 1748-61.

² See i.80-1.

³ Richard Reynolds bp. 1723-44, John Thomas bp. 1744-61.

⁴ Dr. Henry Edmunds.

⁵ See i.91.

⁶ See ii.117-18.

⁷ See ii.119-20.

⁸ See iii.4-5.

'Postscript written June 21 to the Letter to Dr Isham June 20, 1750'

(iii.10-11)

June 21, 1750

Give me leave good Mr Rector to subjoyn to this long Letter a separate Postscript. I think I have said nothing in it but wt is both true & proper. But if I have either mistaken any thing; or inserted any thing written by you, which you are unwilling the College shd know you have written; or put any thing in a way more likely to provoke than persuade: I shall be very ready in your Admonition to rectifie it; & send you such a letter to be shewn instead of this, as you shall judge fitter to produce a good Effect. Nay if you are clear that there can be no application from me at present but wt will exasperate: though I know not wt shd have wrought so great a change, & do not at all distinctly apprehend what the Extremity is to wch you fear the matter may come: yet I will wait in silence for a more favourable Opportunity[.] For I shd be very sorry to make any unnecessary & fruitless Addition to the uneasiness wch you assure me & I believe this affair hath caused you. And besides, you have given me reason through the whole progress of it, to have a most intire reliance on your love of Truth & Justice your Impartiality Candour & Friendliness. I have not indeed [*f.10v.*] exactly followed your Advice that I shd offer to submit the matter to the Determination of the Bp of Lincoln. For though I have very little doubt but he wd determine agst the Exemption: yet if the contrary shd happen, my Successors might reproach me either with Treachery or Fool-hardiness[.]

And I hoped that his Opinion given to the College on their sole Application, wd have the same Effect on them, as if we had applied joyntly. I shd undoubtedly have pressed them sooner to ask his opinion: but not foreseeing a likelihood of their being less disposed to it, I sufferd my self to be prevailed on by the usual poor reasons for delays. After wt I have here said I hope I need not say in form that I return you my sincerest thanks for the latter part of your last letter.

[TO]

From the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(iii.12)

Lincoln College, July 6, 1750

My Lord

In obedience to Your desire I have sent Your Lordship the Letters I had been honoured with at various time relating to our affair, those I mean of your own, except the last which is what I apprehend Your Lordship meant. I am obliged to set forward on my journey Monday next,¹ & will not fail of taking the first opportunity of paying my duty to Your Lordship on my return, humbly begging Your pardon for not waiting on You on Thursday, at which time however I understand Your Lordship did by no means want company to fill Your hospitable table.

I most heartily return Your Lordship my most sincere thanks for all the instances of Your goodness & condescension to me, particularly for the favourable manner, with respect to my self, with which You received my last Apology, & am, my Lord, with my warmest wishes for Your Health & Happiness.

Your Lordships most Dutiful & Faithful Servant

Eus. Isham

¹ Presumably his summer visit to his Northamptonshire home and livings.

From the Revd. Dr. Thomas Pardo

(iii.13)

Oxford, June 4, 1750

My Lord

I was favoured with yr Lords. letter last post, and received Mr Lenthalls presentation this day.¹ The young man is to part on Dr Burton with it to morrow in order to be examin'd.² I discoursed the person presented this morning in relation to the contents of yr Lord. letter – He never saw nor heard from Mr Lenthall nor my Ld Banbury,³ nor did any person talk with him about the living besides my self, and I assure yr Lordship He made me no promises of any kind, so that I hope yr Lordship may be easy as to the affair; I am obliged to you for yr good opinion of me as well as for repeated

civilitys which I have for many years recd from yr Lordship. I would not willingly forfeit that good opinion and deceive my Diocesan in any particular.

The Election came in this morning att Exeter 20 Electors present, 10 for Webber,⁴ 9 for Andrews⁵ and Mr Webber who cannot vote for himself, voted for a third person, But a majority not falling on any one person, in the first scrutiny there was no election, they are to have another scrutiny this afternoon, If the votes continue the same, There must be a third to morrow which is decisive, Then the Election is determined by the sub-Rector, that is the person who has a majority of his Competitors or an equality, and for whom the sub-Rector has voted is duly elected, it is thought Mr Webber will att last succeed. Which makes some of my Brethren look Blank –

I am with all due respect yr Lordships dutyfull and obliged servant

Tho. Pardo

Many travell They behaved unkindly being willing to come into any scheme to defeat Mr Webber. –

¹ John Lenthall was patron of Yelford and presented in 1750: *Bacon*, p. 804.

² John Rogers of Wilts., m. Oriel 1734/5 a.18, M.A. 1741; C. Wigginton 1730, R. Yelford 1750–72.

³ Charles Knollys, 1703–71, of Westminster, 5th earl of Banbury (disputed title), m. Ch. Ch. 1722 a.19, M.A. 1728; V. Black Bourton 1731/2–71, V. Burford 1747–71: *Compl. Peerage*, i, p. 406.

⁴ Francis Webber.

⁵ ? James Andrew of Cornwall, m. Exeter Coll. 1738 a.20, M.A. 1745, prebendary of Rochester 1765–75, d. ?1790: C.W. Boase, *Registrum Collegii Exoniensis*, O.H.S., xxvii, p. 143.

From John Lenthall

(iii.14–15)

[f.15] Yelford, June 4, 1750

My Ld.

I am much Obligd to yr Lordp for the Honr of yrs & greatly surprizd at the Information you give me for I could not have Imagind A person who Lay under so many & great Obligations as Mr Newcome did to me could have been guilty of so Base and loe an Action [;]¹ the praesentation to Docr Shippen he knew very well was given only to save him the expence of A Dispensation and my Loseing the next praesentation should any one take out the seals and upon A promise both from him & Docr Shippen that no other use shoud be made of it and that it was so given I have under Docr Shippens Hand [;]² upon hearing some time ago Mr Newcome was Dead I writ to Mr Leyborne acquainting him with the whole Affair desiring the praesentation might be deliverd up to me.³ I Recd his answer A Copy of which [f.15v.] I take the Liberty of troubling you with & which I presume will satisfy yr Lordp[.] my praesentation to Yelford will not be Disputed which must have been had not the Living had more Honour then the Dead.

I return to yr Lordp my best acknowledgements for yr kind acceptance of my Request when you come to Burford which I shall always esteem as A perticular favour done to

Yr Lordps most Faithful & Dutyfull Hum Sert

J Lenthal

All my Family joyn in Complements to yr Lordp

[Endorsed 'Yelford Mr Lenthal June 4. 1750']

¹ Henry Newcome of Lancs., m. B.N.C. 1695/6 a.17, M.A. 1702; C. Burford 1704, R. Yelford 1707/8–50.

² Robert Shippen.

³ Robert Leyborne of London, m. B.N.C. 1710/11 a.17, Ch.Ch. M.A. 1717, D.D. 1731, principal St. Alban Hall 1736–59.

From the Revd. William Reynolds¹

(iii.16–17)

Bampton, June 17, 1750

My Lord,

I am advis'd by my Physician to go down to Bristol and try the Waters there. This therefor waits on Your Lordship to desire your Leave, and that you will permit me to put in during my Absence a Resident Curate to do my share of the Duty here and at Shifford. The Person I would propose to your Lordship is Mr Philips Fellow of Wadham College, a very grave, serious young Man, whose Character upon Enquiry will I am persuaded be found unexceptionable.²

Your Lordship will judge a Resident Curate to be the more necessary in the present Case, when I inform You that my Brother Vicar labours under such a Disorder as must necessarily oblige him to follow me to Bristol very soon.³ But you will ask me perhaps, my Lord, How can the same Parson supply both Bampton and Shifford? Mr Philips proposes every third Sunday, which will be as often as he shall need Assistance, to get a Person from Oxford to take [*f.16v.*] Care of Shifford. Mr Bowerbank of Queen's College⁴ serv'd two Portions for my Predecessor Mr Edmonds several Years in the same Manner.⁵

I find by your Lordship's Letter to Mr Snell that you confirm here Sunday July 22. If God grants me Life so long, and I am able to travel, I purpose to return from Bristol for a few Days on Purpose to pay my Duty to your Lordship on the Occasion, and hope that I shall have the Favour and Honour of your Company at my House. I am, my Lord, with great Esteem

Your Lordship's most Dutiful & Obedient Humble Servant

W: Reynolds

¹ Of Devon, m. Exeter Coll. 1721 a.16, M.A. 1732; C. Bampton Proper & Lew, V. Bampton Proper & Lew 1743–50/1.

² Robert Philips of Oxford city, m. Wadham 1738 a.16, M.A. 1746; C. Watlington 1747.

³ Thomas Snell.⁴ Christopher Bowerbank of Cumb., m. Queen's 1705/6 a.17, M.A. 1714; C. Bampton 1724.⁵ John Edmonds, m. Queens' Camb. 1690, M.A. 1703; V. Bampton Lew 1707/8-43.**From the Revd. Thomas Middleton**

(iii.18-19)

[f.19] Bampton, June 29, 1750

My Lord

Mr Reynolds, Friday last after Morning Prayer & not till then, acquainted me, that he intended for Bristol the next Morning, when he went, & had appointed Mr. Phillips to take Care, in his Absence, of the Churches of Bampton & Shifford & withal read me that part of your Lordship's Letter, that regarded your Lordship's Approbation. I have no Objection to Mr. Reynolds's assigning a resident Curate all Duty he can do himself; but as Mr. Phillips has undertaken Mr. Snell's Bampton Sunday as well as Mr. Reynolds's Two Sundays, I hope your Lordship will think it equitable that I be continued in the Cure of Shifford as usual. Mr. Reynolds's Objection is, that £20 for Shifford out of £50 for the whole of his Cure is very unequal: but as Mr. Phillips has Mr. Snell's Sunday I believe his Salary to be between £40 & £50; & £20 for Shifford only was by Mr. Edmonds himself propos'd & [f.18v.] approv'd by Your Lordship & not thought too much till now by Mr. Reynolds. My Request, to be short, to Your Lordship is, that I may be continued, for the Reasons offer'd, in the Cure of Shifford & obtain the Favour of a Line from Your Lordship to Mr. Phillips, (Mr Reynolds being now not to be spoken to) to stop him from providing Another for Shifford.

I am My Lord Yr. Lordship's obedient Servt.

Tho: Middleton

[Endorsed 'Bampton - Shifford Mr Middleton June 29.1750']

To the Revd. William Reynolds

(iii.20)

Cuddesdon, June 29, 1750

Sir

Mr Middleton, Vicar of Clanfield hath just now been with me complaining of the Hardship done him by you in dismissing him from serving the Cure of the chapel of Shifford as you did not mention him in your Letter to me & I did not imagine that you wd dismiss him agst his will though he was not licensed; & yet less, without acquainting me with it, & with the Cause; when you proposed to employ another person: so I did not think of him, as being at all likely to be hurt by my Consent: which therefore, since he is, I must retract, unless you can give me sufficient Reasons for turning him off. I hope to hear from you on this Head by the first Opportunity -

[TO]

From the Revd. William Reynolds

(iii.21-2)

Bristol Hot Wells, July 9, 1750

My Lord,

I receiv'd your Lordship's Letter of the twenty ninth of June Tuesday Morning, but was so much out of Order that I was not able to answer it by the Return of the Post that Evening.

I thought that there was no Occasion for my mentioning Mr Middleton's Name, when I desir'd you would permit me to put in a Resident Curate to take Care of my Share of the Duty both at Shifford and Bampton. As your Lordship had given him Leave to serve Shifford under my Predecessor, and you had receiv'd no Application from me in Behalf of any other Person since my coming to Bampton, I thought you might reasonably conclude that he serv'd it still.

I did not mention my Reason for desiring your Lordship that Mr Philips might have the Care of Shifford as well as Bampton because I thought it too obvious to need it. I could not get a proper Person to serve Bampton two Weeks in three and reside constantly without very extraordinary Pay, such as in my present Circumstances I cannot well afford; whereas Shifford with Bampton would be an Encouragement sufficient to procure a Person of some Merit and Character. I might have continu'd indeed to have had a Preacher over from Oxford on Sundays leaving Mr Middleton to do the Weekly Duty as usual, which would have been less expensive to me. But then, my Lord, I foresaw, as Mr Middleton has two or three Farms upon his Hands and is become quite a Farmer, and frequents the neighbouring Markets as much as any of them, that the [f.21v.] Parish must be frequently neglected, especially as Mr Snell would be absent at the same Time. I thought myself therefor bound in Conscience to leave a resident Curate in my Absence, to whom I give, my Lord, fifty Pounds a Year besides Surplice Fees. This my Lord was my principal Reason, which I thought your Lordship might have guess'd, for desiring that Mr Philips might serve Shifford as well as Bampton viz. that I might not be put to an unreasonable Expence. But besides this I have another. The People of Shifford and the Neighbourhood, who come thither to Church, have for some Time complain'd at their being serv'd but once a Day. I was desirous therfor to put a Stop to all Complaints of this kind, and to have it serv'd for the future both Parts of the Day.

I cannot see what Reason Mr Middleton has to complain. When your Lordship first permitted him to serve Shifford it was a kind, humane Thing in you as he had then nothing but Clanfield. But your Lordship perhaps does not know that Circumstances are greatly alter'd with him since. He has now besides Clanfield the Living of Baden in Berkshire, a Schole in Bampton upwards of twenty Pounds a Year that he makes a Sinecure of, and rents two or three Farms. In short, my Lord, he is the greatest Pluralist

in our Parts, and yet, as if he had nothing, he is grasping at every Thing. Tho' he now applys to your Lordship to be continu'd at Shifford, he stands engag'd to me for the Care of Mr Snells Turn there every third Sunday, and would have undertaken his Turn at Bampton too had it not been provided for before.

As your Lordship must be sensible that what I have done in this Case has been purely out of a conscientious Regard to my Parish that it may be the better serv'd; and as Mr Middleton has no just Grounds for Complaint, but rather ought to be thankful that you have indulg'd him in [f.22] serving it so long, I flatter myself that I shall have your Lordship's Approbation. I am, my Lord, with great Esteem your Lordship's

Most Dutiful & Obedient Humble Servant

W: Reynolds

[Endorsed 'Bampton Mr Reynolds July 5 1750']

To the Revd. Thomas Middleton

(iii.23)

Cuddesdon, July 20, 1750

Sir

I have recd a Letter from Mr Reynolds dated 5th Inst. the Substance of wch is that he hath no Obligation to continue you; that his Circumstances require him to provide for his Parish during his Absence at as small an Expençe as he can properly & that the Method wch he hath chosen is the most beneficial to his parishioners: that Mr Philips will be able to attend occasional week day Duties better than you, because you have 2 or 3 Farms on yr Hands: that the Inhabitants of Shifford & its neighbourhood have for some time complained, that Divine Service is performed there but once every Sunday & that he thinks himself concerned in Conscience, that they shd have it twice. He might have added, that by this Method you will also be at Liberty to serve Clanfield twice every Sunday. Your Answer to these Allegations shall be impartially considered by &c.

[TO]

From the Revd. Thomas Leigh¹

(iii.24)

Harpsden, July 19, 1750

My Lord,

I hope Yr. Lordship will be so kind as to excuse my not attending Yr. Visitation at Watlington. I am really oblig'd to be at Henly to morrow; that day being the day of Appeal upon the Land & Window Tax; which if I should omitt, I beleive there would not be Commissioners enough to do the Duty that may then be requir'd.

Wishing Yr. Lordship all health & happyness, I remain Yr. Lordships
most Dutyfull & Obedient Humble Servt.

Tho: Leigh

¹ Of Adlestrop, Gloucs., m. Ch. Ch. 1713 a.16, All Souls M.A. 1720, B.D. 1740/1; R. Harpsden 1731-64.

From the Revd. William Stockwood

(iii.25)

Henley-on-Thames, July 20, 1750

My Lord

I am sorry I cant do myself the Pleasure of waiting on Your Lordship to day which I hope you will be so good as to excuse. It unluckily happens that this is the day of Appeal for the Land Tax at Henley which its necessary for me to attend upon otherwise there will not be a sufficient Number of Commissioners to do the Kings busyness I am

My Lord Your Lordships most dutiful Son & most Obedient Servt

William Stockwood

To the Revd. William Stockwood

(iii.26-7)

Cuddesdon, July 26, 1750

Sir.

At Your Request I have excused your Omission of attending my Visitation at Watlington on Friday last. But I must tell you, that the Reason, which you have pleaded is by no means a sufficient one. Appearing before your Diocesan is somewhat more in the Way of your Profession, than sitting upon Appeals for the Land Tax: my Citation, I conceive, carries somewhat more Authority with it, than the Summons of a Clerk: there are other Commissioners of that Tax, and but one Rector of Henley. Why then should you not rather have given notice to Them, that you were [*f.26v.*] obliged to be with me; than to me, that you were obliged to be with them? But since you have chosen the last, I must ask you this way, instead of doing it personally, why have you not yet, after repeated Admonitions for twelve years past, given me security for the Preservation of your Parochial Library, & delivered me a Catalogue of it, as the Law directs.¹ And also, why a person is employed as a Curate, and a Lecturer in your Parish without being duly nominated to

Your loving Brother & Servant

Tho Oxford.

[In the hand of Secker's amanuensis and endorsed by Secker 'Henley Letter to Mr Stockwood July 27. 1750 abt his Absence from the Visitation, his Parochial Library & Curate']

¹ The parish library is dealt with further in the following two letters and in J.S. Burn, *History of Henley-on-Thames*, 1861, pp. 103-7, which records the bequest in the will of Charles Aldrich, R. Henley 1709-37, of 'all my study of books'. In 1777 the bishop, archdeacon and chancellor made a formal demand on Stockwood to deliver the books to the churchwardens to be placed in the room furnished by the parish for the purpose.

From the Revd. William Stockwood

(iii.28-9)

Henley-on-Thames, Aug. 7, 1750

My Lord

I had the Honour of Your Lordships & am highly Obligd to You for excusing my not waiting on You at Your Visitation & the rather as You are not thoroughly satisfyd with the Excuse I made. I had a full intention to have waited on Your Lordship & had told the Clerk I could not attend the day of Appeal but as it provd very wet on that day & out of 5 Commissioners one was gone a long journey & the other had disappointed the Country at one of the meetings before, & livd near nine miles off, it seemd absolutely necessary for Mr Lee & my self to stay, & accordingly it happend that if either of us had come to Watlington no busyness as to the Land Tax could have been done & the Collectors of 17 Parishes must have been disappointed again.¹ As to Your Lordships Enquiry about the Books, I have heard nothing of the Executor since the Chancery Suit I formerly mentiond, & whether that may not some time or other oblige him to resume the Books I cant tell but there is, what I never mentioned to You or any one before, an unlucky Circumstance in the bequest for who are they left to? to *His Successor*, & in case of *his* Refusal to the *Parish* that is to no body in Law as I have been well informd.

As to Mr Hayman I am very much concernd I did not give You information about Him in form & heartily ask Your Lordships pardon for it, it was not neglected out of any disrespect but I was misled by the Chancelrs. Enquiring at his Visitation about him if I remember right which I thought might be by Your Lordps. direction & concluded that His Account to Your Lordp. might be sufficient, however when Mr Hayman went to Town where his Stay was exceeding short I desird Him to wait upon You, which some how or other was omitted, most likely by not being able to get [f.29] to St James's out of the City by nine o'clock which was the hour I directed him to wait on You & after this it slipt entirely out of my mind & his too.

As to the Licencing of Him The Case of this Parish is very uncommon, There is no Subscription to a Lecturer here & it was in my Predecessors time the Lectureship was first set up, which was with gt. difficulty supported by him during his time & by me since,² & each of us has been for that reason obligd to take the Lecturer to assist us, who needed no assistance as we resided on our Living, purely that we might keep up the afternoon Sermon in a place where there is a Meeting house so very near, which very Sermon

upon Mr Brown's leavg it & Mr Haymans coming would have entirely dropt if there had not been some skill & management made use of to continue it on. I am with the greatest respect

My Lord Your Lordship's most Dutiful Son & most Obedt Servt
William Stockwood

[Endorsed 'Henley Mr Stockwood Aug 7 1750']

¹ Presumably Thomas Leigh.

² Charles Aldrich, R. Henley-on-Thames 1709-37, chaplain to Frederick Prince of Wales.

From the Revd. William Stockwood

(iii.30-1)

Henley-on-Thames, Sep. 2, 1750

My Lord

I had the favour of Your Lordships 2d. Letter & in answer to it You will give me leave to say that I do not know whether the Lawsuit is ended or not but I will endeavr. to inform myself abt. it tho I dont know at present where the Executor lives[.] If the Lawsuit is not ended or if the Clause in the Will as it stands does not give either the Successor or the Parish a legal Title to the Books as I am informd it does not, Your Ldship will excuse my apprehensions that I cant be as safe in delivering a Catalogue of the Books as I shd be if it were ended or the Bequest properly made. The Catalogue wn. deliverd I conceive is to be lodgd in Your Lordships Court. I am not a Judge whether the bare delivery of it wth. an acknowledgmt of the Donation in the usual form will not give my Successor a Power to demand the Books of me or my Executor tho Your Ldship allows if the Law-Suit is still depending there may possibly be anothr. Claim fm the Executor[.] If this may be how am I safe between two different Claims, one of which is confessedly legal & the other I establish myself by delivering in the Catalogue in the usual form? I have not the Will nor the Clause of Donation, the Copy of the Clause which I had of the Executor I gave to you & which I suppose You may find among your Papers but the Will itself I never saw. & as I have [*f.30v.*] always acknowledgd to every Body that these Books are a publick Benefaction as several of my Brethn. of the Clergy as well as my Neighbrs can testify & as I have acknowledgd it plainly to Your Ldship by delivering in that Clause to You[,] I am greatly surpris'd at an intimation in Your Letter that possibly I may think the Books to be my private Property, I confess Your Ldship has said 'I presume You do not think so.' But My Lord to any common apprehension this Intimation especially with what follows is very plain. I am therefore greatly surpris'd to see it in Your Lordships Letter. It is an Imputation that no one who knows me would have laid upon me

I gave You my Opinion of the Inconveniencys that wd arise from Licensing Mr Hayman which I came into from the best Judgment I could form from the knowledge of the People & the particular circumstances of

the Case for the Lecturer is not chose by them, however Yr. Lordsp does not apprehend these inconveniencys so much as I do[.] Mr Hayman therefore shall wait upon You soon[.] I shall only beg leave to add that I never knew any one to be Licencd where the Minister resides himself[,] for surely such a one is not properly a Curate but an Assistant[,] nor do I find that any such are Licencd at Reading; where the Minister does not reside there may perhaps be more reason for it but the late Bishop of Londn alterd his opinion as to this matter of Licensing in that case some years before his death as being sensible of many inconveniencys wch arose fm it one instance of which I think [I] formerly informd you of.

I am My Lord Your Lordships Obedt humble Servt

W Stockwood

[Endorsed 'Henley Mr Stockwood Sept 2. 1750']

From Thomas Bishop and Thomas Adean

(iii.32)

Wallingford, July 20, 1750

My Lord.

Wee had the honr some time ago to acquaint yr Lordship of the alter piece which wee had been employ'd about in the Chacell [sic] of the Parish church at Ewlme for which wee agreed to take twelve pounds the Carpenter And Eight pounds for Painting and Gilding,¹ wee apply'd at the Vestry yearly And was allways promis'd a method should be taken for the paymt but never perform'd. The Rev. Mr Archdeacon at the last Visitation Used his good Offices and agreeable thereto we attended the Vestry at Easter And then was promised they would use their Endeavours for the paym't since which they have taken no Notice abt. it

Wherefore after begging pardon for the trouble wee have already given yr Lordship in this affair.

Wee would humbly desire the favour of yr Lordship to point out some way whereby wee may have Satisfaction according to our just demands Which will Confer a Lasting Obligation on my Lord

Your Lordships most Obedient humble Servants

Thomas Bishop

Thomas Adean

[Added in Secker's hand 'I saw them and told them that they must take Advice whether the length of time did not preclude them from recovering wt was due to them and whether it was best to proceed in the temporal Courts or the Spiritual. But if they chose the last they must proceed regularly and could not have relief otherwise.' and endorsed 'Ewelme adorning of the chancel 1750']

¹ Secker's views on church ornamentation were expressed in his 5th visitation charge: *Porteus*, v, pp. 410-11.

To Sir Edward Turner at Ambrosden¹

(iii.33-4)

Cuddesdon, July 27, 1750

Sir.

I have perused the Writings which you put into my hands last week: and find that, according to the tenour of them, instead of merely giving my consent as Ordinary, so far as by Law I may, which is the only thing, that I conceive myself impowered to do; I am as Rector improprie, to join with the Vicar and Parishioners in conveying the Freehold of part of the Church-Yard to You. Now I apprehend, that the Vicar hath the Freehold of the Church Yard; and the Parishioners an Interest in it, for the Burial of their Dead: But that the Rector improprie hath no concern at all with it. Besides, if the Freehold were in the Rector, I could not grant it thus to You: for my Predecessor hath [*f.33v.*] granted a lease of the Whole Rectory for three Lives still in being. Or though there were no such Lease, I should not think I had any Authority to alienate this or any part of the possessions of my Bishoprick, by way of exchange or otherwise. Or whatever I might venture to do, in respect to so trifling a Part: I should think it requisite to shelter my self under the above mentioned saving words. Therefore I must beg to have the matter put into another form: unless it can be shewn me, that I may lawfully and properly do what is now desired: which in that case I shall do very willingly; being with great Regard and Esteem,

Sir, Your most obedient humble servant

Tho. Oxford.

[In the hand of Secker's amanuensis and endorsed 'Ambrosden Letter to Sr Edw. Turner abt the Ch. Yard July 27.1750']

¹ As patron of Ambrosden he presented in 1765: *Bacon*, p. 792. The rectory estate had been granted to the bishopric of Oxford in 1590: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, v, pp. 23-5.

From the Revd. Henry Whitfield¹

(iii.35)

Broadwell, n.d.

My Lord

I recd Yr Lordship's of the 26 ult. on Sunday last, & intended to have waited on You the next day, but was prevented by a terrible Accident which happen'd to my wife on Sunday Evening. She was overturn'd in a Chaise by the Horse's running away with her, & recd. so violent a Shock that she is most horridly bruised inside & out. It wd have been inhuman to have left her in such a Condition, when there was reason to fear I should not see her alive at my Return. She has grown every day worse till last night, but the Apothecary tells me this Morning he is in hopes the Danger is over.

I write this in Bed, & am scarce able to set Pen to Paper. Yesterday morning I was seized with a violent Fever, & was light headed the greatest

Part of the time from one in the Afternoon till twelve at Night. As soon as I am able, I will wait on Yr Lordship in order to give Bond to repair the [f.35v.] Vicarage House in two Years Time in such Manner as the Commissaries shall approve of. In the mean time if Yr Lordship will give Yr self the Trouble of looking over the Bradwell Presentmts, You will find in One of them at least, that the Manner in which I presented the House, shews that I had something more in View than barely saving the Church Wardens Oaths, & that I was then very desirous of forwarding the Affair.²

If I had design'd to have conceal'd from Yr Lordship my having an Assistant, I should not [have] given him Tickets for the Confirmation, nor have told the Apparitor to put down his Name.³ Two or three Ordinations have past since I offer'd him a Title, & the sooner he [is] in Priests Orders, the easier it will be for me on Sacramt days.

Yr Lordship's Fav & Countenance would be an Encouragemt to me; but what ever Opinion You are pleas'd to entertain of me, I shall always approve my self, My Lord

Yr Lordships most dutiful Son

H Whitfield

¹ Of Broadwell, m. New Inn Hall 1712 a.16, Hart Hall M.A. 1719; V. Broadwell 1727-62.

² The churchwardens' presentment dated Oct. 26, 1750 reads 'all well but the Vicarage House, of which the Minister will give an Acc.': O.R.O., O.A.P. c.55 f.10.

³ Oldfield lists no curate; he notes the ordination as priest of John Eyton in 1738/9 (? of Flint, m. Jesus 1731 a.16, M.A. 1737) who was presumably an earlier curate: *Vis. Retns.*, pp. 23-4.

To the Revd. Henry Whitfield

(iii.36)

Cuddesdon, Aug. 5, 1750

Sir.

I am very sorry for your Illness & Mrs Whitfields: and pray God give you both a speedy & perfect recovery. But if you had been well, there would have been no need of your coming to give Bond immediately. Indeed I think it may be better deferred, till the Report hath been made on the Commission of Inquiry. I think you told me that Mr Snell had made a Draught of a Report, or at least drawn up an account of what was proper to be done. And if two of the Commissioners approve this, it may be put into due form by them; & sent to him to sign at Bristol, in case he should stay much longer there. After this, it will be easier to express the Condition of the Bond: and the Ember week, when the Chancellor will be at Oxford, as well as I, will be a good time for the Execution of it. The Abstract [f.36v.] of the Presentments hath not yet been laid before me. I did not suspect you of any wrong Intention in relation to your Curate: But only thought it right, that he should be regulary [sic] nominated & ordained Priest. Nor have I any other than a good opinion of you in general: Nor have I given you, I hope, any reason to think otherwise. But it is my Duty, when

occasion requires, to remind & and [sic] admonish those of [the] clergy, of whom I think the best: And in this light I desire you to consider what hath been said and written to you by

Your loving brother & servant

Tho. Oxford

[In the hand of Secker's amanuensis]

From the Revd. John Bilstone¹

(iii.37-8a)

Oxford, Nov. 22, 1750

My Lord

I had the Favour of Your Lordships Letter relating to the Value and Nature of the Parishes of Chislehampton and Stadham. I have made the best Enquiry I can, and am very well satisfy'd that They are, and ever were distinct Livings. They have separate Church Wardens as well as separate Overseers; and each Parish maintains It's Poor. I take Dorchester to be the Mother Church of all the Peculiars in that exempt Jurisdiction. The Stadham Officers pay an yearly Acknowledgment to the Officers of Dorchester for burying in their own Church-Yard at Stadham, and the Chislehampton People pay to Stadham Officers an Acknowledgment for every Burial from Chislehampton there. Mr Peers nominates to both;² the Nomination to Stadham having been bought of the Family of the Cobbets by Cope D'Oyly Esqr. and, as I take it, in the Time of King James the first.³ I dont know that I can demand any Stipend; Twenty Six pounds a Year seem to be a gratuity at the Will of the Presentor for taking Care of both. There was a Time, either in or since Queen Elizabeth's Days, when the Parish of Stadham maintain'd a Clergyman [*f.38a*] with a numerous Family, which the small Pittance, now allowed for the Duty (*viz*) £13. 00s. 00d, would scarce have done at that Time.⁴ This is the best Information I can give Your Lordship of these Places, which I have now served near 30 Years for the small Salary of twenty Six pounds a Year. I had almost forgot to acquaint Your Lordship that at the Visitation Yearly at Dorchester I am distinctly called for Stadham and Chislehampton. The Officers have no Intercourse with one Another, but pass their Accts. as two Parishes, as separately as Cuddesden does from Garsington. If any further Information be wanting, and Your Lordship can direct me what better Steps to take, I shall readily obey Your Lordship's Commands, and always be grateful for Your good Intentions to forward the further Endowment of so small an Allowance for the Duty of two Parishes, whether It should happen in my Time or that of my Successor.

I am, My Lord, with all due Respect, Your Lordships most dutiful and obliged humble Servant

John Bilstone

[Endorsed 'Chesilhampton & Stedham']

¹ Of Somerset, m. Hart Hall 1716 a.17, All Souls M.A. 1723; C. Wolvercote 1734, C. Stadhampton 1734, R. Oxford, St. Clement 1760-7; on his activities as surrogate to the archdeacon's official see iii.158-9, and for further details see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vii, p. 89.

² Charles Peers held the joint manor of Chislehampton and Camoys: *ibid.*, pp. 10, 88-9; see also *Bacon*, pp. 808-9.

³ '... in 1607 the parsonages of Stadham and Chislehampton were granted to Cope Doyley, the son of the lord of Chislehampton manor, and John Cobbet, a Stadham yeoman ...': *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vii, p. 88.

⁴ Oldfield notes 1667 as the earliest year in which there was a traceable curate at Stadhampton. See also *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vii, p. 88, on arrangements for a curate and the augmentation of the living.

From Henry Lewingdon, John Franklin and Thomas Mott (iii.38b)

Warpsgrove, Nov. 24, 1750

My Lord

We the parrisheners of wapsgrove Humbly begs Leave to Lay befor yr. Lord'ps'. ons more our uneasyness Concerning the demandes for the tythes of this place & yr. Lordps. advice; we have allready paid them two years Rent, we make bold all so to Lay befor yr. Lordps. mr Janes' Letter in which you will see how presing they are for the Rest & what mr. pearce desins by the certifiecate.¹ [?We - MS. torn] think we may question mr pearces Right, as much as whislads, for they both Come with a Like Letter of attorney and Impowerd by mr Esteway² as they say and mr Jane appeard. before for mr whislad & aftewrd, his Right as now he doth for pearce, we know not what Right mr. Esteway him self have to disspose in this maner, the oldest Liver in the parrish Cannot Remember him or any other person Comeing to take posession of it, nither is there a word spoke or promised made to make any Satesfaction or acknowledgment to any person for doing any good office Required to be done in a parrish by any neighbouring minester, tis Like sheep having no shepard only at shearing time then he Comes for the fleece, besides we think we have been very hardly used from time to time by them on[e] time a-Rested for forty pounds when twas but Litel more then ten due & now we are Lyable they say to pay over again Eight or ten years Rent paid to Whislad, wh. was to pearce's Rong, not withstanding [MS. torn] Receites, & further [MS. torn - ?whe]n we Let them know [MS. torn]'d your advice befor they said you had nothing to do with it, we Humbly begs your Lordp's Letter & advice speedely [MS. torn] we Expect to be arrested again, and we Rest your Lordps, obedt. and Dutyful Humbl. Servants

Henry Lewingdon
John Franklin
Thomas Mott

[To London and endorsed 'Warpsgrove']

¹ ?Francis Pearce of Abingdon with freehold in Aston Rowant: O.R.O., county poll book, 1754.

² Richard Eastway of Devon, m. Exeter Coll. 1715 a.19, Lincoln Coll. M.A. 1721; R. Warpsgrove 1721-79.

To the Ven. Dr. John Potter at Canterbury

(iii.39)

Piccadilly, Feb. 9, 1750/1

Good Mr Archdeacon

I think you will do a proper piece of Justice to your self & a valuable Service to your Successors in taking the Methods wch Dr Brooke advises to obtain the paymt of such procurations as you can sufficiently prove to be due. Mine are much smaller & return less frequently than yours & perhaps on that acct are more generally pd[.] Yet most of the Lay Impropiators withhold both them & Synodals. But then in these cases I have not hitherto found such Evidence of former paymts as I dare proceed upon[.] It is however a matter into wch I have always purposed to make a farther search[;]¹ in the mean time I heartily wish you good success & am

Your loving brother & Servt

TO

¹ For Secker's views on procurations and synodals see his 3rd visitation charge: *Porteus*, v, pp. 374-5.

From the Revd. James Neale¹

(iii.40-1)

Apr. 27, 1751

My Lord,

I return you my sincere thanks for the honour of your Lordships Directions. I have consulted the Statutes of our School and find they express the matter indefinitely. They suppose the master to be in orders because they expressly forbid his undertaking of any Cure out Of the Town on week days, For this reason it has been usual for the masters to assist only on Sundays. My Lord, the Benefit I receive from assisting in Barkshire is exceeding small, To go so far as Salisbury would be a great expence, I am but coming into the world, and have a family, so that I hope your Lordship, who, being Visitor Of the School by virtue of your Diocess, is intitled to my application, will, upon finding me properly qualified for the Priesthood, admit me as a Candidate. For if the Statutes Can authorize you to ordain me, They derive their force from the episcopal Chair of Oxford, and were drawn up by the permission of one of Your Predecessors (B. Fell, I believe)² so that I hope you will inter[f.41]pret them in my Favour. My Lord I doubt not but to satisfy you with respect to my moral Conduct, my proficiency in Human or Divine Learning you may judge off by examining me, my spiritual qualifications God alone is the judge off, but Who knows

that I am resolved to dedicate all abilities he shall favour me with to his service, so that, I trust, I shall not bring the ministry of the Gospel into Contempt or give your Lordship reason to repent of ordaining me. My Lord I have only one word more to add, that [MS. torn – ?I hum]bly conceive The design of Titles to be this [MS. torn – ?may] there be no useless members in the Church, that there be none out of employment, to come upon the Episcopal See for maintenance, I have My Lord a Church to employ me, and a temporal estate in Essex of £40 a year to maintain me in Case I had none, so that I hope your Lordship will make no objection to me. My Lord I shall always retain a lively Sense of your undeserved Favours, And endeavour to imitate that bright example of Piety Your Lordship sets your Clergy, which is the hearty Prayer of Your Lordship's most obligd humble servant

James Neale

[To London and endorsed 'Mr Neale Apr 27 1751 concerning his desire of going into Orders on the Title of Henley School']

¹ Of London, adm. Pembroke Hall Camb. 1739 a.16, M.A. 1746; ordained priest by Secker June 2, 1751, master of Henley-on-Thames Grammar School 1749 (*D.N.B.* states 1747–62), C. Bix 1758.

² John Fell, bp. 1675–86.

From Herbert Beaver

(iii.42)

Oxford, July 15, 1751

My Lord,

I have examind the Register for the four last Institutions to Stanton-Harcourt, and don't find in them any mention of the Chapel of Southleigh as annexd to that Vicarage.¹

Mr. Gibbons brings with him a Bill of the Institution fees;² which (excepting the Stamps) is double in all respects to that of an Ordinary Institution: This is agreeable to the Directions of Mr. Chancellr. Tenison, the practice of my Predecessor (Mr. Cooper) and what I think I have heard confirmd by Mr. Gerard;³ and accordingly I have formerly received such fees; but not without some Scruple. If the Fees are to be doubled upon a Collation, I cannot perswade my self that any Bishop who first appointed them, or has since approved of them, intended that such an onus should be laid on those Benefices of which [they] themselves had the Patronage; In these Cases, I should rather think that they would endeavour to enhance their favour, by making the expences of Persons by them Collated as light as possible; but more especially, when the Benefice (as in the present Case, and in most others belonging to your Lordship) is of so small a value. I should therefore be inclin'd to Conclude that the Doctrine of double fees has been misunderstood, and that it is only to take place where the Bishop

Collate's on Acct. of a Lapse. Your Lordship is sensible that I am, in these Matters an Agent for other Persons (vizt: the Chancellr. – and the Principal Regrs.) and therefore have it not in my Power to deviate from the Accustomd Method: But if it was my own Case, I should make no Scruple to take the Ordinary fees; especially with your Lordships Approbation: And I [f.42v.] now beg the favour of you to Consider of the Case, and to give me a Rule (which I am sure no Body will Controvert) to go by for the future. As for the Table of fees, there is no such style in it as that of Collation.

Your Lordship's Acct. comes herewith; and at the same time a List of all such Incumbents as have continued in Arrear for any considerable time past, and who seem not to think of paying.

I have now consumed all my Printed Institution Bonds; and before I send any more Stamps to the Press, shall be glad to know whether your Lordship would have the same form continue, or, if that is not approved of, what Alteration you would please to have me make in it.

I am My Lord, Your Lordship's most Dutifull Servant

Herbert Beaver

¹ *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xii, 289–91.

² George Gibbons of Gloucs., m. B.N.C. 1732/3 a.25, B.A. 1736; V. Stanton Harcourt 1751–61.

³ ? George Gerard, registrar to the university on the death of his father 1701–37.

To Herbert Beaver

(iii.43)

Cuddesdon, July 29, 1751

Sir

I have talked with the Chancellor abt Fees for Collation & having found some cause to believe that they were double to those for Institution 50 years ago or more, & understanding that they are so in some other Dioceses at least though I do not see much reason for it[,] I am unwilling to make any change in them at present[.] But neither he nor I see any reason why the Fees for Sequestration & Relaxation shd be double nor any proof that they anciently were so. Institution or Collation may be without any Sequestration preceding[.] And if it precedes, the Fees for it I conceive are payable before it is known whether the Living will be filled by Collation or by Institution upon Presentation. Therefore I wd have 1 – 3 – 0 abated for the future in that Article[.] I will account to my Nephew¹ for the Secretarys fee[.] I do not understand how the Duty to the King comes to be so high & desire to have that matter explained to me wn you print more Bonds[.] I believe it will be best to leave a blank from the words *that I* to the words *am held*, so large that what is now usually put between may be put if it be thought proper[.] But in filling up that Blank till you have Directions to the contrary I wd only have you insert the name & Degree of the person For

that seems to me the best way of avoiding all Difficulties[.] You will do well not to print too large a number. –

[TO]

[Endorsed 'Answer to Mr Beaver July 29 1751 abt Fees for Collation &c']

¹ John Frost of Granby, Lincs., son of Secker's sister Abigail Anna, m. Exeter Coll. 1740 a.21, M.A. 1746; C. Hook Norton 1745, R. Lillingstone Lovell 1754–60, R. Bishop's Court, Canterbury, d.1765.

From Herbert Beaver

(iii.44)

Oxford, July 31, 1751

My Lord,

I thank your Lordship for the Directions you have favoured me with, in relation to Collation fees; which I will take Care punctually to Observe. Your mentioning that you will take Care to satisfy Mr. Frost in the present case, brings to my remembrance [sic] a Request that I have often thought of making to your Lordship; which is, that you will please to give your Servant James leave to receive the Secretary's fees on all Institutions, at the same time when he receives the Chancellrs. Dr Burton seem'd Apprehensive that I should be offended at his proposing to have his Fees paid in this manner; but he could not have mentiond any thing of that nature more agreeable to me; for I don't Care how little of other people's Money comes into my hands: And I shall think my self very much obliged to your Lordship if you will grant me this favour. The Bonds shall be made in the manner you are pleas'd to order; but I doubt whether I shall print any more yet a [f.44v.] while: for, as they are now pretty short, and I am obliged, thro' the Weakness of my Eyes, and the unsteadiness of my hand, often to call in the Assistance of an Occasional Scribe, they may be as well wrote by him, when he is with me about other Business. As to the Stamps in Mr. Gibbons's Case, your Lordship, I suppose, did not take Notice that the Instrument of Collation was upon a four pound Stamp: the Living being upwards of £10. in the Kings Books,¹ required the same Stamp on the Collation, that would have been necessary on a Presentation, if he had came to it that Way: An Institution on Presentation requires only a treble five shillings Stamp. The other Stamps with which Mr. Gibbons is charged, were used on the lesser Instruments.

I am, My Lord, Your Lordship's most Dutyfull Servt.

Herbert Beaver.

¹ The original *Valor Ecclesiasticus* or King's Book had been drawn up in 1535 and was updated by John Ecton and John Bacon in the 18th century.

To John Carteret, Earl Granville

(iii.45-6)

Cuddesdon, July 12, 1751

My Lord

Having been yesterday informed that Mr Thornbury Vicar of Thame in this County is dead & your Lordship being Patron of that Living my constant Experience of your Lordships goodness encourages me to take a Liberty, more pardonable I hope now that it might be in a busier part of the year that of submitting to yr Lp's judgmt some considerations on a question of no great Importance indeed yet on sevl accts not altogether unworthy of yr Attention to wch yr Lps presentation of a successor shd be directed[.] Oxfordshire till the time of H8 yr Ld knows was part of the Diocese of Lincoln[.] And 5 parishes in Oxfordshire Banbury Cropredy Langford Milton & Thame were appropriated respectively to the prebends of those names in the Church of Lincoln to wch Church the Bp granted sevl branches of exempt Jurisdiction over those parishes amongst others and the Dean & Chapter continue to enjoy them[.] But he reserved to himself & the successive Bps of Lincoln always exercised the power of instituting the Vicars. The Charter by wch the Bprick of O. was founded expressly takes away from the Bp of Lincoln all authority wch he had in that County excepting the visitation of Colleges & gives it to the Bp of O. Yet since that the former hath at times instituted to most or all of these parishes though the latter I apprehend hath done it oftener[.] Whether this arose from the vacancy of the new Bishoprick 41 years in Qu Elizs reign or whether the church of Li[ncoln] having confessedly [f.45v.] some powers there it was hastily supposed that the Bp of L must have the rest I cannot say. However the last Institutions to Banbury, Cropredy, Milton & Langford have been by the Bp of O. who hath sevl times also given institution to Thame, nor is it pretended to be more exempt than the others. Nay my predecessor Bp Potter assured me that Mr Thornbury offerd to procure your Lps past Presentation to be directed to Him: but on his desiring time to examine into his own Right, of wch after some Inquiry he was fully satisfied, got it directed to the then Bp of Lincoln who it seems had no scruples of that nature. In this situation of things it was agreed between the present Bp of L & me to lay our sevl accts of the case of these parishes before Bp Sherlock & be determined by his Judgmt who after considering our papers gave us his opinion April 15 1745 that the Right of Institution was mine: & the Bp of L appeared intirely persuaded of it[.] Abt 3 years ago, the Vicar of Thame being very ill, I desired the Bp of Ln to acquaint your Lp to w^m the Presentation, if a vacancy shd happen was to be sent[.] But tho he continued to acknowledge that he cd not institute in his own Right yet he objected that the Dean & Chapter had alledged to him that he might & ought to institute in their Right[.] I remonstrated that the thing was veritly [sic] absurd in it self & had never been practised in that Church or any other: that they had never before pretended a right of Institution; & that his allowing it wd turn

him into their Commissary even in respect of these Prebendal livings wch are still in his Diocese, & to wch he & his predecessors have always instituted[;] still his Fears of disobliging them were [f.46] so great that he was unwilling to say any thing to yr Lp on the subject[.] But notwithstanding that, I did with his knowledge & consent institute to the Vicarage of Milton in 1749: nor have I heard that his Chapter have expressed any displeasure on the occasion[.] And I believe I may venture to say, esp as yr Lp can easily know if I am mistaken that he will be glad of yr directing the Presentation to me because if it goes to him he must either accept it agst his Judgmt or be in danger of displeasing some members of his church by refusing it[.] But however that may be, yr Lp will please to consider whether his Institution wd not be invalid & a Lapse follow. I shall have no profit from instituting nor any accession of power beyond wt is implied in that single Act. For these parishes never have been nor can be called to attend the Bishop of Oxfords visitation any more than the Bp of Ls: They are visited by the Commissary of the Dean & Chapter[.] Yr Lp will therefore do me the Justice of believing that I give you this trouble from no other motive than my desire of putting the Affair into a right Channel & of showing tho in a very small instance the great Respect with wch I am My Ld

Your most obedient & most humble servt

TO

[Endorsed 'Letter to Ld Granville July 12. 1751 abt the Right of Institution to Thame']

From John Carteret, Earl Granville

(iii.47)

Arlington St., London, July 16, 1751

My Lord

I had the honour of Yr Lps letter of the 12th concerning the Presentation to be made by me to the Vicarage of Thame now vacant. My last presentation was made to the Bp of Lincoln, & I gave it to the late incumbent at the Ld Macclesfeilds recommendation then Ld Chancellor, who I suppose directed Mr Thornbury how to proceed, I sign'd what he brought me.¹ I never heard any thing of this dispute between the 2 Dioceses of Lincoln & Oxford, till the Bp of Lincoln about the time Yr Lp mentions when Mr Thornbury was said to be very ill, told me something of the Case & did not seem dispos'd to relinquish the rights of his Church, but Mr Thornbury recovering I heard [f.47v.] nothing farther till upon his death I had the honor of Yr Lps letter, wch I take the liberty to send to the Bp of Lincoln, that I may know what to do being equally unwilling to offend either of you, or to furnish any handle of dispute. The rights of a Patron are not so precarious by law, as to be prejudiced, by a difference between 2 great Prelates concerning institution. When I receive an answer from the Bp

of Lincoln I shall send it to Yr Lp & till then shall not sign a Presentation. I am My Lord wth the greatest respect Yr Lps

Most humble & most obedient servant

Granville.

¹ Thomas Parker, 1667–1732, 4th earl of Macclesfield, 1721, Lord Chancellor 1718–24/5: *Compl. Peerage*, viii, pp. 332–4.

[f.49v.] **'Copy of Bp of Lincolns Letter to the Earl of Granville abt the Presentation to Thame . . .'** (iii.48–9)

[f.48] Melton near Doncaster, July 20, 1751

My Lord.

I am honour'd with your Lordships Letter of the 16th Instant, for which I return Thanks. The Bishop of Oxford must be sensible how very unwilling I am to have any Dispute with Him, & the Point is of so very little consequence to me, that for Peace sake, I should be glad to give it up immediately, if I could do it with Reputation, as I could do if it were an affair only between Him & me, & the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln were not concerned in it. But at the same time I confess to Your Lordship that the more I consider the case, the less I am convinced of the Justice of the Bishop of Oxfords Claim. He founds it upon the General words in the Charter of Henry VIII. which transfer all the Authority the Bishop of Lincoln then had in the County of Oxford, excepting the Visitation of Colleges, to the Bishop of Oxford, [f.48v.] and I make no doubt but that all the Episcopal Authority, which was transferable, was conveyed to Him and His Successors by that Instrument. But the Doubt remaining with me, my Lord, is, whether the Right of instituting to the Dean and Chapters Peculiars, was transferable, or would be conveyed in the general words of the Chapter without the express mention of the Peculiars. The Practice since has shewn that the words have not been generally so understood. And I conceive for these Reasons, because no Bishop or Archbishop can institute to any Peculiar without having at least a Concurrent Jurisdiction with the Persons to whom the Peculiar belongs. And when I institute to any of these Prebendal Churches, I am obliged to direct my Mandate for Induction to the Dean and Chapter. They have always claimed the Right of Inducting & receiving the Fees for it. But the Bishop of Oxford having no authority over the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln cannot send his mandate to them, nor institute to their Peculiars without depriving them of their Ancient Right and Profits of Induction. – But, my Lord, I am not positive in my opinion, The Bishop of Oxford may be in the Right, and I may be in the Wrong, nor would I trouble Your Lordship [f.49] with Our frivolous Dispute. I only desire your Lordship, as you have six Months to present, that you will be so good to suspend Your Presentation till I have consulted the Dean &

Chapter, which shall be done as [soon as] possible. If they will acquiesce in giving up the Point to the Bishop of Oxford I have no objections to it, but the Dean and Chapter shall not reproach me with giving up their Right without their Knowledge & Consent.

I am, My Lord, with the greatest Truth and Respect Your Lordships most Obedt. and Faithful Servant

John Lincoln

P.S. I set out from hence next week upon my Visitation thro' Leicestershire & Lincolnshire, & as soon as I have spoke with the Dean & Chapter I will have the Honour of writing again to your Lordship.

[In the hand of Secker's amanuensis]

From John Carteret, Earl Granville

(iii.50)

Arlington St., London, July 23, 1751

My Lord

I do myselfe the honor to send Yr Lp enclosd the Bp of Lincolns letter to me, wch I receivd yesterday. When I hear again from His Lp I shall send Yr Lp his letter. I wish this affaire was settled to both Yr satisfactions, the Clerk I intend to present is Mr Letsome¹ who was my Mothers Chaplain,² & is mine now, this delay may be of some prejudice to him. I wont trouble Yr Lp any longer at present than to assure You of the perfect respect wth wch I am

My Lord Yr Lps Most humble & most obedient servnt

Granville

¹ Sampson Letsome of Worcs., m. Magd. Hall 1721/2 a.18, M.A. 1728; V. Thame 1751-61.

² Grace Viscountess Carteret and Viscountess Granville, c.1667-1744: *Compl. Peerage*, vi, pp. 89-90.

To John Carteret, Earl Granville

(iii.51-4)

Cuddesdon, July 26, 1751

My Lord.

I have received the Honour of your Lordships two Letters, & am extremely sensible of your great Goodness in this small Affair. I am also much obliged to my Lord Bishop of Lincoln for the friendly disposition, which he shews: & doubt not but He will acknowledge, that I have always shewn the same, & am giving a farther Proof of it in the following Observations on his Letter, which I beg leave to convey through your Lordships Hands. The two Questions are, who is to institute, & who is to induct. His Lordship allows, that all Episcopal Power in this County, which was transferible, is transferred to me: but doubts, whether the Power of Instituting to these Peculiars was transferible. He cannot mean that the

Crown, or an act of Parliament could not at all transfer that Power: which is indeed but the very same with that of instituting to Livings which are not Peculiars. Time was [f.51v.] when there were not such. The Bishop made them such, by granting away certain Rights from Himself and His Archdeacon to the Dean and Chapter. That of Institution he did not grant away. Therefore it continued in him just such as it was before, & consequently just as transferible. But his Lordships [sic] thinks it could not be conveyed in general Words without express mention of the Peculiars. And from the Crown indeed nothing can be taken without mentioning it. But the case of the subject is different. Or if it were not, transferring the Right of Institution is taking nothing from the Dean and Chapter; for it is admitted, that they never had it; and therefore they need not be named in disposing of it. His Lordship adds that no one can institute to a Peculiar, without having at least a Concurrent Jurisdiction, with the persons to whom it belongs. But surely a concurrent Jurisdiction, that is, a power of doing some things which they can do, is no way needful in order to do another thing which confessedly they cannot do. If the Bishop of Lincoln anciently gave away all Power [f.52] in these Peculiars, but that of Institution; that however must remain with him. And the Crown having granted all that did remain to the Bishops of Oxford, it must be vested in them.

The Second Question, I own, hath some difficulty. But still, it being plain who is to institute, the Law will doubtless find some way for induction: and not suffer the superior Right to be defeated by perplexities raised about the inferior one. It is argued, that the Archdeacon of Oxford cannot induct, because the Power is given away from him to the Dean & Chapter of Lincoln: and that I cannot require them to induct, because they are not subject to me. I will not answer that the same Episcopal Authority which took away from the Archdeacon what he possessed *de jure communi* might as lawfully restore it to him on so extraordinary an occasion as the Erection of a new Bishoprick. Nor will I deny that the best way of settling the point would have been by a direction in the Charter. But since there is none, it being either thought [f.52v.] needless, or the need unknown, or not attended to, we must take things as they are, & act upon them as we can. My Predecessors have directed their Archdeacon to induct: either imagining that the Power was by some proper act of authority restored to them; or finding, that the Church of Lincoln refused to induct for them, & judging, I think with reason, that on such a kind of – I was going to say Abdication, it reverted to the Hands, in which it was originally. Apprehending this last to be the case I have followed their example: but am still very willing, that the Dean & Chapter should induct if they please. I own myself to have no Authority over them as such: nor have they authority to induct as such; but only as a Body of men, to whom the Bishop of Lincoln, long after they became a body, was pleased to give what he might as legally have given

elsewhere, the Power of inducting to these Vicarages. And the Right of directing the proper Officer to induct belonging to him as Bishop, & all his Episcopal Rights in this County being transferred to me, why have not I the Right of directing them in this point, though I have it in no other? They lose neither Privilege, nor Profit by the Change: but they lose both [*f.53*] by not acquiescing in it. And there are cases of a similar nature in other Churches. The Dean & Chapter of St Pauls send their Mandate to the Archdeacon of London to induct to several Livings, to which they institute, though they have no other Authority either over him, or those livings. And therefore I see not, why the Gentlemen of the Church of Lincoln should disdain a Mandate from the Bishop of Oxford. I am willing it should be drawn in as gentle Terms as they please; and as nearly bordering upon a mere Letter of Request: a thing brought to my Mind by another custom of the Dean & Chapter of St Pauls, who on one occasion send [*sic*] such a Letter to the Bishop of Salisbury; on which he directs Induction to be given to a Rectory in his Diocese. If my Lord of Lincoln will endeavour, as I doubt not of his inclination, to prevail with his Dean & Chapter to come into this method, he will perform a Brotherly part towards me, and a Fatherly one towards them: who I hope will think it their Duty to consider the matter impartially; and if after that they differ in opinion from me, to produce their Reasons & answer mine. At least I assure myself that the Bishop will not, to gratifie the Prepossessions and [*f.53v.*] Desires of any amongst them, accept a Presentation to which He is not entitled, & I am. But indeed I am persuaded, that all further trouble about the Affair will be avoided, if you, my Lord, who are to take the first step, on which the subsequent ones must depend, & who sees so clearly & so instantly through everything, will not let yourself down to bestow a minutes thought upon it. I shall only take the Liberty of adding, that a Clerk, presented to & instituted by the Person who hath Power of Institution, though he were inducted by a Person destitute of the Power to induct, would still have *Ius in re*, & may lawfully take the Profits, though he cannot, till he is legally inducted, sue for them. but that, highly as I think, & no body thinks more highly of the Rights of Patrons; yet I conceive, if the Institution be null, as it must be, when the Presentation is directed to a person unauthorised to institute, the Induction grounded on it will of course be null too, & no Right be gained by either, but the Living lapse; I entreat your Lordships pardon for this second trouble, tho' I hope it may prevent loss of time as well as other inconveniences to Mr Letsome, whom I know & esteem; & am with the highest Respect &c.

[TO]

[In the hand of Secker's amanuensis and endorsed 'Copy of a Letter from the Bp of Oxford to the Earl of Granville on the Right of Institution to Thame] . . .'

(iii.55-6)

Folios 55 and 56 are a bifolium of copy material in the hand of Secker's amanuensis; a second item at *f.55v.* is omitted being a copy of the original letter to be found at *f.57* following; they are endorsed at *f.56v.* in Secker's hand 'Thame Papers relating to the Right of Institution. Aug 1751'.

[*f.55*] **Extract from the Lincoln Chapter act book** concerning Secker's institution of a vicar to Great Milton, peculiar of the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln, and his procuring of induction, recording his claim to institute to Thame and the Chapter's determination to defend its peculiar jurisdictions, attested in the original by Moses Terry, Aug. 13, 1751.

From the Revd. Moses Terry to John Carteret, Earl Granville

Lincoln, Aug. 14, 1751

By the Command of Our good Ld Bishop of Lincoln I presume to trouble Your Lordship with the inclosed papers, by which you may see the practice of the Church of Lincoln in Their Peculiars, & the present Resolution of the now Dean & Chapter to support their Ancient Rights.¹ I am with all duty & Regard,

My Lord Your most Faithful & Obedient servt. at Command

Moses Terry

From the Rt. Revd. Dr. John Thomas to John Carteret, Earl Granville

[*f.55v.*] Somerby, Lincs., Aug. 16, 1751

My Lord.

I had the Honour of Your Lordship's Letter at Lincoln with a second Letter of the Bishop of Oxford inclosed. I laid them both before the Dean & Chapter, who seemed to me resolved to maintain their Priviledges in opposition to the Bp of Oxfords claim. Mr Chancellor Taylor,² & Dr Neeve³ were Both in the Chapter, and as I had not time to wait for the drawing up their Resolution in Form, I desired it might be transmitted to your Lordship together with a Copy of Bishop Gibsons Mandate for Inducting Mr Thornbury. Dr Taylor will soon be in Town & give your Lordship a full account of our Proceedings, and if your Lordship will be so good to do, as you have done before, and present Mr Letsome to the Bishop of Lincoln for Institution to Thame, I will readily admit him to that Vicarage & undertake to indemnify him from the Danger of a Lapse with which He is threatened. I am, My good Lord, the same I have been these Thirty Years

Your Lordships most True and Faithful Servant

John Lincoln.

To John Carteret, Earl Granville

[f.56] Cuddesdon, Aug. 24, 1751

My Lord.

I return your Lordship my humble Thanks for the obliging Expressions of Your Letter, & for the Papers inclosed in it, which I here send back. Your Lordship will do me but strict Justice in believing, that I have acted on this occasion from no other motive, than a full persuasion of it's being my Duty. For I dare not claim, much less to resolve to maintain, anything as a Right, without first considering, as impartially as I can, whether it be so or not, and laying my Reason before such as are concerned. I wish the Church of Lincoln had been pleased to proceed in the same manner. But we must each chuse our own Methods of Conduct, I am, with the greatest Respect,

My Lord, Your Lordships most obedient and most humble servant.

Tho. Oxford

¹ William George D.D., dean of Lincoln 1748–56.

² John Taylor LL.D., chancellor diocese of Lincoln 1744–66.

³ Timothy Neve, archdeacon of Huntingdon 1747–57.

From John Carteret, Earl Granville

(iii.57)

Arlington St., London, Aug. 22, 1751

My Lord

At my return to Town last night, I found the 2 letters wch I herein enclose to Yr Lp. Upon consideration of them, I think I cannot in prudence proceed otherwise, than I did before, in my last presentation, & have sent Mr Letsome with my presentation to the Bp of Lincoln. I hope Yr Lp will not interpret this as any mark of inattention or want of respect to Yr Lp.

I am My Lord wth the greatest truth & respect Yr Lps most humble & most obedt servnt

Granville

From James Henderson¹

(iii.58)

Deans Yard, Westminster, Sep. 3, 1751

My Lord

On the 18th of June last, Commissions were sent to your Lordship to Appoint Commissioners for Enquiring into the Value of the Impropropriations of Chesilhampton and Stedham in the County of Oxford, And Mr Peers the Impropropriator acquainting Mr Montague about a Fortnight agoe that he was very desirous of having those Curacies Augmented, and that he was very willing to secure 16 a year upon the Curate of Chesilhampton in Order to Obtain a further Sum of £200 from the Govrs: by way of Benefaction, in hopes of further Service performed at the Church, and Ten pounds a Year upon the Curate of Stedham, but that neither He nor his Curate had heard

any thing of the Commissions. If these Commissions have been mislaid or Miscarried New Ones shall be sent upon hearing from your Lordship, I believe I troubled your Lordship lately upon this, but am not sure, if so I hope you will excuse this from

My Lord Your Lordships Most Obedt Humble Servt.

Jas. Henderson

¹ Receiver of First Fruits in the office of Queen Anne's Bounty 1744-53: *Best*, pp. 113, 540.

From the Revd. Dr. Henry Yardley¹

(iii.59)

Trinity College, Dec. 16, 1751

My Lord

I am greatly oblig'd to Your Lordship for Your leave that the Vicarage of Heddington shd be held for me by Mr Burrough.² I was in Essex when Dr Gregory apply'd to You for me³, and did not return to Oxford 'til the Week after You went to London. Had I been here, I had been greatly wanting in Duty and Gratitude in not returning Your Lordship my earliest thanks at Cuddesdon. Imagining You wd be here at Xmas is the reason Mr Burrough has not waited on You for Institution. As Your Lordship's Buisness [sic] keeps You in Town, I rely on Your Goodness to excuse the favour Your Absence obliges me to ask, that You wd grant him Institution by Commission. Dr Gregory's Mentioning to You Mr Burrough, and Your having already examin'd him when he was instituted to Marston, if You will give me leave to add the inconvenience it will be to Mr Burrough to take a London Journey, and the smallness of the Preferment, give me assurance to think Your Lordship will not think me too presuming in asking this Favour.

I am My Lord Your Lordships most Dutifull and Obedt Servant

Henry Yardley

[Added in Secker's hand 'Dec 24. Answerd that I am willing he shd serve the Cure, if he hath the whole profits assigned him & Mr Rolls is willing to quit it:⁴ but that the best way of sparing Mr Burrough the Journey will be that he shd wait till I go into the Country & that if it lapse in the mean time I will take no Advantage' and endorsed 'Heddington Mr Yardley Dec 16. 1751']

¹ Of Gloucs., m. Trinity Coll. 1723 a.17, M.A. 1729, B.D. 1741, d.1756. He is not listed in Oldfield under Headington.

² William Burrough of Bucks., m. Trinity Coll. 1734 a.18, M.A. 1740, B.D. 1755, V. Marston 1742-51, V. Headington 1752-76.

³ Presumably Dr. David Gregory.

⁴ Edward Rolls, M.A. New Coll., also found as Rolle, and as Rollee in Oldfield, where he is cited as C. Headington 1747.

From the Revd. Dr. Henry Yardley

(iii.60)

Trinity College, Jan. 1, 1752

I receiv'd the favour of Your Lordship's Letter. It will be as convenient to wait for Institution to Heddington 'til Your return into the Country as if You had oblig'd me with One by Commission. As my Application to Your Lordship was so long since as August last, I imagin'd You had expected Mr Burrough's waiting on You much sooner. This was the reason I troubled You with my last request. Heddington will not be vacant 'til You accept of Mr Whorwood's Presentation to Mr Burrough, which I have now by me.¹ The whole Income will be mine for serving the Church, which is now only Twenty Pounds a Year by Mr A Dean's Acct.² Mr Rolls has given his Title to the Care of the Parish to me, which I shall presume upon Your Lordship's leave to supply 'til You oblige me with a Licence.

Your Lordship may depend upon my care and fidelity in the discharge of my Duty. I would by no means deceive Your Lordship in any Instance therefore beg'd favour of Dr Gregory to mention every particular to You when he requested Your Indulgence that Mr Burrough shd hold Heddington.

I am My Lord Your Lordship's Dutifull & oblig'd Servant

Henry Yardley

¹ Thomas Whorwood d.1771, held the manor of 'Garsington' (an omnibus name for the manors of Garsington and Headington): *V.C.H. Oxon.*, v, pp. 137, 172-3; *Bacon*, p. 798.

² William Adeane (spellings vary) of Chalgrove, m. Merton 1736 a.19, M.A. 1743; *V. Headington* 1744-52.

From Mrs. Rachel Reynolds¹

(iii.61-2)

[f.62] Oxford, Jan. 25, 1752

My Lord

Mr Middleton of Bampton, having never call'd upon Mr Reynolds from the time he ceas'd to be his Curate to the Day of his Death, nor since his Death, on me, till about three Weeks or a Month ago, has surpriz'd me with a very considerable Demand for services don by him for Mr Reynolds.²

My poor Husband often told me, that he had frequently desir'd him to meet and settle their Mutual Accounts together, but could never bring him to do it; and why he should have defer'd it so long, even after his Death, he knows best. The most Material Article he Charges me with, is that of £20 per annum for serving Shifford; and for this he produces Your Lordship's authority, by telling me in his letter. (Upon Enquiry you will find the Shefford [sic] Duty to be charged the same I received from Mr Edmonds and settled by the Bishop.)³

Indeed I don't know of any Agreement made between him and Mr Reynolds for the Service of Shifford; but I think, considering the Smallness of the Distance between Bampton and Shifford; that the Duty was only two

Sundays out of three, that even on those Sundays, he left Shifford in the afternoon, and went to serve his [f.61v.] Church at Clanvil; and that, after Mr Phillips became Curate for Mr Reynolds, and had occasion to be absent, Mr Middleton Willingly supply'd Shifford for him at 7s 6d per Sunday⁴ (and which I understand is his present pay from Mr Taunton)⁵ Thees things, I say, consider'd, I think he bears something too hard upon me. Now, as he founds his Demands upon Your Lordship's Appointment above mentiond, in the Case of Mr Edmonds, I Humbly entreat Your Lordship, that, if You recollect what then passd, You will be pleasd to let me know, Whether the Settlement then made was intended only as a Temporary appointment in that particular Case, or to be a permanent rule for Mr Edmonds's Successors to proceed by in case they should Employ Mr Middleton residing at Bampton, to serve Shifford. It is by the Advice of the Rector of Exeter,⁶ and Mr Beaver that I give Your Lordship this Trouble; and if You will be pleasd to favour me with Your answer, directed to the latter of those Gentlemen, it may be of great Service to me or will at least put an End to the present Uneasiness of

My Lord Your Lordship's Most Obedient and Most Humble Servant
Rachel Reynolds

¹ Widow of William Reynolds. Secker gave her 5 gns. on Sep.27, 1753: *Account Bk.*, f.125v.

² Thomas Middleton.

³ John Edmonds.

⁴ Robert Philips.

⁵ Elias Taunton of Cornwall, m. Corpus 1726 a.18, M.A. 1733/4; V. Bampton Proper 1750/1, d.1766.

⁶ Francis Webber.

From the Revd. John Land¹

(iii.63-4)

Basildon, Berks., Feb. 29, 1752

My Lord,

I find that during my illness Mr. Powys has requested of your Lordship a further dispensation for my residence at Bampton.² I am obliged to him for this friendly office; but it was done without my desire: for, as I assure'd Dr. Milles this time twelvemonth, I am entirely unwilling to owe this great favour to the sollicitation of others. I desire to be indebted for it to your Lordship's indulgence alone. I am thoroughly convinced of my duty to reside upon one of my two Livings: but I hope it will not appear inconsistent with such conviction, if I beg of your Lordship to grant me one year longer before I remove from hence. My reasons are the straitness of my present circumstances, occasion'd by the great expence of coming into my preferment joined to an unhappy suretyship, and a very ill state of health into which I have been brought by frequent [f.63v.] returns of the Gout. One year's income more will take away the former Reason, and I hope to get the better of the other as the warm weather comes on: At present I am incapable

of performing any office in the Church which my congregation here will testify I never declined doing when I had any degree of strength. Whenever the Almighty vouchsafes to enable me again, I shall with great cheerfulness do my best as Vicar of Bampton, being desirous of approving myself in this & every other instance

your Lordship's most dutiful Servant

John Land.

Writing in very great pain I had almost forgot to mention to your Lordship what provision I make for serving Bampton. Mr. Taunton undertakes to supply my part: for which I allow him £25 a year, being as much as He desired. If your Lordship would have me add to the Salary or change the person, I shall readily do it.

[Endorsed 'Bampton Mr Land Feb 29.1752']

¹ *Foster* lists 2 by this name and appears to confuse their careers: John Land of Devon m. Balliol 1709/10 a.17, 'perhaps vicar of Basildon, Berks., 1734[-58]', and John Land of Devon, m. Balliol 1724/5 a.17, M.A. 1731; 'vicar of Bampton . . . 1751[-7]'. The latter seems more probable.

² Unidentified (? Richard Powys of Westminster, m. Queen's 1725 a.16).

To the Revd. John Land at Basildon, Berks.

(iii.65)

St. Paul's Deanery, Mar. 6, 1752

Sir

I doubt not but you are sensible that in the matter of Residence there is no room either for my Compliance with the Sollicitations of others or my Indulgence to yr own Requests[.] If there be no sufficient reason agst yr Residing you ought to do it & I ought to insist upon it: if there be we ought to do just the contrary: & whether there be or not you are better able to judge than I, & I hope equally willing to judge fairly for it equally concerns you[.] I am persuaded from wt you alledge that I ought for the present to acquiesce in yr Absence[.] But I must expect that if the causes of it be in any competent degree removed before the end of this year you will reside before the end of it[.] I am

Your loving brother & servant

TO

From the Revd. Henry Yardley

(iii.66)

Trinity College, May 13, 1752

My Lord

Your Lordship will pardon my not having waited on You, when I assure You I have not been able to ride so far as Cuddesdon since You came into the Country. I had sent my Apology to Your Lordship sooner had I not

been in hopes of returning You my thanks for your indulgence in regard to Heddington long before this time. I shall not omit the first opportunity in the power of

Your Lordship's Most Dutifull & Obedt Servt.

H Yardley

From the Revd. Dr. Daniel Burton

(iii.67)

Christ Church, May 24, 1752

My Lord.

According to your Ldship's directions, I gave notice on my visitation, that Beckley was vacant, & that You had obtained the augmentation of the Queen's Bounty for it, if there was a regular Curate; & that I believed it would now be worth £15 per annum[.] Mr Baker Fell. of Corpus College, a person of very good character is desirous to have it;¹ He would have waited on yr Ldship at Cuddesden, but I told him I would write to You, & beg the favour of You to return him an answer by Letter, whether You would be pleased to bestow it on him – If It is not already engaged, I make no doubt, but that You will approve of him – I am very glad to hear by my [f.67v.] Lord of Gloucester, that You caught no cold yesterday & that your exercise agreed so well with You. I beg my compliments to the Ladies, and am

Yr much obliged & most Dutiful humble Servt

Dan: Burton

The remainder of your Sermons I have left at Dr Barton's, & desired him to transmit to yr Ldship.

¹ John Baker of Oxford city, m. Corpus 1734 a.15, M.A. 1740/1, B.D. 1749; C. Beckley 1752. Secker paid him £10 on June 8–9, 1753, and paid for his licence to Beckley (£1 7s. 0d.) on Sep. 29, 1753: *Account Bk.*, ff. 121. 126v.

From the Ven. Dr. John Potter

(iii.68–9)

n.d.

My Lord,

Since the Death of my Official Dr Brooke I have deferred writing to your Lordship in hopes of an opportunity which I very much wished to have of paying my Duty to you in Person at St Paul's. I endeavoured to do this about a Month since when I was in Town only for 2 days. I am told that your Lordship will be at the Deanery this Ev'ning, but to morrow Morning early I am obliged to leave London, & must therefore beg your Lordship to excuse my taking this Method of acquainting you that I have given the Patent of the Officiality to Dr Smalbroke of the Commons.¹ In the disposal of this Office it has been my chief desire to fix [f.69] upon some Person that should be acceptable to your Lordship, to the University and to the Clergy

of the Diocese. If I could have heard of any Doctor of Laws resident in Oxford who would have been useful to the University & encouraged to stay by the Addition of this little Office I would out of Regard to them, have given it to him; But I could find no such Person at all acquainted with the Business of our Courts. From Dr Smalbroke's Character which I have long known, his Standing at All Souls' College in Oxford & the Reputation which he has gained as Chancellor of Litchfield I think I have done Credit to myself in giving it to him, & I hope it will be agreeable to your Lordship, & answer all the other Purposes abovementioned as far as it was in my Power. He will in a day or two [*ff. 68v.*] wait upon your Lordship to beg that you would confirm the Patent. I am now returning to Wrotham for the remainder of the Summer, shall hope to wait upon you at Cuddesden after Michaelmas, & am in the mean time,

My Lord, Your Lordship's much obliged & obedt Son & servt.

J Potter.

[Endorsed 'Archd. Potter the beginning of June 1752.']

¹ Richard Smallbroke of Herefs., m. Univ. 1733 a.17, All Souls M.A. 1740, D.C.L. 1745; advocate in Doctors Commons, chancellor diocese of Lichfield 1742-1805.

From the Revd. Gilbert Stephens

(iii.70)

Noke, June 20, 1752

My Lord,

You have given me a very short notice, yet in obedience to your Commands I shall leave Beckley at Midsummer. In the mean time I make use of your permission to notifie my cause of complaint to you, and I hope to convince your Lordship not only that I am ill treated in this affair, but likewise of the possible ill consequences of it.

About two years ago the Church of Beckley was destitute of Divine Service merely on account of the smallness of its Income, at which time the urgent request of some of the Inhabitants and of the Master of Baliol prevailed on me to serve it. It has since been my Happiness to be so acceptable to the people there, that the Congregation is increased very considerably. My Discourses in public and private Conduct have had so good an effect on Persons of that Parish who seemed to bear a mortal hatred to each other, that I have seen the contending Parties together at the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; where the collections for the relief of the Poor have been seldom inferior to those annually made in some of the largest Parishes near London. The money I have received of Mr Bee¹ for serving Beckley has been constantly employed in repairing and making conveniencies at the Rectory of Noke, my place of residence, where I give my exhortations daily in the example of a Sober Life and Peaceful Conversation. These circumstances, My Lord, are a proof that both

Parishes are effectually served by me, and with respect to all occasional Duties "more fully" than it is possible for either of them to be served from Oxford. If therefore "the Service of the Church is the principal point which you have in view", as most undoubtedly it is, your Lordship can scarce fix on a more likely way to promote it.

Before I had the Honour of your Letter, I was assured by Mr Smith of Beckley, that Dr Leigh, the Master of Baliol, who acts for Mr Bee the Impropiator, refused to see your Licence, when Mr Baker, Fellow of Corpus, waited on him with it; from which it may reasonably be inferred, that Dr Leigh was [*f. 70v.*] so far from approving Mr Baker's Offer to serve Beckley, that your Licence was obtained against his consent, and probably without his knowledge. Hence it appears, that your Lordship's Goodness has been imposed on by Men animated by their own unreasonable private Pique and self interest, not by any concern for the Service of the Church or the Good of the Clergy. I am persuaded you will excuse the asperity of this conclusion when you reflect, that it is a Maxim, I shou'd have said a Command, of our Common Master, That they which preach the Gospel shou'd live of the Gospel; and that our Laws have vested a power in the Governors of the Church, To permit a Minister to serve two Churches in one day where the Income of both is so small as to be scarcely a maintenance for him.

Since, therefore, I assisted the Inhabitants of Beckley in their necessity, when there was no visible proof of your Lordship's care over them, and when no Clergyman but myself thought it worth his labour to go amongst them, and my endeavours have been attended with happy effects in both the Parishes I serve; and since your Lordship owns that you have no cause to be dissatisfied with me, I humbly beg you will consider, Whether your granting a Licence to Mr Baker at this time that the Income of the Curacy is augmented and that you know I am willing to continue serving it, be not an encouragement to mean actions in the inferior Clergy, and, by consequence, inconsistent with the Dignity of your High Station in the Church; and whether the sending one Man to reap another's Harvest be not a Case almost parallel to the present Affair. Your Lordship's Answer will enable me to stop the mouths of those Enemies of the Church who seise all occasions of rendring the Clergy of every Order contemptible.

I am, My Lord, with perfect submission, your Lordship's most obedient and most humble servant

G Stephens.

¹ Edward Bee of the Grove, Beckley, impropiator of the rectory; his dau. m. Theophilus Leigh: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, v, pp. 57, 72 and for further details.

From the Revd. Gilbert Stephens

(iii. 71-2)

Noke, Aug. 3, 1752

My Lord,

In your Letter to me of the 18th of June you affirm, That "Mr Baker Fellow of Corpus made an Offer to serve Beckley", and Mr Baker protests and says he will take his oath, that You by your Chancellor Dr Burton made him the Offer of that Curacy. From two such opposite assertions these are the necessary inferences, Either Mr Baker is the vilest of Men, or your Lordship is conscious to yourself of views and practices beneath your Dignity: It is more than probable there is Truth in each of them.

I therefore most humbly remonstrate to you, That by an Abuse of Authority, which has a few circumstances to aggravate it, you have taken away from me the Curacy of Beckley; To mention one or two of these circumstances; It was proved to you by Arguments, which your Lordship does not choose to refute, that my serving Beckley together with Noke was strictly agreeable to the Canons of the Church and the Custom of England; that both those Parishes were effectually served by me; and with respect to "all occasional Duties" more fully than it is possible for either of them to be served from Oxford. To these I shall only add what Dr Leigh the Master of Baliol, who acts for Mr Bee the Impropiator, assured me he told Mr Baker, *That he, Dr Leigh, had a very great Objection to your Way of Proceeding, that it was both an Injury and an Affront to Mr Bee, and no less so to the Minister who served Beckley, to whom your Licence, had there been a necessity for it, ought to have been first offered.* Here, My Lord, seems not only to have been an Abuse but a Stretch of your Authority; yet "thus your Lordship thinks it your Duty to act for the Service of the Church and the Benefit of the Parish". To support my Remonstrance, that in this Affair you have wilfully abused the Authority committed to you, I need only to produce your abovementioned Letter, which plainly discovers [f. 71v.] (and I think he (Mr Baker) may begin from Midsummer, as it would be a discouraging Circumstance to undertake so much business, for so small an Allowance, at Michaelmass, when the Winter is just approaching. Your Lordship's Letter to me June 18th 1752. - footnote addition) you are conscious to yourself that the Revenue of Beckley is not sufficient to pay a Curate for his labour; Your Inward Judgement therefore is at variance with your Actions, and these last are manifestly so with (Article 9th. That you do not allow any Minister to serve more than one Church, or Chapel, in one Day, except that Chapel be a Member of the Parish-Church, or united thereunto; *And unless the said Church, or Chapel, where such Minister shall serve in two Places, be not able in Your Judgement to Maintain a Curate.*

Article 12th. That you take Care, as much as is possible, that whosoever is admitted to serve any Cure, do Reside in the Parish where He is to serve, especially in Livings that are able to Support a Resident

Curate: *And where that cannot be done, that They do at least Reside so near to the Place, that they may conveniently perform all their Duties both in the Church and Parish.* The Archbishop of Canterbury's Letter to the Lords Bishops.¹ – footnote addition) the ninth & twelfth Articles of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury's Letter to the Lords Bishops of his Province. Is it possible for a Prelate, who puts on the Zeal of a Primitive Bishop, to act in a manner so inconsistent with his Sacred Office!² Had "the Service of the Church been the Principal Point in your Lordship's view," you would have been cautious of employing a Method which could not fail of conveying an opinion to the Congregation, that Mr Baker is a Tool imposed on them from selfish and sinister views, and which, by consequence, must have a direct tendency to defeat the Service of the Church. And had you paid a due regard to the directions of a Superior, given any attention to the humble representations of an Inferior, complied with the dictates of your own Conscience, or observed the Laws and Constitutions of the Church, it would have been impossible for you to have treated a Clergyman, who for two years together maintained and promoted Peace, Charity, and Sobriety, among the several Members of a Parochial Church hitherto neglected by your Lordship, so unjustly as you have treated me.

[f. 72] This morning some of the Inhabitants of Beckley acquainted me, that Mr Baker has reduced the Service of their Church to once on the Sunday: But they charitably presume, that nothing, in the short space of a Month, could have prevailed on a Man of his Delicate and Squeamish Conscience to employ the Wisdom of this World in opposition to his Religious Engagements, but a Full Persuasion that what your Lordship calls "the Principal Point in your view" is as fixt as that Point in the Heavens called the Zenith. So high a sense have they of your Favour to them in "Licencing Mr Baker for the Benefit of their Parish".

May this Humble Remonstrance prevail on your Lordship, to regulate your Zeal for the Service of the Church, by the Constitutions of the Church and the Directions of the Archbishop; And may your Future Conduct towards the Clergy of your Diocese be distinguished by the Virtues of Justice and Humanity.

I am, with all due reverence, My Lord, your most obedient and most humble servant

G Stephens

[Endorsed 'Beckley Mr Stephens Aug 3 1752']

¹ *The Archbishop of Canterbury's Directions to the Bishops of His Province Concerning Holy Orders and Curates*, Norwich, 1748, p. 11. (Copy in Lambeth Palace Library, ref. H5175.H3).

² Secker refers occasionally to practice in the primitive church in his visitation charges; for example see *Porteus*, v, pp. 341 (frequency of eucharist), 342 (offertory for the minister and the poor), 343 (psalmody), 350 (weekday prayers in church), 410 (texts on the walls of churches).

From the Revd. Dr. Daniel Burton

(iii.73)

Slapton nr Leighton, Bucks.,¹ June 23, 1752

My Lord,

I received the favour of your Ldship's letter, & am much obliged to You for the trouble You have given yself on my account, with regard to Dr Smalbroke's Patent. I take the liberty of enclosing the copy of our agreement to Your Lordship, & beg You will give your servant leave, to deliver it to Him. I hope, his readiness to agree in this point, may be a good Omen of our future agreement in other matters.

I am glad to find, Yr Ldship continues to get ground, & that the Ladies are well, notwithstanding the great shock they have had in the Loss of the [f.73v.] Bp of Durham.² We had a wet journey, but a safe, & not unpleasant one. My wife & little girl³ caught no cold.

I am Yr most Dutiful & much obliged humble Servt

Dan: Burton.

¹ Burton was R. Slapton 1738–75: G. Lipscombe, *History of Buckinghamshire*, 1847, iii, p. 452.

² Joseph Butler bp. 1750–2, one of Secker's early and closest acquaintances.

³ Harriot, 1751–1829, m. John Trevor later 3rd Viscount Hampden, in 1773: Lipscombe, *op. cit.*, ii, p.272, and *D.N.B.*

From the Revd. Edward Lockwood¹

(iii.74)

Hanwell, Aug. 23, 1752

My Lord,

As my affairs will not permit me to reside much longer at Hanwell, I think it my duty to acquaint your Lordship with my intentions of removing, which, had not particular business prevented me, I sd have done in person. The Bearer of this, Mr Gill, is the Gentleman, whom with your approbation I shall appoint my Substitute;² knowing him to be a conscientious, discreet, diligent man, & one, in whom I can with great satisfaction to myself place such a confidence. The Parish he is already charg'd with is very small, & mine not much larger, & they are so contiguous, that in my opinion, with submission to your Lordships better judgment, he may with great ease to himself properly discharge the duty of both. I shall be happy to hear that my choice is confirm'd by your Lordships concurrence; & am with the greatest deference

Your Lordships Dutiful Son & Obedt: Hum: Servt

E Lockwood

¹ Of London, m. St. John's Coll. 1736/7 a.17, All Souls M.A. 1744; R. Hanwell 1750–1802.

² Thomas Gill of Hanwell. *V.C.H. Oxon.*, ix, p. 120 states that he was C. Hanwell from 1797. See above, p.123 n.3.

From the Ven. Dr. John Potter

(iii.75-6)

Wrotham, Kent, Oct. 4, 1752

My Lord,

On Friday the 13th of this Month towards the Evening I hope to have the pleasure of paying my Duty to your Lordship at Cuddesden, & to receive your Commands for my Visitation which will begin at Chippingnorton on the 16th. If your Lordship should not be then in the Country, I would beg to have your Instructions directed to me at Oxford.

I am, My Lord, Your Lordship's obliged & obedit Son & Servt.

J Potter

[Endorsed 'Archdeacon Potter Oct 4. 1752']

To the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(iii.77)

Cuddesdon, Nov. 14, 1752

Good Mr Rector

I wrote you a letter, dated June 20. 1750 concerning your College Curacies in this County, desiring that you would lay it before your Society: but offered in a postscript, dated the next day, but sent to you at the same time, to make any proper Alterations in it, which you should advise, before they saw it. To this I believe you gave me your Answer not in writing but by word of mouth & if I remember right you told me, you had not shewn my Letter to the Fellows, & apprehended that shewing any Letter from me at that time on the Subject of those Curacies would have a bad effect. If I mistake in this, I beg the favour of you to set me right. If I do not, I desire that you will take the trouble of reading over that Letter of mine again & acquainting me if you have any particular Objection against my sending one to the same purpose now, but with Alterations as the difference of the date will require. For the settling of this matter hath been too long delayed: & my triennial Visitation returns the next year. I would apply to the College in the friendliest manner possible as I hope I always have. And I cannot but persuade my self that they will return a civil & serious answer to what I alledge. At least I am sure from long experience that you Mr Rector will treat me in the fairest & kindest manner: & a just sense of it will always be preserved & expressed by Yor lov. br. & hum. sert

TO

[Endorsed 'To Dr Isham Nov 14.1752']

From the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(iii.78)

Lamport near Northampton, Nov. 21, 1752

My Lord

Ever since the beginning of July I have been at this place otherwise I

should have paid my duty to your Lordship at Cuddesden. Some family affairs I believe will not permit me to see College till next term when I shall be ready to receive any commands with respect to the old affair & lay whatever your Lordship pleases before the Society: tho I was not without hopes You could have prevailed upon yourself to have dropped this perplexing matter as your Lordships predecessor had done; & had indeed on this account retained sentiments of your favour & goodness towards me in particular; but however I will do what lies in my power to make both your Lordship & the Society easy.

I am, my Lord, Your most Dutiful and obedient Servt.

Eus. Isham

From the Revd. Lionel Lampet

(iii. 79)

Steeple Aston, Dec. 23, 1752

My Lord

By the bearer comes three pounds twelve shillings and six pence, collected in the parish of steeple aston for the propagation &c.¹ Your Ldship will excuse my tardiness in this affair, as it could not, to any good purpose, have been done at the time. As to Great Barford, which, at the request of the people & nomination of Mr Pollard,² I have had the care of since Mr Shorts death, nothing can be expected from thence:³ having agreed to raise among 'emselves £5 this year for Service evry Sunday, it being only once in a fortnigt [sic] before. The whole's but a trifle & badly p'd, therefore your Ldships goodness will excuse the expence of a licence, at least till I am resolv'd about staying in the Country my Rector at Aston coming to reside soon.⁴

Your Ldship will believe me your most Dutiful Servant

Lionel Lampet

Many thanks for the Sermon & the small tracts

¹ The Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts was one of Secker's favoured charitable bodies and he preached on its behalf on Feb. 20, 1740/1. As a tailpiece to his 5th and last Oxford visitation charge he encouraged his clergy to continue to support it, reporting the excellent response to its financial appeal within the diocese: *Porteus*, v, p. 419.

² John Pollard of Finmere held the manor of Barford Chesney 1746-61: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xi, p. 48, and *Bacon*, p. 800.

³ Richard Short of Wardington, m. B.N.C. 1690 a.18, B.A. 1693; V. Deddington 1700-47, C. Barford St. Michael 1730.

⁴ John Eaton of Ches., m. B.N.C. 1724 a.18, M.A. 1730; R. Steeple Aston 1745/6-61.

From the Revd. Dr. William Freind

(iii. 80)

Witney, Jan. 7, 1753

My Lord,

After so many perverse Disappointments in all hopes or attempts made to

wait upon Your Lordship the last Year, I beg leave however to present upon Paper all the Best Wishes for the present Year that the Best of Diocesans can deserve. I hope shortly to be in Town, but before I arrive there, I humbly beg Your Lordships Permission – (in Conjunction with the Bishop of Winchester, which I have already obtained under His Episcopal Seal)¹ – to appropriate to my Family a small Vault I have made in the Chancel here – in the place where My Father particularly desired His Remains & Those of Them that belonged to Him might lye. – Mr Beaver promises to dispatch the proper Instrument for it whenever Your Lordship thinks [f.80v.] proper to signify Your Approbation of my Request.

I hope the Lady's are well; Those of this Family beg leave to present the Compliments of the Season to Them & to Your Lordship, in which I most heartily join, being with the most sincere Respect and Esteem

My Lord Your Lordships Most Obliged and most dutyfull humble servant

William Freind.

¹ Benjamin Hoadley, bp. Winchester 1734–61.

From the Revd. John Baker

(iii.81–2)

Plymouth, Devon, Feb. 12, 1753

My Lord,

I was hurried into the Country soon after Christmass by a strange concurrence of melancholy circumstances, viz: the death of an only Sister, & the dangerous illness of a tender affectionate Mother; These things, I hope, will in some measure plead my excuse with your Lordship for not answering your last favour sooner. As you seem to think that it is necessary for me to procure a certificate for Dr Busby's Lecture as soon as possible, I have by this Post wrote to Dr Forster to desire that he will be so kind as to get one sign'd by himself & some other neighbouring Clergyman according to the form prescribed in the printed paper, & to remit it to you with all convenient speed.¹ I believe I may venture to assure your Lordship that I am licens'd, tho I have not the License as yet in my own hands, as Mr Beaver [f.82] had express orders from the Chancellour as well as myself to draw it at least six or seven weeks ago. You may depend upon it that all your orders as to the Augmentation money & every thing else will be most punctually executed by, My Lord,

Your most obedient humble Servt:

J: Baker

Your Lordship may assure yourself that I shall return to my Cure as soon as ever my affairs in this part of the world will permit.

As you seem to think that my Fellowship cannot be look'd upon as

relative to the preferment intended by Dr Busby in his will, I have not mention'd it to Dr Forster as to be inserted in the certificate.

[To London and endorsed 'Beckley Mr Baker Feb. 12. 1753']

¹ Presumably Nathaniel Forster.

From Herbert Beaver

(iii.83)

Oxford, Feb. 21, 1753

My Lord,

Mr Baker's License for Beckley is made; but he, having been calld pretty suddenly into the West, did not take it up before he went, so that it is still in the hands of

Your Lordship's most Dutyfull Servt.

Herbert Beaver.

From the Revd. Benjamin Holloway¹

(iii.84-5)

Woodstock, Mar. 23, 1753

My Lord,

Being excused by his Grace of Canterbury from waiting upon him for Dispensation to hold the Rectory of Ardley (to which I am presented by his Grace of Marlborough) with Bladon, on Account of the Small Pox; I beg the like Favour of your Lordship, to excuse my waiting upon your Lordship in Town, and to give directions herein to Mr Beaver to do and order what will be necessary in this Behalf. I beg your Lordship also to order your Certificates in Relation to the Value and Distance of the two Rectorys. The Rectory of Bladon with the chapelry of Woodstock, (Curate paid) is worth about £130 per Annum, and that of Ardley (as let by the late Mr Percival) about £80 per Annum.² The Distance betwixt the Two, is about six Miles. I beg your Lordships kind Pardon for giving your Lordship [*f.84v.*] so much Trouble, and am, My Lord,

Your Lordships most obliged and Obedient Servant

Benjamin Holloway

P.S. I am directed by Mr Parry to send up my Letters of Orders &c. to him, shou'd they not also be sent from him to your Lordship³

[Endorsed 'Ardley Mr Holloway March 23.1753']

¹ Benjamin Holloway jr., m. Lincoln Coll. 1731 a.16, M.a. 1738; R. Bladon 1739-78, Ardley 1753, holding both livings until his death on 29 Dec. 1777: *Jackson's Oxf. Journal*, 3 Jan. 1778.

² John Percival of Ches., m. B.N.C. 1701 a.26, M.A. 1709; C. Fringford 1705, R. Ardley 1707-53.

³ Probably Thomas Parry, 1706–73. From 1743 when admitted as a notary public, he spent most of his career at Lambeth Palace, as receiver general from 1743, steward of the Surrey liberties from 1748, and steward of the Kent manors from 1753: L.P.L., Faculty Office Muniment Book Fl/H, f.26; Temporalities TK 10, Tk 27, TN 17, f.10.

From the Revd. Benjamin Holloway

(iii.86)

Woodstock, Mar. 29, 1753

My Lord

I had the favour of your Lordships kind Letter of the 24th, for which I give your Lordship many Thanks, as also for your excusing my coming to Town, and giving your Directions to Mr Beaver about my Certificates; and to Mr Chancellor in Relation to my receiving Institution in the Country. I have herewith sent my Presentation, and Testimonial, to your Lordship, according to your Order; and am with the greatest Regard My Lord Your Lordships Most Obligated and most Obedient Humble servant

Benj: Holloway.

From the Revd. Benjamin Holloway

(iii.87)

Woodstock, Apr. 10, 1753

My Lord

I give your Lordship many Thanks for the favour of your most kind and obliging Letter; I think the plainer and more regular Ways of doing Business (where One has no extraordinary Reason for the contrary) are always to be prefer'd, and therefore will wait for your Lordships coming to Cuddesden by the Middle of June, to receive Institution from your Lordship in Person. The Living of Ardley will not then be lapsed, but if it wou'd be so, Your Lordships kind Purpose to institute me in the Manner you are so good to Mention, wou'd make it the same thing. I am with my constant Gratitude and Regard for your Lordship, My Lord

your most obliged and obedient Humble Servant

Benj: Holloway

To the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(iii.88–91)

St. Paul's Deanery, Apr.2, 1753

Good Mr Rector

I think it my Duty to apply once more by Letter to you & the College in relation to your Curates of All Sts, St. Michael's & Combe. When Dr Brooke made a Complaint in 1739 of their claiming an exemption from the ordinary Jurisdiction, it was agreed between You on behalf of your Society, & me, that we shd examine the Question in the most amicable manner & communicate on each side wt ever might contribute to throw Light upon it[.] Accordingly I laid before you several Evidences which appeared to me

strong ones in favour of the Bps authority[.] And I doubt not but you remember that in a principal one produced by you to support the Exemption, that Authority is in express terms saved. In pursuance of the same Design I consulted the late & present Bps of London who gave their opinions that your Curates are ad exempt: and their Letters also I shewed you. Not long after this, as I learnt from you the College apprehended it wd be proper to apply to their Visitor the Bp of Lincoln on the occasion. But on 2d thoughts, they chose rather to have the previous Advice of a Civilian: & lastly determined that it wd be best of all, if some method of accommodating the Affair cd be found without troubling the Visitor. Being informed of this, I de[f. 88v.]clared my self ready to receive any such proposal. And you gave me hopes in Apr. 1741 that one wd soon be made me. But Dr Edmunds who undertook to consider the case for that purpose, after desiring longer & longer time to qualifie him self, died at last without having given, it seems, any Opinion in form. But his Judgmt as you acquainted me by Letter Oct 13 1747 was understood to be that the College shd appear by a Syndic at Visitations, & receive my orders directed to the Rector & Fellows who shd answer for their being carried into Execution by the Curates. And this you farther informed me was the present Opinion of the College: to whom you wd communicate a Letter or Message of mine on the Subject. Accordingly I wrote wt seemed to me requisite[.] And the Resolution of the College upon it, transmitted to me by you Dec 15. 1747 was that they could not part with any thing, that had been apprehended to be one of their Rights & Privileges without the Consent of their Visitor. On this, after too long a delay, I requested in 1750 to know whether any step had been taken, or whether I might hope any would, to procure the Visitor's Direction. And the Answer, which you returned me May 8. 1750 was only that the College had a greater Reluctance than ever to the thoughts of parting with any Right or Privilege that is apprehended to have descended to you from [f. 89] the Foundation, & with wch you are intrusted as Guardians &c. I did not make any Reply to the Society at that time, hoping that perhaps another might prove more favourable: with which hope I now write this Letter, as the return of my Visitation is approaching. God forbid that I shd ever ask you to part with any Right in breach of a lawful Trust. But God forbid also that you should withhold from me any Right, which hath descended to me, however unworthy, from Christ & with which I am intrusted by Him. It deserves well to be considrd whether any parochial minister can be freed consistently with the Apostolical Rules from all Episcopal Authority. For it will be argued that if one may every one may and so that Authority will be abolished. The Church of St Paul hath from very ancient times undoubted peculiar Jurisdiction over several parishes in the Diocese of London. Yet I would never attempt to exercise it otherwise than with the consent of the Bp of London & in subordination to him. But at least no such Exemption ought to be pleaded without careful

Inquiry first whether the power able to grant it if any such there be hath indeed granted it. And if that wch you claim be not well founded, instead of being bound in Conscience to maintain it you are bound to give it up, even though you had been in possession of it ever since your Foundation, which I [f.89v.] think I have shewn you have not. I may be partial indeed: or make mistake, tho' impartial: & so may you. I think I have considered the matter as fairly & diligently as I can: & I verily believe what I demand to be a Right of my Bprick wch I am bound by Oath to endeavour to preserve. Whether your Society can say that they have considered in the same manner & verily beleive the Exemption to be a Right wch they are bound by oath to endeavour to preserve is not quite clear to me from your Letter[.] If they can we are so far on a level. But then I have the opinions of learned men on my side: & I have laid them with the reasons of them frankly & openly before the College; who have also confessed that the person whom they pitched on to consult seemed to think them subject in respect of these Parishes to my Jurisdiction: & indeed that they thought so at that time themselves. But whether they have since had any different opinion from any eminent person; & how they now prove their Claim or answer the Argumts brought agst it, they have not been pleased to acquaint me. Nay when they had themselves proposed a method for coming to a final Resolution on good grounds they have since declined granting my Request that I might know whether they will pursue that method or substitute any other instead of it: and are content to say that they have a greater reluctance than ever to part with any thing that is [f.90] apprehended to be a Right. I beg of you Gentlemen to reflect for it is the law of Christ that you should[,] whether if our Situations were changed & I were to treat you thus, you wd think it equitable treatmt. If not you will certainly resume your Deliberations on the Subject & in conclusion will notifie to me the grounds of your Judgmt if it still differ from mine. (Here the words perhaps you may convince me or some words of that kind are omitted in transcribing – footnote addition) In that case I shd immediately give up the point with great pleasure were it a much more considerable one than it is[.] For both my time & my Income are intrusted with me, & permit me to add so are yours too Gentlemen for much better purposes than the spending of either in unnecessary Disputes. I hope I have done my best to avoid them: allow me to hope that you will. I make this Application to you in a true spirit of good-will & friendliness[.] If any thing unsuitable to it hath escaped me, it is contrary to my intention. And if I think you have been wrong in any thing I am fully persuaded it is contrary to yours. I heartily pray God to bless both you good Mr Rector & your whole Society: & am with much Esteem

Your loving brother & humble servt

Tho. Oxford

[f.90v.] After receiving in Answer, a Representation from the Society dated May 9. and a Letter from the Rector dated May 10. which see I wrote the following:

St. Paul's Deanery, May 15, 1753

Good Mr Rector.

I return you and the College my thanks for the Representation wch you have sent me. I wish it had entred farther into the merits of the cause; but will consider it carefully: for which purpose I beg to have a Copy of so much of the Founders Grants, and of such Protests and Orders of the Society, as may be material to the present Question. There can be no Objection I hope against doing this Favour to

Your loving brother and humble servt

Tho. Oxford

To Dr Isham

[Endorsed 'To Dr Isham Apr 2. 1753']

From the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(iii.92)

Lincoln College, Apr. 13, 1753

My Lord

I can't excuse myself from acquainting your Lordship any longer of the receipt of your letter, & of my having communicated it to what members we have in town: but we beg leave to defer a fuller answer till the 6th of next month, one of our two Chapter days; on which we meet to do College business, & are particularly directed on this day to read the statutes relating to our churches, & provide for the service of them; which will naturally lead us to the consideration of the affair betwixt Your Lordship & the College.

I am my Lord, with all dutiful respect, Your most obedient & faithful Servant

Eus. Isham

From the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(iii.95)

Lincoln College, May 10, 1753

My Lord

Inclosed is the representation of the College upon the subject of your Lordships letter, which I am fully perswaded your Lordship will be pleased to accept in the most equitable & obliging manner with the dutiful respects of the Society, & particularly those of, my Lord,

Your Lordships most Obedient & most faithful Servant

Eus. Isham

From the Society of Lincoln College, Oxford

(iii.93-4)

May 9, 1753

The humble Representation of the Society of Lincoln College to the Lord Bishop of Oxford, in Answer to his Lordship's Letter of the 2d. of April last.

The Society of Lincoln College are firmly persuaded that the said College hath within it self a Jurisdiction over it's own Members, particularly over Those whom it deputes to officiate in it's Appropriate Churches, and assigns a Stipend to them out of it's own Revenue. That it hath an unquestionable Power of calling them to account, if they should teach Heretical Doctrine, of punishing them for any Fault or Neglect of Duty, of displacing them even without Fault, if at any time the Rector should think proper. That these with other like Privileges and Powers have been granted it by their Founders, who they presume intended their Grants to it should be effectual, that it should have and enjoy the free Exercise of such Powers; without interruption from succeeding Bishops. Whereas therefore, they saved the Episcopal Rights in *Other things* that are not the Object of those Grants; This, they beg leave to observe, is so far from being an Argument of their having saved them; that it is an Argument on the contrary of their having not saved them; in *these things* that are. They find that their Predecessors have all along persisted in these Sentiments; so that if their Chaplains have done any Acts of Submission inconsistent herewith, they conclude it to have been done without their Consent or Knowledge: [*f. 93v.*] For that when They came to understand that some such Submissions had been made, in Bp. Bancroft's time,¹ they protested against the same as prejudicial to their Privileges and Liberties, which they declared themselves to have been in possession of ever since the Foundation of the College: And at the same time, they enter'd an Order in their Register forbidding their Chaplains to take Licences from the Bishop, or appear at Visitations. That afterwards on their applying to the Bishop of Lincoln² as their Visitor upon a like occasion, which was in Bp. Fell's time;³ He directed them not to suffer their Chaplains to appear at Visitations; and that if any Orders should be sent them to publish Excommunications, they should not obey them; for that it were giving up His, as well as their own, just Rights and Privileges. That whilst Bp. Gibson was Bishop of that See,⁴ He seem'd to have the same Sentiments, as he express'd himself to Dr. Morley their late Rector,⁵ when He waited on Him in 1719: He thought then, that there was a Jurisdiction in the College: As Dr. Morley has frequently declared to several Persons, some of which are now Members of the Society. And whereas it should seem from a Letter of His which Your Lordship was pleased to communicate to them, that He afterwards alter'd His Opinion, they found nothing in that Letter which could induce them to alter theirs. For, as they remember, the Only Argument for their Subjection was, "That it were

inconsistent, that the Bishop should have Power to excommunicate a Parishioner, and not have Power to oblige the Minister of the Parish to publish such Excommunication". To which they beg leave to observe that this Inconsistency is merely Accidental; that it did not exist [f.94] at the Time that their Liberties were granted, and therefore could not then operate: that the Bishops of the Diocese being then Visitors of the College had sufficient Power to oblige the Chaplains; and that they have not that Power Now, is owing to the Visitation and the Diocesan Powers having been separated. Whether an Excommunication cannot be effectual unless it be publish'd by the minister of the Parish, they say Your Lordship knows best, but they have never heard yet of any One Instance, in which their insisting on their Rights has been any interruption to the Exercise of the Episcopal Jurisdiction in that respect; and they trust, that Matters may continue to be conducted in such a manner, that Your Lordship's Excommunications may have their Effect without breaking in upon the Liberties of the College. Which Liberties being a Grant to them from their Founders, and having been always insisted on by their Predecessors, they think, that in Justice both to themselves and their Successors, they ought to strive to their utmost to preserve inviolate.

¹ John Bancroft, bp. Oxford 1632–41.

² Thomas Barlow, bp. Lincoln 1675–92.

³ John Fell, bp. Oxford 1676–86.

⁴ Edmund Gibson, bp. Lincoln 1716–23.

⁵ John Morley, Rector 1719–31.

From the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(iii.96)

Lincoln College, June 4, 1753

My Lord

Your Lordship will do me the justice to believe that the only reason why I have not sent the extracts desired – is, that I have not authority to send them. & indeed, my Lord, I must not dissemble that I have incurred something like displeasure from the Society in having been too open & communicative in this way heretofore: so that Your Lordship plainly sees the happy situation in this particular of, my Good Lord, Your Lordships, most Obedient and most sincerely faithful Servant

Eus. Isham

To the Revd. Dr. Euseby Isham

(iii.97)

Cuddesdon, June 14, 1753

Good Mr Rector

Your Letter hath given me a great deal of Concern. Bishop Gibson saith, Cod. Tit. 42. c.10. p.1018 that persons, who claim Exemption from the

Visitation of the Ordinary, are obliged to submit the Evidences of their Exemption to his Examination: without which it is impossible for him to know, how far his Authority extends. If this were not Law, surely it is common Equity. And farther, it was agreed on both sides in the very beginning of this Affair, that each should communicate to the other, whatever might contribute to place it in a clearer Light: of which Agreement I have faithfully executed my part[.] Whether the College will have any Regard to these Considerations, you will please to inform

Your loving brother and humble Servant

Tho. Oxford

[Endorsed 'To Dr Isham June 14.1753']

From the Revd. Dr. William Freind

(iii.98-9)

Witney, Apr. 9, 1753

My much honored Lord,

Having lent my house in Town to Dr Markham till He can accommodate himself with a better, our proposed journey to London will end I believe in a short Visit to my Sister at Kensington after Easter.¹ As I fear therefore that I shall not soon have an opportunity of paying my Duty to You in person, may I thus presume by letter to remind Your Lordship of the kind Approbation You were pleased to give my Request concerning appropriating a small Burial Vault in this Church to me & my Family; I have applied to Mr Beaver, who tells me he has as yet received no Commands relative thereto; and as Your Lordships Letter to me was dated January 13. It makes me imagine that possibly so trifling a Matter may have been forgotten: It is only upon that Supposition that I venture to trouble Your Lordship with [f.98v.] Repeating this Request, with which as You are so good to Comply I perfectly acquiesce in waiting Your own Time for giving the proper Orders, & by no means intend hereby to press Your Lordship to any Inconvient Acceleration.²

The County-Election Business goes on successfully enough in these parts & with great Quiet & Decency at present. An Old Acquaintance of Your Lps. in this Neighbourhood is a little Warm on the Occasion;³ & His many very good Quality's make His friends here joke a little with Him on supporting the Old Interest. I have heard nothing yet from Those who were to send me in their Collections.⁴

Our Ladys here beg leave to join their Respects with mine to Your Lordship & Those with You; it will not be long I presume e'er You remove to Cuddesdon. I am, My Lord, with the most gratefull & sincere Respect,

Your Lordships Most Obliged & most dutyfull humble servant

William Freind.

[Endorsed 'Dr Freind Apr 5.1753']

¹ William Markham D.C.L., headmaster of Westminster School 1753–65, dean of Ch. Ch. 1767–76, archbp. York 1777–1807.

² See iii.80.

³ Unidentified. In the 1754 election for Oxfordshire Philip Wenman and Sir James Dashwood represented the 'Old Interest' and Thomas Parker and Sir Edward Turner opposed them. The former won but were later disqualified. 'This was probably the most notorious county election of the century, and no expense or chicanery was spared by either side.' *Hist. Parl.*, i, p. 356.

⁴ Presumably for the S.P.G.

From the Revd. Dr. Thomas Bray¹

(iii.100–1)

Exeter College, May 21, 1753

My Lord

Mr Forster desired me to enquire who was the most proper Person in Wheatley to take care of the Children whose Schooling Your Lordship is so good as to pay for.² There is one Biggs who has begun to teach School lately, but his Wife is a Roman Catholick & his Character not such as deserves Encouragement. There are two others who do their Business very well: One Davis & Mrs Russel. Mrs Russel is Sister to Mr Sheene,³ one of the Principal Inhabitants of Wheatley. She had the Misfortune to marry an Idle Fellow, who broke in the Business of a Butcher, & is not mended [*f.100v.*] by his Misfortune, but the Woman is industrious & deserves well. Davis, by Natural Infirmary is unable to walk, but has a good School & is able & diligent. He was not born at Wheatley, but settled there when he married. As he is a New Commer & prosperous in his Way he gives some Jealousy, but the Man deserves Encouragement. As he has not been in the Parish many Years, if Your Lordship thinks proper to favour him, it would be sufficiently kind to him if he was allowed to teach the Three Boys; & Mrs Russel might teach the Three Girls. Otherwise Mrs Russel is a proper Person to teach them all. I should be glad to know Your Lordships Pleasure & will order the Children to be disposed of accordingly. Yesterday Morning I called upon Mr Forster [*f.101*] in my way to Wheatley. He desired me to present his Duty & Service to Your Lordship, & acquaint Your Lordship that Mrs Smith was very ill, & had been speechless for a Day or two, & that there was little or no hope of her Life⁴

I am your Lordships most Obliged & Obedient Servant

Thomas Bray

Dr Bertie has been offering the Headship of Hertford College to the Students of Christ Church in an Artful Manner to get them to decline it;⁵ but Mr Sharp has taken time to consider:⁶ tis suspected Dr Bertie intended himself for head, & to be next Vice-Chancellor.

[Endorsed 'Mr Bray May 21.1753 abt Wheatley School &c']

¹ Of Cornwall, m. Exeter Coll. 1726 a.20, M.A. 1732, D.D. 1758, rector Lincoln Coll. 1771–85; C. Wheatley 1751–85, R. Bix 1774–85.

² Nathaniel Forster.

³ Richard Sheen: see ii.108b.

⁴ Hester, widow of Sebastian Smythe Esqr. was buried Jun. 1, 1754: O.R.O., MSS. D.D. Par. Cuddesdon, c.1, f.58v.

⁵ William Bertie of M'sex, m. Ch.Ch. 1723 a.17, M.A. 1729/30, D.D. 1752; R. Albury 1740-57.

⁶ William Sharp of Kent, m. Ch.Ch. 1737 a.18, M.A. 1743/4, D.D. 1754, principal Hertford Coll. 1753-7, Regius Prof. Greek 1763-82.

From the Revd. John Land

(iii.102-3)

Basildon, Berks., June 14, 1753

My Lord,

Your Lordship has my sincerest thanks for your very indulgent message to me by Mr. Powys. I do again assure Your Lordship that no consideration shall ever induce me to make an ill use of this great favour. I have happily got over one of the difficulties with which I troubled your Lordship last year: but that of my ill state of health is rather increased. Mr. Snell has promised me to inform your Lordship at Woodstock how very unable He found me to do any parochial duty; which, if it shall please God to restore me to any competent degree of strength, no one will more chearfully perform than your Lordship's most dutiful and humble Servant

John Land.

[Endorsed 'Bampton Mr Land June 14. 1753']

From Mrs. Mary Millar

(iii.104)

June 19, 1753

My Lord.

I hope you will pardon the Boldness, I humbly beg the Favour of you to consider my sorrowfull Case. Mr: Martin, Minister of Chippy Norton, he is Rector of Hatharop Parrish; Sent for me from my Native Countrey Ireland to Dissanul his Daughters Marriage wth: my Husband, & I have now been in England above Fourteen Months, & now the Cause is Dropt & I am in great Necessity to have my Charges bore to gett back to my own Countrey, I pray your Lordship to speak to Mr: Martin, To lett me have some Money to help me home again, Since Mr: Martin will not cause his Daughter to leave my Husbands company, but they live togethr: now at Ludley in Shropshire, to the Scandal of Christianity; so I humbly beg of yor: Lordship to Extend yor: Goodness towards me in this my Necessity; I hope Mr: Martin when yor: Lordship speaks to him will take his Daughter & Provide for her more honest then to suffer her to acompany wth: my Husband, I am well Respected by his Excellency the Lord High Chancellor of Ireland,¹ & the Revd: Dr: Man;² Mr: Martin Wrote to them about me & had Letters of Recommendation concerning the same. This is to Acquaint

yor: Lordship that all my hopes do fully & wholly at this Juncture of Time Depend upon yor: Lordship's Goodness, in wch: I have been wating here for Eight Days, & therefore I hope that you the Rt: Revd: Ld: Bishop, & Fathr: in God will consider my sorrowful State, that I may have somewht: to Support me till I can cross the Wide Ocean into my own Countrey wch: is 150 Miles by Land besides the Uncertainty of the Wind, I have received Money of Mr: Martin, but in the Time that I have been here wch: is 14 Months as aforesd: & have had a fitt of Illness, wch: was very Expensive to me; So beging yor: Lordships Assistance herein, to cause me to have Some Relief in this my Necessitous condition, & I shall be Ever bound to pray for you dureing Life³

Mary Millar.

[Endorsed 'Millar Mary her Petition June 1753 agst Mr Martin of Haythrop']

¹ Robert Jocelyn, later Viscount Jocelyn, chancellor 1739–56: *Haydn's Book of Dignities*, p. 576.

² Isaac Mann D.D. 1721–89, bp. Cork 1772–89: Burtchaell and Sadleir, *Alumni Dublinenses*, p. 552.

³ Secker paid 'An Irish woman at Dadington' 10s. 6d. in an entry for June 18–20, 1753: *Account Bk.*, f.121.

From the Ven. Dr. John Potter

(iii.105)

Aug. 22, 1753

My Lord,

I hope this will find your Lordship perfectly recovered from the Fatigue of your Visitation, & that you met with nothing in it more than usually troublesome or disagreeable. When you are pleased to order the Relaxation I should take it as a favour if you would direct it to be sent immediately to my Office, my Deputy Registrar having complained to me that by some Accident or other it happened that he never saw the Inhibition.¹ As your Lordship has so lately been round the Diocese yourself, I hope I may be excused attending personally at my own Visitation next Michaelmass. The Officiality resigned by Dr Smallbroke I do intend to give to Dr Bettesworth.² In the mean time I have desired that he would visit for me this Year, & that he would wait upon your Lordship at Cuddesden to receive your Instructions.

I am, with great Esteem, My Lord, Your Lordship's much obliged & obedient Son & Servt.

J Potter

[Added in Secker's hand 'NB There is on the Inhibition a Certificate under the hand of one Charles Godfrey³ that he shewed the Deputy Registrar the Inhibition under seal the day of its date, & that the Dep. Reg. then perused it in Godfreys presence.']

¹ John Stewart.

² John Bettesworth of London, m. Ch. Ch. 1737 a.16, D.C.L. 1749; official to the archdeacon of Oxford 1753–c.1759, chancellor diocese of London 1759–64: *Haydn's Book of Dignities*, p. 422 and for his many other church offices.

³ ? of Jersey, m. Pembroke Coll, 1728 a.18.

From Herbert Beaver

(iii.106)

Oxford, Sep. 1, 1753

My Lord,

Your Lettr. of Yesterday, requiring me to inform you of the Day of the Date of your Inhibition, together with the Reason why Mr. Stewart never saw it, cannot be better answerd than by the Inhibition it self, and the Certificate subjoind to it. Those Persons who are not quite upright in their Dealings, will naturally have recourse to some Subterfuge, in order to conceal their unjustifiable proceedings, but surely they ought to be Cautious in what they aver, for the Sake of their own Reputations; and not affirm any Thing for Truth, that can be so easily disproved, as I now disprove Mr. Stewarts Charge against me. I have, My Lord, very good reasons to think, that many Depredations have been made upon your Office during your Inhibition; At your late Visitation I mentiond an Attempt of this Sort, and you was pleasd to refer me to the Chancellr. with Submission, my Lord, I think you was wrong: If that Affair had extended no farther than to the perquisites [sic] of the Chancellr. and Regr. I should have applyd my self to the Chancellr. only; but I Chose to mention it before [*f.106v.*] your Lordship, because it was a manifest Insult upon your Authority; I have other Instances to produce of the Piratical proceedings of those Gentlemen, if required; And if Dr. Potter knew what he lost by these Infractions, as Registrar, he wou'd not be over Sollicitous to get the Inhibition relaxd, as Arch-Deacon.¹ I have given the usual Notice of an Ordination on the 23d. Instant: and am, My Lord,

Your most dutyfull Servt.

Herbert Beaver.

¹ The long-running disputes between the bishop's and archdeacon's officers are treated in appendix 3 of M.D.W. Jones, 'The Ecclesiastical Courts Before and After the Civil War: the Office Jurisdiction in the Dioceses of Oxford and Peterborough, 1630–75' (unpub. Oxford B.Litt. thesis, 1977), pp. 239–44.

From the Ven. Dr. John Potter

(iii.107–8)

Wrotham, Kent., Sep. 14, 1753

My Lord,

I beg your Lordship's acceptance of my thanks for the Favour of your last Letter with that enclosed from Mr Beaver which I herewith return. Mr

Stewart since says in confirmation of his first Complaint "I think I am right that upon the 9th of April 1753 I saw a young Man who writes for Mr Beaver, and he said, Mr Stewart the Inhibition is come, not that he had it with him, or that I ever saw or heard one word more about it." But this complaint we desire to drop. I hope & believe that Mr Stewart did not presume to exercise any Act of Jurisdiction in my Name or the Official's after that Notice of the Inhibition tho' it was so irregular, and notwithstanding Mr Beaver's Suspicions I have reason to think he did not, because he sent me very lately the Account of all the Business transacted in my Office since the Death of Dr Brooke, in which I observe he mentions nothing done after the 9th of April last. However I believe it would be as disagreeable to your Lordship as it is to me to be concerned in any Disputes betwixt the two Deputy Registrars; [*f.108*] I doubt the Business of both Courts is so small, that there always will be a Contention about it, & can easily imagine that Mr Stewart's Activity may often create some Uneasiness to Mr Beaver.

I'm extremely happy in your Lordship's Approbation of my Choice of an Official; I own I have never yet seen him, much less have I any sort of Acquaintance with him. But from the Character which he bears, & his Situation in the Diocese I could not help thinking him the most proper Person.

I shall certainly endeavour if it please God that I live so long & am able to fulfill your Promise of a Parochial Visitation some time in October 54 or 5. I am,

My Lord, Your Lordship's much obliged & obedt Son & Servt

J Potter.

[Endorsed 'Dr Potter Sept 14. 1753 abt the Inhibition']

From the Revd. Lionel Lampet

(iii. 109)

Steeple Aston, Nov. 24, 1753

My Lord

I have now for near 2 years & half had the Care of Great-Barford Church, which, your Ldship knows, is endowd with £200 of Q. Anne's bounty. The Interest whereof, I am told, is to be pd in London; but unless my Certificate be first signd by yr Lordship tis said, I cant receive the Interest. I fully purposed waiting on yr Ldship at Cuddesden upon this occasion, but set out too late. The Certificate signd long ago, by the Churchwardens of Barford comes inclosed; & as the money is a considerable part of the yearly pay, & wt at this time wd be extremely welcome, I hope your Lordship will put me into the way to get it. Wt was mentiond to me [some] time ago, I beg leave to repeat again, that yr Lordship wd dispencc with a Licence, till resolved, whether I shall stay in this Country or not, which I shall be able to do next

summer, & then shall willingly do in this case, as yr Lordship directs. But if I sd quit Barford, as my Rectors coming to reside here has made it uncertain, the expence of a licence wd be a heavy tax upon so small a stipend as that church affords;¹ especially as I do double duty to what was ever done before. Your Lordships usual tenderness to your Clergy on all occasions, will take the premisses into consideration, & give me leave to subscribe myself yr most Dutiful Sert

Lionel Lampet

¹ Despite the context, this presumably refers to John Eaton R. Steeple Aston 1745/6–61, Barford having a nominal vicar who was treated as a perpetual curate by the diocesan authorities: Oldfield, Barford St. Michael.

From the Revd. George Sheppard to the Revd. Dr. Daniel Burton

(iii.110–11)

Enstone, Dec. 4, 1753

Rev'd Sir,

I Acknowledge the Favour of Your's, & am very sorry the Ld Bp of Oxford was troubled with a Complaint on my Account, I hope, the following Lines will in some Measure Satisfy his Lordship, there was no great Occasion for it

I Granted Mr Laurence his License & married him to Elizabeth Rock, it is true, but I flatter my self all was done according to Law.

Upon the 16th Day of October last Mr Laurence, with two Women, Strangers to me, came to my House about Eight o'Clock in the Morning. Mr Laurence Ask'd me, if I had any Licenses by me? I told him, I had some which were sent to me by Mr Stewart from the Archdeacon's Office. He Desired to have one, for He purposed to be married that Morning to that Young Woman, Pointing to Elizabeth Rock. I Ask'd him how Old She was? He Answered Twenty two Years or more. Whether He had the Consent of her Parents? He told me He had. I took His & Mr Lay's Bond a Person of a good Character & a substantial Man in the Town of Enstone, [f.110v.] Whom He Brought with him, to Indemnify the Archdeacon, all his Officers & Ministers, Gave him the Oath Required by the Canon, then Granted the License.¹

If I am Blameable in this Affair, am extremely sorry for it. It was done with no Design of Injuring any Body – for if a Person will come with proper Security & take a false Oath, what can We do? It is impossible to Know every One who comes with or for a License. I do assure You Mr Chancellor, I was Kept in the Dark & entirely ignorant who Elizabeth Rock was, till some time after they were married.

I am with all due Respect (Revd Sir) Your most Obedient & humble Servant

Geo: Sheppard

I beg my Humble Duty to his Lordship.

[To 'The Revd Dr Burton' and endorsed 'Enston Mr Sheppard Dec 4. 1753
abt his marrying Mr Laurence & Miss Rock']

¹ The original volume of marriage licences is lost but the marriage register shows that Isaac Laurence of Oxford mar. E.R. of Nuneham on Oct. 16, 1753: O.R.O., MS. D.D. Par. Enstone c.2. A Nuneham Courtenay connection points strongly to kinship with Samuel Rock: see ii.15 n.1.

From the Revd. Sampson Letsome

(iii.112)

Maddox Street, London, May 12, 1754

My Lord.

I have been laid up with the Gout, or should have answer'd Your obliging Letter sooner. I shall be in Thame about the middle of next month, and will take care to have the children duely prepar'd against Your Confirmation.

I am, my Lord, with great truth & respect, Your Lordships most obedient, and faithful Servant,

Sampson Letsome.

From the Revd. Sampson Letsome

(iii.113)

Maddox Street, London, May 17, 1754

My Lord,

The day Your Lordship has fixt upon for holding a Confirmation at Thame is convenient. I shall write to my Curate, the Revd John Newborough, to distribute what Tracts You shall be pleas'd to send him, according to Your directions.¹

I am, my Lord, with great respect, Your Lordships most obedient humble Servt.

Sampson Letsome

¹ Of Shrops., m. Balliol 1740 a.18, M.A. 1747; V. Thame 1761-95, V. Aston Rowant 1761-95, C. Stokenchurch 1761-95.

From the Revd. Dr. Daniel Burton

(iii.114)

Slapton, Bucks., July 2, 1754

My Lord,

I received the favour of your letter, & shall write immediately to Mr Williams, to send his nomination to the Curacy of Idbury, either to your Lordship or to me, in order to his being licensed:¹ & shall endeavour to spur him up not to be too easy in this matter, (as I apprehend That may possibly be the case) by assuring him of your Ldship's assistance, which may be a means of inducing the Lessees, to do their Duty.²

I understood by Mr Williams, that He still continued to serve both Idbury & Fyfield himself, but shall make inquiry about that matter; & remind him of his own profession to yr Ldship, that He did not desire the latter.

I desire very humble service to the Ladies, & am yr Ldship's most Dutiful & most oblig'd Humble Servt

Dan: Burton.

¹ Thomas Williams.

² In 1738 the lessee of Fifield appears to have been Reginald Morgan Bray, 1705–40, of Shilton: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 62.

From Broome Witts¹

(iii.115)

London, July 9, 1754

My Lord . . .

I hope your Ldship will excuse my troubling you with an affair in which the peace & happyness of my Freinds are concern'd. The fact is as follows.

My late Bror. Edwd. Witts was seized with the small Pox and notwithstanding all the means was made use of died on Satterday the 22 June last, in order that this fatal distemper might be of no prejudice to the Town we propos'd burying Him the Sunday following late at night, and accordingly gave orders to the Sexton that the grave might be oppen'd ware his Wife Father Mother & many freinds lye.²

Mr. Hoskins the Curate came on Sunday abt. one Clock to imform us He could not comply with his being buried in the Church on account of the distemper, alledging there was an order of Vestery made 16 or 17 Years agoe that no one who died of that distempler [sic] should be buried in the Church, which gave us a great concern; however the order of Vestery he told us off, has been broke thro, for two Persons dyeing of the small Pox has been buried since, neither was ever any Person refus'd, therefore we look't upon it as of no validity[.] The Curate persisting in his refusal said if we would have him [f.115v.] buryed there we must call a Vestery that afternoon a thing very disagreeable to us under such affliction! severall of the principall neighbours was much displeas'd and kindly offer'd their good offices to have it comply'd with without any farther dispute. however after 10 Clock at night the Curate came & told us that He had order'd the Grave to be dugg and we might send up the Corps and He would bury it, which was accordingly done.

Since this We are imform'd [sic] that Dr. Freind call'd a Vestery last Sunday proposing that No dissenter for the future shall be bury'd in the Church, which gives my Bror. who is now building a House at Witney, & who design'd to lay his Aishes with his Ancestors great uneasyness, and also many other famillys.³ at his request I write you this who present his compliments: tho unknown wishing your Ldship health & every other

blessing is the sincere prayers of Yr Ldships most oblidge & obedt. Servt.

Broome Witts

¹ There was an inhabitant and freeholder of Chipping Norton of this name: O.R.O., county poll book 1754.

² Edward Witts, an inhabitant and freeholder of Witney: *ibid.*

³ A Richard Witts of Witney was a freeholder of Hailey: *ibid.*

To Broome Witts at Friday Street, Witney

(iii.116)

Cuddesdon, July 16, 1754

Sir

I am very sorry, both for the Loss which you and your Relations have had, and for the additional Uneasiness which hath attended it. But at the same time I must say, that I wish there were no Burials in Churches: and that though, when Friends have been laid there, Desire of being laid near them may be natural enough, and expresses Regard and Affection, yet any earnest Sollicitude about it is but a Weakness. I must also say farther, that they who die of the small Pox ought by no means to be buried there: and that the Order against it at Witney should have been constantly observed, and was very proper to be revived. For such Burials, at least without leaden Coffins, may be extremely dangerous: or, if they are not, may be thought so, and deter many from coming to Divine Service. But the Rector needed not the Authority of the Vestry to forbid these, or any others, in the Church. For no one can by Law bury there, or direct a Grave to be made there, without his previous Consent, unless it be the Possessor of a Manor House, intitled to that Privilege by Prescription. And therefore the Curate complied with you too far, though with a laudable Intention of preserving Peace. As to the subsequent Resolution of the Rector, declared to [f.116v.] the Vestry and approved by it, against burying any Dissenters in the Church: I am far from liking unnecessary Distinctions, especially such as may be suspected of Uncharitableness. But Dr Freind is well known to be of a mild Disposition: nor is there any Room for harsh Constructions, as the same Office is read, whether Persons are buried in the Church or Church Yard. And the Exclusion of Dissenters from the former, I am assured hath proceeded solely from the two following Reasons: First, that there is not Space enough in the Church for so many as desire to be buried there: in which case it is no Wonder, that they, who frequent it in their Life-time, should think they may well expect a Preference: Secondly, that the Dissenters are the only Persons, who have broke through the preceding Order concerning those who die of the small Pox; and have insisted so warmly & disrespectfully on their Right to bury in the Church, as made it necessary to undeceive them. If Proofs can be brought, that these Facts are

not true, I dare say the Rector will attend to them. But no one hath Authority over him in this Affair. Whether, after a due Assertion & Acknowledgment of his Power, he may not be induced to recede from his late Declaration when there seems to be any peculiar Plea for his doing so, or whether it would not offend those of his Parishioners, who are his stated Hearers, & whom he ought therefore to regard principally, I am unable to judge. But obliging Behaviour is the likeliest way to attain desirable Ends.¹ And in that Opinion I have no doubt but you perfectly agree with

Your humble Servant

TO

¹ For an account of the Quakers at Witney see *Vis. Retns.*, p. 174.

From the Revd. Dr. William Freind,

(iii.117-18)

Witney, July 19, 1754

My much honor'd Lord,

You usual Condescension & unmerited Goodness to me makes me less surprized tho' not less ashamed on receiving the honor of Yr Lordships Letter; little did I imagine the Conversation that past concerning Mr Witts wou'd have been productive of so much trouble to Your Lordship, tho' I cannot but confess the Purport of this last Letter to Him has given me the greatest Satisfaction. I most heartily thank Your Lordship for the Perusal of it; The Kind manner in which You are pleased to justify my Conduct cannot but excite pleasure & gratitude in me, whether it proceed from an Unbias'd or a Partial Judgement; [f.117v.] Upon this & All Accounts I shou'd be still less Worthy of Your Goodness if I did not subscribe myself with the greatest Esteem and Respect

My Lord, Your Lordship's Most Obliged & most dutyfull humble Servant

William Freind.

The Lady's present their thanks & Respects to Your Lordship & to the Lady's at Cuddesdon. They join with me in wishing We had a Confirmation here every Year.

[To Cuddesdon and endorsed 'Witney Dr Freind July. 18 1754']

From the Revd. John Mather

(iii.119-20)

[f.120] Lewknor, July 18, 1754

My Lord,

I am prevented from paying my Duty to Your Lordship at Cudsden by the extreme illness of my Father's Sister who now lies at the point of Death in my house.

I have enclosed a paper with the names of the persons I have recommended to your Lordship for Confirmation; and as far as was in my power obeyed your Lordship's instructions: many I find have not yet learn't to read: I have earnestly recommended it to them that they would ask the assistance of their Friends and have offered my own: I have used by best endeavours to instruct them in the plainest manner in the chief points of their Duty, particularly in the nature of that vow they will take upon themselves when they appear before your Lordship, and as they are very desirous of Confirmation (without requiring from all of them an exact and satisfactory account of their Faith in the words of our Church Catechism) have ventured to recommend them under a promise of their constantly attending the service of the Church and frequenting the Communion. In doing this I hope I have not acted [*f.119v.*] disagreeably to your Lordship's intentions.

I am, my Lord, with all Duty and Respect, Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant.

John Mather.

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of several religious Tracts for the use of my Parishioners and to assure your Lordship I will dispose of them in such a manner as may best answer your kind purpose in sending them.

[Added in Secker's hand, 'Ten in the List did not come: but 5 not in the List had Tickets & came' and endorsed 'Lewkenor Mr Mather 18 July 1754']

From Henry Montague

(iii.121)

Lincoln's Inn, July 27, 1754

My Lord

Dr. Boulter, the late Lord Archbishop of Armagh,¹ by his Will, dated the 19th. of Novr. 1729. Gave the sum of £1000, towards Augmenting 10 poor Livings; so that some person advance £100 more, in order to Obtain Queen Annes Bounty, for each Living; Of this Will, Charles Savage Esq, (One of the Directors of the Bank) is the surviving Trustee.²

As I have often heard Your Lopp Express a Desire, of Getting, the C. of Wheatley, further Augmented; I thought it proper to acquaint Your Lopp, with what I have Mentioned.

I am, with Sincere Respect, My Lord, Your Lopps Most Obedient and Very Humble Servant

Henry Montague.

P.S. I have reason to believe the Mony is not all, yet, Disposed of.

¹ Hugh Boulter D.D., bp. Bristol 1719–24, archbp. Armagh 1724–42.

² Director of the Bank of England 1733–43, 1747–60, deputy governor 1743–45, governor 1745–47; held the manor of Hughenden, Bucks., 1738–63, director of the East India Co. 1725–29, 1731–2: *ex inf.* Bank of England Historical Research Dept.

From Charles Savage

(iii.122)

London, Sep. 9, 1754

My Lord

Your Lordships favr: 1st. Augst. came duely to hand. & should have been sooner answd. but that I was then at Scarbrough. (from whence I did not Return till last friday Evening) & could not recollect there how far I was Engaged in Augmenting the ten poor Livings. but having since examin'd into it, think it is in My power to oblige Your Lordship. & if so shall readily do it. but as I am a Stranger to these affairs & My Lawyer is out of Town. must desire Yr. Lordship to send a proper person. to Master Mountague. who is the Secretary to Queen Ann's Bounty. to inform himself & Me about it as no time may be lost. I am.*

My Lord Yor. Most Obd. Hu Servt

Cha. Savage

[In the hand of an amanuensis to *]

From Herbert Beaver

(iii.123-4)

Oxford, July 16, 1775

My Lord,

Your Observation on Mr. Prinsep's Presentation concerning the Stamp, is certainly very right;¹ for, by the Act of Queen Ann, nothing was remitted to the discharg'd Livings besides first fruits & Tenths;² All other Charges and dues remain as before. I have sent word of this to Mr. Prinsep by his Messenger, and advised him to get a new Presentation on a £4. Stamp: In the mean time, I will be preparing the Instrumts. which shall be ready to be deliverd as soon as demanded. I will endeavour to find out Sr. Edwd. (if in Town) and inform him of the Matter.³

I am, My Lord, Your Lordship's most dutyfull Servt.

Herbert Beaver

P.S. Mr. Prinsep's former Presentation to Burcester was indeed only on a £3. 6d. Stamp; but that was a mere oversight.

[To Cuddesdon and endorsed 'Mr Beaver July 16.1755']

¹ John Prinsep of Staffs., m. Balliol 1735 a.18, B.A. 1738; V. Bicester 1752-68, R. Cottisford 1768.

² Queen Anne's Bounty Act, 1703.

³ Sir Edward Turner.

From the Revd. Dr. William Freind

(iii.125-6)

Witney, July 29, 1755

My much honored Lord,

The Vanquishing Miss Talbot at Chess when she exerts even but half

her skill is a work of so much time that I found I had none left to call upon Mr Beaver. I have since my return spoken to One of my Parishioners concerned in the erecting the proposed Gallery, & desired him to suspend the Work till the Faculty is delivered. It is a Convenience so greatly wanted in this Church, that I trust Your Lordship will have the Goodness to overrule Mr Beaver, should he attempt to lay needless Obstructions in our Way. The Diminution of Fees I foresaw would be a tender Point with him; I therefore apprized the Chancellor that if it cou'd not be settled in the way desired by Virtue of *One* [f.125v.] Faculty, the thing must be dropt, for the Proprietors would never be brought to pay Each for a separate Faculty. I have had much trouble to bring this matter to bear at all in a Vestry so large as Ours, where Fickleness & Contention make all business difficult; I could wish it should not be suspected here that the thing is attended with Any Difficulty; the Chancellor himself apprehended none; and certainly His Rights (whatever they may be) are as much alienated by being made over to *Eight* Proprietors as to *One*; but the Whole *Eight* may be expresst in the Faculty, provided the Fees are taken as for a single Faculty. If more than this be insisted upon by Mr Beaver, there is an End to Our Gallery, & the Inconveniences (which are great) must remain; for at present some Families go rather to Neighbouring Churches, & some to none – on account of the ill Accommodation for a Congregation so Numerous as [f.126] ours usually is on Sunday Afternoon.

I cannot conclude without again thanking Your Lordship for all Your Goodness & partiality to Me; I shall remember Your kind Conversation in the Coach; Consciousness of my own Weakness makes me dread success, and at the same time what I owe to Others makes me desirous of it. But enough of this.¹ The Ladies here (my Wife in particular) desires Your Lordship & the Good Ladies to accept her Respects; she insists upon my saying she has followed a Hint of Miss Talbots with respect to Civility, & has found good Effect from it.

I am, with all Respect and gratitude My Lord, Your Lordships Most Obligated & dutyfull humble servant.

William Freind

Mr Lenthal has just left us; I told him Yr Lp. wou'd write Yourself to Mr F. & he seem'd glad of it.²

[Endorsed 'Witney Dr Freind July 29.1755']

¹ Freind preached before the House of Commons on the anniversary of the execution of Charles I, Jan. 30, 1756: *D.N.B.*

² Thomas Fettiplace, formerly Bushell. On the subject of his inertia over the proper administration of the Fettiplace charity see O.R.O., O.D.P., box 44 (not yet numbered): Secker to Samuel Seddon, Aug. 20, 1756.

From the Revd. Dr. William Freind

(iii.127-8a)

Witney, Aug. 31, [1755]

My much honored Lord,

I venture once more to trouble Your Lordship in consequence of a Message which Mr Beaver desired my Curate Mr Hoskins to bring to me, requesting to know what Your Lordships Resolution had been concerning the intended Gallery at Witney. This he Might more properly have inquired at Cuddesdon; but as he told Mr Hoskins that he had heard nothing concerning it either from Your Lordship or from the Chancellor, & that He could not proceed till He received Instructions from Him or from Your Lordship, I thought it might not be amiss to signify to You what he says, that You may act as You see fit in Consequence thereof. If the Chancellor himself had not assured me there cou'd be no Objection & should be no Difficulty, I would [*f.127v.*] not have encouraged my Parishioners in the Undertaking; but now that the thing has gone so far, I should be sorry it should drop, unless some unforeseen Obstacle occurs which Your Lordship may think ought to prevent it.

My Wife begs leave to present her Duty to Your Lordship and all due Compliments to the Ladies. I cannot brag of her health; she is much in the same uncertain state she was in at Cuddesdon, which confines her intirely at home. I have nothing more as yet concerning the matter I had the honor to discuss with You in the Coach.

I am, with all Duty & Respect, My Lord Your most obliged and most Obedient humble servant

Will. Freind.

[Endorsed 'Dr Freind Aug 31.1755 abt the Gallery at Witney']

From the Revd. Dr. Thomas Bray

(iii.128b-c)

Exeter College, Dec.11, 1755

My Lord

I received yesterday the favour of Your Lordships obliging Letter, and will most readily do the Duty at Wheatley Chapel twice every Sunday; and endeavour to prepare Matters for carrying into speedy execution Your Lordships other good Intentions. I received likewise yesterday from Mr Montague of Lincolns Inn a Letter acquainting me that the Benefaction hath so far taken Place, that I am entitled to the Interest of two Hundred Pounds from Christmas 1754. And of the other two Hundred Pounds from Michaelmas last; for which unexpected Advantage I am thankful to Your Lordship. The great Rummage of the County to serve Election [*f.128c*] Purposes, hath made the Purchase of small Freeholds difficult. But I will use all possible Diligence, and acquaint Your Lordship

as I make any Progress in this, or with the Parishioners at Wheatley about the Houses.¹

I am your Lordships most Obligated Obedient Servant

Thomas Bray

¹ For further information on the houses adjacent to the chapel yard see iii.139, 141.

Folios 129–135b, which relate to the Revd. Nicholas Holland of Horndon on the Hill, Essex, appear to be stray items properly belonging to Secker as dean of St. Paul's, and as such are excluded from this edition.

From the Revd. Dr. William Freind

(iii.136–7)

Witney, Jan. 4, 1756

Sunday afternoon

My Lord,

Least a disorder I have upon me should prevent me from paying my duty to You this Evening with my Wife, as I intended, I am writing down what I had much rather have stated to You by word of Mouth, and if You can have leisure and patience to peruse it, shall be much obliged to Your Lordship.

Your Lp. may remember what past some time ago relative to the Burial of Dissenters in the Parish Church of Witney. My Conduct upon that occasion I think You did not disapprove. Since that time the thing has slept till a few months ago, when, a Dissenter happening to die, his friends sent the Sexton to desire my Consent for burying him in the Church. – This being the first instance of the Demand being made (perhaps, the first *opportunity*) since the Resolution made in the Vestry against it, I thought it right to refuse it, at least till I could see how my Church-Parishioners would relish my waving a Resolution they had so much desired and applauded. – In the interim two Sons of the Deceased came & desired to speak with me; upon being introduced, they asked if I had forbidden the Sexton to open the Ground in the Church for their Fathers Corpse; I answer'd – *I had*: – Upon which one of them replied, *It was a Scrubby Trick, & I was a Scrub for doing it*. – This (I told them) was language I could not receive from Anyone, and as I found they came only to be rude, I desired them to be gone directly. –

[f.136v.] The next day came a Dissenter to me, *Bolton* by name, with whom I deal for Bread, (a decent Man, but as I since have reason to fear – *not* an honest One –) with a view to sollicite this burial;¹ but on my telling him how ill I had been used he desisted, and proposed only that I should wave the Resolution taken, in favor of One very infirm and inoffensive Man (*Richd. Witts*) who had sett his heart on being buried in the Ch. near his Relations. – I desired Bolton to quiet poor Witts upon that head, and to assure him that if I received no farther ill treatment I would on *such* an Occasion

forget the Petulance of his Family which gave the first occasion to all this Dispute. – I had some Confidence in *Bolton*, as he had been much obliged to me, and desired him to pacify matters, and make me better Understood among his people. – But in the Evening the Deceased was buried in the Dissenting Meeting House; at which time their Teacher was so weak to make me the Subject of a long Discourse which he held there, with such invectives as gave great Offence to some of my People who were present.

I took no Notice of all this, till in November – when I left the Countrey – I sent for *Bolton*, to apprise him, that if *Richd. Witts* should happen to drop, and it was still expected that he should lie in the Church I should expect on my part, that He and Others of his Persuasion would prevail upon their Teacher to acknowledge he had done amiss in the Freedoms he publicly & undeservedly took with my Character: for that I would upon no account appear to *be threatend* into Compliance. –

About 3 Weeks ago *Bolton* called upon me here in Town, & acquainted me that their Teacher would make no acknowledgement or Concession [f.137] whatsoever. – I then desired – (which he promised and answer'd for) – that a few of their Principal People should write me a line or two to request this favor, and to make some Apology for the Conduct of *Mr Blake* (their Teacher). – Soon after *Mr Broom Witts* called upon me, acquainting his Brothr. was at the point of Death, & requesting me immediately to order his Burial in the Church. – I told him what I should require first, & that this was an Affair I beg'd leave to settle with *my own Parishioners & not with Him*. – However I wrote to my Curate, that in case of an Exigencie, if the same People would give him a line to the same purpose, not to stop the Burial till he could hear from me. –

A week ago *Bolton* writes me Word, *Witts* is dead; that none of the terms desired on my side are complied with, & that Instant Burial is necessary without waiting for further Correspondence. – Upon this I immediately wrote to my Curate not to insist upon *Anything Written*, but if any two or three would *verbally* express themselves sensible of the Ill usage I had received & desire me to overlook it, he should immediately comply, & use them (as I am sure he is disposed to do) with all Gentleness and Christian Condescension. – I inclose my Curates letter, that Your Lordship may see the Result of all I have done. I should not have troubled You with this heap of Stuff, but that I am told You have already heard it – perhaps less truly stated.

If You think me wrong, or could wish me to take any Step different from what I have yet done, You well know (I trust) that there is no one whom I should from Obligation, Duty, Confidence, and I may add Affection, more readily & implicitly Obey than Your Lordship

[unsigned]

[Endorsed 'Dr Freind Jan. 4.1756 abt burying Dissenters in the Church.']

¹ ? Henry Bolton, inhabitant and freeholder of Witney: O.R.O., county poll book 1754.

From the Revd. Dr. William Freind

(iii.138)

Westminster, Jan. 5, n.d.

My much honor'd Lord Bishop,

I am much obliged to You for the Honor of Your Inquiry, as well as for Your Message of Approbation communicated to me last night by my Wife; I was in hopes I had done right; but sometimes silly people provoke one into Error without our own perceiving it; well knowing how fallible I am, I am glad to lean upon your Lps. better Judgement. – My Complaint is going off; It was but slight, but as it has sometimes proved very troublesome to me, I thought it best to use prevention which I believe will have its effect. I am with the truest Respect

Your Lordships most Obligated and most dutifull humble Servt.

W. Freind.

From the Revd. Dr. Thomas Bray

(iii.139–40)

Exeter College, Jan. 26, 1756

My Lord

As I have made some Progress, though a slow one, in the Business Your Lordship recommended, I think it proper to inform Your Lordship of the State of Things at Wheatley, before any thing more is done. The Parishioners are very thankful for Duty every Sunday. And are very desirous their Chapel-Yard should be consecrated, And they express their readiness to give up the Ground, and inclose it properly with a Wall. But they are desirous that some Old People who live in the Houses, should remain in them as long as they live; but that no others shall come into them; but when they are dead these Houses shall be pulled down, and the Wall, which in the mean time might only join to the Houses, should then be extended to take, the Ground they stood upon, in. I have not yet had a Meeting called in Form; but if Your Lordship approves of Things so far, I make no doubt of having them carried effectually into Execution; and the Petition signed. Concerning the Expence of consecrating [f.139v.] the Ground, I have consulted Mr Beaver, who sais in general, that exclusive of the Chancellors Fee, it will not come to above four Guineas. I believe the Parishioners will not make a Difficulty of bearing that Expence; but of this I am not yet certain. It was intimated to me that I should write to Your Lordship to enquire after a Terrier of the Ground which belongs to the Chapel Yard; but I suppressed that Proposal, because Your Lordship does not express any Certainty on that head; and therefore it may be better to go on without a Discovery that there is no Terrier, than give a handle to a Cavil.

I am making diligent Enquiry after a Purchase.¹ I have been in Treaty for an Estate at Swerford; but it was bought by Mr Wilmot. Mr Gray of Witney thinks he shall be able to procure a convenient Purchase; but sais the Person in Possession is not yet come to reasonable Terms. I desire to know

whether Your Lordship approves of my going on to have a Meeting called, and have the Wall built, taking in the Ground, but letting the Houses stand for the present, if no more can be obtained with chearfulness and Good Will. And, as soon as I know Your Lordships Pleasure I will act accordingly.

I am Your Lordships most obliged and Obedient Servant

Thomas Bray

[Endorsed 'Wheatley Mr Bray Jan 26. 1756']

¹ For the investment of the Q.A.B. augmentation money.

Memorandum in Secker's hand

(iii.141)

Jan. 27, 1756

In answer to Mr Brays Letter of Jan. 26 I directed him to get the Houses taken down at present, if he well could: & if not, to have the ground they stood on included in the Petition, as offerd for the Ch. Yard & to get another paper signed by the Parishioners promising to take them down w^hn the present Inhabitants died or quitted them. I also told him I believe there was no accurate or at present intelligible Terrier of the Chapel Yard, if any at all: and therefore it was better to say nothing of one, unless there was an Attempt of withholding any Ground from it w^{ch} naturally shd go to it

From the Revd. John Baker

(iii.142)

Oxford, Jan. 29, 1756

My Lord,

I yesterday received the Packets which you were so good as to send me, together with your directions for the disposal of them; You may depend on their being executed with all the faithfullness and discretion in my power. When I had the pleasure of seeing your Lordship some time since, you were so kind as to say that, if I would let you know when I was capable of holding Dr Busby's Catechetical Lecture, you would endeavour to procure it for me; It is now just three years since I enter'd on it last. I need not mention to you the scanty income of Beckley, as I know that you are already sufficiently acquainted with it;¹ But this I hope, will be some sort of an excuse for this freedom in your Lordship's most dutifull, obliged humble Servant

J: Baker.

¹ Beckley was the 'third poorest [living] in the county': *V.C.H. Oxon.*, v, p. 73; also *Bacon*, p. 796, and iii.143.

From the Revd. John Baker

(iii.143)

Oxford, Feb. 26, 1756

My Lord,

I have sent you inclosed the certificate, which I hope, will prove satisfactory; I am sorry that I should have given your Lordship so much trouble, but I did not imagine that there had been any occasion to specify any other than spiritual income. The little estate mention'd in the Certificate, (rates, taxes, reparations & Quitrent deducted) doe's not wth the Curacy of Beckley (exclusive of my Fellowship.) make up near fourty pounds per Annm: The annual income of Beckley is fourteen pounds, five pounds of which arise from the Queen's bounty, eight pounds from the Impropriatour, & one pound from an Orchard belonging to the Vicarage.¹

I am, my Lord, your most obliged obedient servant

J: Baker.

¹ For an account of the impropriation see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, v, p. 72.

From the Revd. Lionel Lampet

(iii.144a)

Steeple Aston, Mar. 18, 1756

My Lord

I must now beg leave to trouble your Ldship again about Barford. The money has been pd almost a year. & Mrs Roberts chuses it may be finishd out of hand. The yard Ld at Barford must be sold for raising £400. She had rather the governrs. woud buy it for Barford church. It Lying in that parish, & being tythe free, first gave the Testator, Henry Meads, the scruple of detaining the tythes from that church; & as one thing draws on another, at length his own pious disposition, backd by the persuasions of Mrs Roberts, yielded the whole to charitable uses.¹ The yard Land without any buildings, is free hold, dispersd in the common fields, & set to a good Tenant. at 14 per annum. The deductions for Ld tax at 2s in the pound, & constables levy, both were 17sh. last year. Nothing, in an age, may happen again so convenient; no objections, tis hoped, will be made to the immediate purchase, if refused at the price, the Tenant will take it himself. If the governours take it, tis designd £200 of the money sd rest in their hands for Sandford church, tho only one hundred is intended for that use.

Mr Blake will be accountable to Mrs Roberts for the other. The great people in the parish have been consulted on this occasion, but nothing has been offerd; whether they want each a beginning to be made, or whether they intend any thing remains a Mystery. For fear so good a foundation shoud [f.144av.] lye unfinished, Mr Blake will contribute the money itself.² The price of land hereabouts is 28 years purchase, in some parishes more. It rises daily. The lowness of the Ld. tax, & its having no buildings belonging to it, are material Considerations

If a Commissn of enquiry be the first step, I sd be glad to mention some names to yr Ldship, for no other reason but to avoid *trouble & delay*. If the writings are to be examin [sic] first; in this case, I will take care a copy of them be sent as soon as calld for. I am, my Ld, yr Lordships most Obliged Dutiful Servant

Lionel Lampet

Please to direct – to be left with Mr Henchman at Dedington[.]³ The Tenants name is Richard Lovedren of Barford⁴

[Added in Secker's hand 'Answerd March 24, 1756']

¹ Ann Roberts (d.1767) and Henry Meads (d.1755) had founded an educational charity in Sandford St. Martin; as a further charitable act he appears to have left the yard land to her in trust, making her responsible for finding a means to augment the living of Barford St. Michael: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xi, pp. 54–5, 178–81.

² John Blake contributed £100 to the endowment of the living: *ibid.*, p. 178.

³ John Henchman, m. Ch.Ch. 1734 a.16, Lincoln Coll. M.A. 1740; V. Deddington 1752–90.

⁴ For further details of the Lovedren family as tenants see *ibid.*, p. 53.

From Owen Davies

(iii.144b)

Little Cloisters, Westminster, Mar. 20, 1756

My Lord

This is only to acquaint your Lordship that on Thursday last, the Trustees of Dr: Busby appointed, upon your Lordship's Recommendation, both Mr: Ellis of Stratton Audley & Mr: Baker of Beckley &c, to be Lecturers for this year:¹ and that I have by this post sent them their Instructions accordingly; which I thought would avoid giving your Lordship the trouble of conveying them from Cuddesden to the Respective Ministers.

Great Objections were made to Mr: Baker on Account of his Fellowship; But were however for this time got over. I have directed to Mr: Ellis near Bicester; & to Mr: Baker at Corpus Christi College. I am, with all our most humble Duty to your Lordship, & best Compliments to the Ladies,

My Lord Your Lordship's most dutiful and most obliged humble Servant
Owen Davies.

¹ William Ellis of London, m. Ch.Ch. 1748 a.18, M.A. 1754; V. Stoke Lyne 1756–91, P.C. Stratton Audley 1761.

From the Revd. Benjamin Rudge

(iii.145–6)

Wheatfield, Apr. 11, 1756

My Lord

As there is a dispute unfortunately on foot with regard to some Glebe Land and other matters relating to the Living of Whitfield;¹ I am very desirous of having your Lordship's advice on how to proceed in the affair.

The weather had two or three times prevented my going to Oxford and enquiring whether there be any Terrier of this Living: however I hope to compass it soon; and will wait on your Lordship upon the earliest notice of your being in the country. In the mean time I beg the favour of your Lordship to inform me what step I must take to perpetuate the evidence of some elderly persons in the Parish, that in case of death their depositions may be produced hereafter as legal evidence. I am

My Lord Your Lordships most devoted and most obedient humble Servt.
Benjamin Rudge

[Endorsed 'Whitfield Mr Rudge Apr 11. 1756']

¹ The glebe as it existed in 1685 is described in *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, p. 271.

From the Revd. Lionel Lampet

(iii.147)

Steeple Aston, Apr. 15, 1756

My Lord

The Commission, sent by your Lordship, was executed this day at Barford. upon enquiry, the Yard Land appeared to have been set at £16 a year, & a sufficient Tenant offered £15 a year in case it was to be disposed of – as the only outgoing is by Land tax at 2*sh.* & the Constables Levy, together, but 16*sh* & 1 penny a year, as it has no buildings nor pays any tythe, I hope, it will appear to your Lordship, & the Governors, as desirable a thing, as we look upon it here. The title, which I imagine is the next thing to be enquired into, will I believe, be quite clear. your Lordships influence will, I hope, hinder any trifling objection to see this business speedily concluded will be very agreeable to Mrs Roberts, & to, my Lord, your Lordships most Dutiful Sert.

Lionel Lampet

[Endorsed 'Barford St Michael Mr Lampet Apr. 15. 1756']

From the Revd. Thomas Snell

(iii.148)

Bampton, Apr. 26, 1756

My Good Lord

The last Post brought me the Favour of yours. every tittle of which shall be fullfill'd to the utmost of my Power, as yet I have heard nothing of the Box from Witney, nor any notice of Confirmation from the Office,

It is my sincere request that your Lordship make my House your own, in Complying with which you will give much Pleasure, and do more Honour to him who with filial Reverence and Respect is

Yr Lordships Most Dutifull and obedient Servant

Tho: Snell

A Lame hand subjects me to an Amanuensis

From John North¹

(iii.149)

Watlington, May 13, 1756

My Lord.

I received the favour of your Lordship's Letter dated 8th Instant on the 23d. Decr. We had a meeting & Mr Sims signed a Submission to persons to settle the Common field Lands & the Incroachments Complained off and they accordingly took a View of them but the Season of the Year being improper for such business It was agreed to be deferred 'till Barley Seedtime[.] On Easter Sunday I recd. a Letter from Farmer Witwell² which I answered the Tuesday following & sent it to be left for him at the Bull Inn in Thame according to his directions[.] I desired he would fix a day with the partys & let me know and I would Attend on two days notice[.] But I have not heard from him since[.] I have now wrote to him again to appoint a day[.] The neglect has not been in me and I am so far from being unwilling to proceed in the Affair that I acknowledge myself greatly obliged to your Lordship for the favour & hope for a continuance & whatever business I may transact for your Lordship it shall be punctually done by

My Lord Yr. Lordships much obliged & most obt. humble servt.

John North

¹ Presumably the country attorney d.1763 whose memorial is in Watlington church: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, p. 244. This is a stray item belonging with related material to be found in section viii of this edition.

² Properly John Whitmill: see viii.46-7, n.1.

From the Revd. Dr. James Luck¹

(iii.198-211)

[f.198v.] Charlbury, June 21, 1756

My Lord.

Having a Lawsuit depending with one of my Parishioners, I humbly beg Leave to represent the Case to Your Lordship; hoping, my Lord, Your Lordship will not be displeas'd with me for it but rather the contrary.

This Dispute is between me and one Wm Green of Shorthampton;² when I came to Charlbury for Induction; I was inform'd, that all the Tenants of the Tythes of Charlbury held their Bargains (³this Wm. Green among the Rest from the 1st. of Novr. to the 1st. of Novr. that that was the Beginning and End of their Tythe Year; as soon as I was inducted (the 5th. day of March 1746.) I sent to all my Tenants, desiring them to come and agree with me for the Tythes; – they all came (except the two Pudlicot Men) this Wm. Green as well as the Rest; with whom and all the Rest, at the Bell in Charlbury, (being unwilling to make any Alteration in their Bargains, before I well knew were [sic] abouts I were) I agreed that they should go on with their Bargains as they did in Dr Heywoods Time for three Years longer, that is, from the 1st of Novr then last past (Dr. Heywood's last

three Years did not Expire till that first of November,) to the first of November, seventeen hundred and forty nine;⁴ [f.199] besides this Meeting at the Bell in Charlbury, I met the two Puddlicott Men (Matthew Turner & John Coates) Henry Ward of Chadlington & Thomas Smith of Chilson⁵ (which two last were also at our Meeting at the Bell in Charlbury) and Mr Wm. Heywood the Drs. Executor to help make up his Account, with the Tenants there present, this Wm. Green among the Rest, July the 16th. 1747, at the Bear at Chadlington; there was ducto Mr. Heywood the Executor one Quarter; from May the first, at the first of August 1746; the Last Receipt which Dr. Heywood gave Thos Smith of Chilson, bears Date June the 14th. 1746, for half a Years Tythes, due the first of May that same Year, and it is now in my Custody; which half Year commenc'd from the next preceeding first of Novr. all the Men present, and W Green himself, paid Mr Heywood his Odd Quarter, which was due to him from the said first of May at August 1746; when they had so done, they all, before this Wm. Greens Face paid me the Odd Quarter (in the midst of which Dr Heywood died) due from the said first of August at the first of Novr. then next ensuing; that their Tythe Year might Commence and End as it did in Dr Heywood's Time; Green himself did not indeed pay me that Odd Quarter, pretending he did not know of my Coming, and therefore could not, but promis'd to pay it me as soon as he could, but would not, till at last I got five Guineas of him, in which was sunk the Odd Quarter when the five [f.200] Guineas were discounted at the Payment for which I gave him the first Receipt of them which he has now the produce; how then can he pretend (as he has done since) that he could not but understand, that he was to hold his Bargain from Lammas to Lammas, that is in a Manner, quite different from that in which all my Other Tenants agreed with me to hold their Bargains for the Tythes; that he might have it in his power to Quit just after he had had all the Profits of the Year.

Wm. Green's Bargain was let him by Dr Heywood for nine pounds sixteen shillings a Year, he being to pay toward the Land Tax two shillings in the pound, and all Parish Taxes Rates &c; but he made me believe for some time that it was let him afterwarde [sic] by Dr. Heywood or his Nephew, so as that the Dr. should pay all the Land Tax; for which I was cess'd, (I applied myself to the Commissioners of the Land Tax on the Day of Appeal last Year, they promis'd me to lower this Great Assessment, but have not done it. Yet, I have been since cess'd, in proportion, as I was before) when the Land Tax was four shillings in the pound four and forty shillings and six pence; Wm. Green is sometimes the Assessor of this great Land Tax himself; therefore I resolv'd he should pay half of it, since I was [f.201] Assessed so much for only nine pounds sixteen shillings a Year; and for this Reason I sent him a Conditional Warning, (the Warning was only Conditional,) it was deliver'd to him the 29th. Day of July 1752 to leave his Bargain at the true End of the Year the first of Novr. then next ensuing; but

if he would pay half the Land Tax & twenty shillings a Year (instead of sixteen) he might hold on his Bargain as he did before, but not else; – he came to me in December next following, and Actually agreed with me to hold his Bargain, and that it should commence from the 1st of November then last past, being to give for it what I desir'd; Yet after this he told a Man at Chadlington, (who has sworn it) that though he had agreed to hold his Bargain at the same time saying it was to Commence from the first of November, (that was 1752) and that he was to have a Written Agreement, he would not hold it, for the Dr. sayes he is a queer old Rogue; this he declar'd the 28th. of April 1753; and told another Man on Saturday before Passion Week 1753 that he had agreed with me to hold on his Bargain, from the said first of November, but would not; I knew nothing of his Design to throw it up till Monday in Easter week 1753; on which day Lord Litchfield's Court is held at Wrenfords; they sent several Messages to me to come to them, to which I return's civil Answers, desiring to be excus'd knowing what they wanted, [f.202] a promise of me to [do] just as they would have me do; at length being wearied out with their Importunity, I bluntly sent them word I would not come, then came John Kilby to me, at nine o'Clock at Night, just as I was going to Bed;⁶ who demanded an whole Years Land Tax of me, for Green's Bargain; one pound thirteen shillings and four pence, when it was three shillings in the Pound; telling me at the same time, that Green said he owed me Nothing and that he had left his Bargain as long ago as Lammas last; Wm. Green also told Joseph Ward the same on the said Saturday in Passion Week, declaring then that though he had renewed it with me, and might hold his Bargain if he would, he would not; After he had taken his Bargain twice from the first of Novr. to the 1st Novr.; and had let the Tythes so to the owners, that is for a longer Term than he had in it himself, if he held it from Lammas to Lammas; – on the said Monday Night I would not pay Kilby so much Land Tax for no Rent; on Teusday [sic] following Green and Kilby came both to me making the same demand, and Green said if you don't care to pay me, pay him, still I refus'd, Green having said he owed me nothing, he had left his Bargain as long ago as Lammas last, and did not care a pin for me; When he owed me no less than five Quarters with that in the midst of which he threw up his Bargain; the said Lammas was but two Dayes after the Conditional warning was Given; upon this [f.203] Usage, I thought myself Oblig'd to file a Bill on the Exchequer against this Wm. Green; lest others should follow Green's evil Example; whom I verily believe to be set on and supported by several Gentlemen; Mr Basset espouses his Cause openly;⁷ He came to me in Wm. Green's Behalf on Thursday the 14th. Day of June 1753, and on Saturday the 16th. and Monday the 18th. next following no less than three times; telling me he had set Wm. Green Right, and that he would not see him oppress'd; and on Saturday the 16th. he made me a Tender of one Quarter, (which I would not receive) when he owed me five; and on one of these

three Dayes, in the aforesaid 4 June he brought me his List of Wm. Greens Payments. But notwithstanding this, Wm. Green would not be set Right (as Mr Basset term'd it) for in Answer to my Bill, which Answer is now in the Exchequer he has sworn, that I let him the Tythes of Shorthampton in September (that very Sept. on the 17th. Day of which Dr. Haywood died) or in October 1746; then or thereabouts; that I came over then from Oxford to Chadlington, and there let him the Tythes of Shorthampton, to be held from Lammas to Lammas; which was at a Time when I was in the outmost Distress; that I had Leisure then, and when I was not so much as Nominated to my Living, to come, not to Charlbury, but Chadlington, & there let him such a strange Bargain; when my Father and Mother were upon their Death Beds, and my Uncle and Aunt upon theirs [f.204] and when a Junior was endeavouring to supplant me at College and get my Living from me, when I was forc'd to Leave my Parents in their sad Condition to the Care only of two Nurses; when one Family was sick heretofore it was help'd by the other, but now they were both down together; My Father and Uncle both died in one Week, and My Mother in about a Fortnight afterwards; all my Friends, My Lord, were cut down at once, when I had Made things a little safe at College, then I was oblig'd to hurry back again to Tonbridge, to succour my dying Parents; at such a Time, Green has s[w]ore, that I let him the Tythes of Shorthampton in the strange Manner aforesaid; – & not only to, but also four or five Months before I could let him any Tythes; for I was not inducted into my Living till March the 5th 1746/7; and by a Bargain to Commence above seven Months before I could let them him; (from Lammas 1747 to Lammas 1752 is not six Years, but only five). Which he has done, because otherwise, it cannot be suppos'd, that he had held his Bargain just two three Years at Lammas 1752 when he says he left it, and owed me nothing; whereas at that Lammas he owed me half a Year's Rent; his Last Receipt is formerly due Feb: the 1st 1752; so that [f.205] to fill up his account from thence to the said Lammas, he is forc'd to bring over an half Years Rent from the first three Years to the End of the other three Years; which said half Years Rent he pretends he had paid too much, he has a Receipt for it; but it is not a distinct Receipt; it is included in the Receipt I gave him the 3d. of November 1749; Mr. Basset shewd me Wm. Green's Receipts, when he came and told me he would not see him oppress'd, and suffer'd me to transcribe the two following Receipts, he sat Close beside me while I transcrib'd them.

Sept. the 21st. 1748

Recd. then of Wm Green, the sum of four pounds & eighteen shillings in full for half a Years Rent of the Tythes of Shorthampton, due to me the first

of February last past; one pound two shillings and three pence being allowed for the Land Tax.

I say Recd. by me
James Luck.

Novr. the 3d. 1749 Recd. then of Wm Green the sum of seven pounds eleven shillings & six pence being in full for a Year's Rent for the Tythes of Shorthampton, with what was allowed him for the Land Tax; two pounds four shillings and six pence; due to me the first of August seventeen hundred and forty eight.

I say Recd. by me
James Luck.

N:B. the words seventeen hundred & forty eight, are [f.206] not figur'd down, but very carefully written in words at full length, on the Face of the third Receipt so that here is no Mistake, but to include the half Years Receipt was intended.

The first of February in the half Year's Receipt was in the Beginning of the Year 1748, that the half year's Rent which was due then commenc'd from the first of August in the Year 1747; and the whole Years Rent in this other Receipt due the first of August in the Year seventeen hundred and forty eight commenc'd from the said first of August, in the Year seventeen hundred and forty seven.

Wm. Green has given me no Receipt for the Land Tax that I have paid him, but made me beleive he could not write; and afterwards Mr Basset, when he came and told me he would not see Wm. Green Oppressd, said it was an easie thing for me to impose upon a poor Man that can neither write nor Read; when I believ'd he could neither write nor Read I wrote upon the Face of every Receipt I gave him what he was allowed for Land Tax; but I have now lately found for certain, that he can write & Read, and that he could before I gave him the including [sic] Receipt; is it at all likely that this Man (who is as Sharp a Fellow as most Countrymen whatsoever) if he had paid me an whole Years Rent in Money Nov: the 3d. 1749. would have suffered me to include in that payment the said half Years Rent? [f.206v.] I did not know but it was a thing not altogether uncommon to give a Receipt including a foregoing one, therefore did not much charge my Memory with it, thinking it safe enough; [f.206] when I did this, I ask'd him if I had al[f.207]lowed him the Land Tax for the said half Year, he said I had not, (but when Mr Basset shewed me the Receipts that I had given him, it appeard that I had,) upon which I desir'd him to shew Me that Acquittance; he said, he had it not about him but would bring it me next time he came to Town; then I said will You certainly bring it Me next time You come to Town; he assur'd me he would, then I gave him a Receipt for a Whole Years Rent, including the said half Year's Rent; for which he has never brought me the Receipt as he promis'd to do; never coming near me again himself (to the best of my Remembrance) till May the 24th. 1752; – when his Wife's

Sister came to me with the first Money she brought me, (if I ben't much mistaken he sent me Money by her twice) I demanded this Receipt; she had not it, she said, but she'd tell her Master of it; after the including Receipt was given, I went several times into Kent, where the many things I had to take care of, besides my other Concerns at Charlbury and the Troubles I met with in my native Country, made me utterly forget this Receipt, which I was to have had again of Green, when he came to me himself; so it came to pass, My Lord, that Wm. Green has got a Receipt of me too much, but it is not a distinct one.

Here I cant help mentioning Mr Arrowsmiths Conduct,⁸ humbly submitting it to Your Lordship [f.208] to Judge of it; a Commission was held at Woodstock June the 14th. 15th. 16th. & 17th. last past, about this Affair of Wm. Green's, whose Commissioners & Witnesses were entertain'd at the Bear, I believe at the Expence of Mr. Basset; Mr Arrowsmith was there not only the first day, but most of the others if not all; and swore against his Vicar, in belief of Incest; This Wm. Green Lives in incest; (I must Mention it, or else I shall be wanting in my Duty) and not only so but open Incest, in the Face of the Parish; Wm. Green has had a Wife, by whom he has Children, Children now Living, the Woman that Lives with him at Present is his Wife's own sister, by whom he has another Brood of Children, this Woman, Green and both Broods of his Children live together in one House, what Mr Arrowsmith has Actually sworn against me I dont Know; but we shall Know when the Depositions are publish'd; on Monday the 14th. he came to me for the Key of the Church Chest; that he might enter the Marriage of a Couple, (I let him have it) that were not Married till next day; and he said the Lawyers ben't come Yet, (Green's did not come till after two o Clock it was about two [o'] Clock when Mr Arrowsmith came to me) I'll go home, I have two Corpses to bury; but did not tell me who they belong'd to; one of them belongs to Wm. Green's own Brother, Joshua Green; I thought he was going Home directly, but he did not get home till eight of Clock; and would not bury either of the Corpses till [f.209] nine; when Joshua Green, though he was then no farther off than Wrenfords, went away carrying his Child home, and has got it buried elsewhere; when Mr Arrowsmith came to me, he said I am forc'd to come; here's my Subpœna; whereas I very well know, though he was subpœna'd he was not forc'd to come; for Mr Basset, which was long before Mr Arrowsmith was Subpœna'd sent me by his servant with a Letter, an answer to my Bill; which he call'd Wm Greens intended Answer; but it has prov'd to be only a pretended one; for they have got another Answer (which is what is now in the Exchequer) drawn up by Mr Blackston of All Souls;⁹ in the pretended Answer it is said Mr Arrowsmith will testifie such and such things; those Words, Mr Arrowsmith, in the Pretended Answer, are Mr. Arrowsmiths own hand Writing, so that Mr Arrowsmith gave it them under his hand before he was Subpœna'd, that he would come and swear against me.

The Commission for taking Greens Answer drawn up by Mr Blackston, was held at Mr Diston's;¹⁰ Diston was set on by the same sort of people that Green was; I humbly beg Mr Diston's Friends would be pleas'd to Consider, that he was the Aggressor; though he took my St: Foyn Tythes Year after Year several times; Yet I would not sue him, but conniv'd at it, I would not sue a reputed Madman; till at last he sued (which was suing me) my Tything Man; he brought two Actions [f.210] against him; I thought myself oblig'd to defend him; I did not begin with Mr. Diston, but he began with me; and He threatens still.

Mr Arrowsmith discover'd his Enmity to me as soon as ever I became Vicar of Charlbury; he said at our Meeting at the Bell that I ought to be inducted into each of the Chapels as well as the Church of Charlbury; whereas it is plain from the Composition between the Abbot of Eynsham & the Vicar of Charlbury, that the Vicar of Charlbury has the Right to all the Vicarial Tythes as Well at Chadlington as Charlbury and throughout the Parish;¹¹ also half the Tythe Wood and Tythe Hay; and Mr Arrowsmith has continued to do me all the Mischief he can in the Parish ever since; I ought to have three inductments he said, though the Vicariage [sic] is in the Church of Charlbury.

Your Lordship's Most Dutifull and Obedient &c.

James Luck

P.S. The Meeting at the Bell in Charlbury, when I agreed with Wm. Green & the Rest of my Tenants there present, Wm Green in his Answer, sayes nothing of; that things should go on as they did in Dr. Heywood's Time for three Years more, the real Agreement, he skips, and talks of one that never was; as soon as I was inducted I gave my Tenants an Entertainment, this Wm. Green being there among the Rest, at the Bell in Charlbury, and there agreed with them, that things should go on as they [f.210v.] did in Dr. Heywood's Time for three Years longer. The whole Debt that Wm. Green owes me is twelve pounds and five shillings.

¹ Of Kent, m. St. John's Coll. 1720 a.18, M.A. 1728, D.D. 1738; V. Charlbury 1746/7-71.

² Green was also a freeholder at Leafield: O.R.O., county poll book 1754.

³ Unpaired bracket.

⁴ Thomas Haywood, Luck's predecessor.

⁵ Smith was also a freeholder of Chilson: *ibid.*

⁶ Inhabitant and freeholder of Shorthampton: *ibid.*

⁷ Francis Basset 'Esq' of 'Walcot in Charlbury' and a freeholder of Charlbury: *ibid.*

⁸ John Arrowsmith, C. Charlbury.

⁹ (Sir) William Blackstone, 1723-80, legist and judge, f. All Souls from 1744.

¹⁰ William Diston was mentioned as an inhabitant of note within Chadlington and Shortampton: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 36.

¹¹ The abbot of Eynsham had been the patron and proprietor of Chadlington and Shortampton: *Bacon*, p. 793.

From the Revd. Jonathan Dennis¹

(iii.152-3)

The Queen's College, June 30, 1756

My Lord,

These Papers contain a Plan of the Church, an Estimate of the Repairs, with an Account of the annual Income of the Parish of Hampton Poyle.

It is proposed, with Your Lordship's Leave, to take away the South Isle (in which are no Seats) and to employ the Materials in repairing the other Parts of the Church.

The Estimate, amounting to £56 : 11 : 0 is, I think, too small. The Workmen, when employed, may perhaps find several Things they did not think of when they made the Estimate. But the Church Wardens, who employ them, must look to that.

The Income of the Parish (exclusive of the Parsonage, which is let for £85 per annum) amounts to per annum £516.

Viz. The Property of John Tilson Esqr.	310
Mr. Plaistow Attorney at Amersham ²	100
Mr. Tyrrel of Kidlington ³	60
The Remainr. in 4 small Parcels, together	46

£516

[f.152v.] If Your Lordship will do Us the Favour to apply to Mr. Tilson and Mr. Plaistow, We will solicit the others for their respective Shares; and if Mr. Tilson would contribute £30, and Mr. Plaistow £10, I hope We should be able to raise the rest at Home.

I am, My Lord, Your Lordship's most dutiful Son, and humble Servant,
Jonathan Dennis.

[Endorsed 'Mr Dennis June 30. 1756']

¹ Of Cumb., m. Queen's 1728 a.17, M.A. 1737; R. Hampton Poyle 1752-66.

² On the history of the Plaistow family's connections with Hampton Poyle see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vi, p.163.

³ Joseph Tyrrel: *ibid.*

(iii.150-1, 157)

The items which accompanied the preceding letter are, at f.157, a ground plan of Hampton Poyle church showing floor space devoted to seating; at f.150 an estimate for repairs of George Scriven of Woodstock, plumber and glazier, June 29, 1756 (£12 1s. 0d.); at f.151 estimates of Thomas Jenkins, slater, and William Anneson, carpenter, June 29, 1756 (£38 10s. 0d.), and for painting the 'Kings Arms and the Writings Creed and Lords prayer & Commandments' (£6 0s. 0d.).

To John Tilson at Watlington Park

(iii.154)

Cuddesdon, July 14, 1756

Sir

I beg Leave to lay before you a matter of some Consequence to the Parish of Hampton Poyle, of wch, as I am informed, more than half is your Property. The parish Church hath been presented at my Visitation this Summer, as greatly wanting Repair, & being in a very dangerous Condition. On discoursing with Mr Dennis the Rector concerning it, he tells me, that as the Inhabitants are few, the South Isle may be taken down without Inconvenience, & the Materials applied to the Repairs of the rest: but that in this cheapest way of proceeding, the Estimate of the necessary Expense amounts to 56 – 11 – 0: which will probably fall a good deal short, as usual, when the Work comes to be done. He adds, that the Farmers are all very poor, and quite unable to bear the Charge: but that if you wd have the Goodness to contribute £30, & Mr Plaistow, the next Proprietor, £10, wch is in Proportion to your Estates in the Parish, he hopes that other Landlords wd also give according to their shares, & that the rest might be raised amongst the Tenants. He promises likewise to repair the Chancel. I am bound to require that all be put in good Order: but have no Right to call upon you for that purpose: & therefore only take the Liberty of recommending the Case to your equitable Consideration. If you are pleased to approve the Proposal, it shall be made to Mr Plaistow by your most obedient humble sert

TO

[Endorsed 'Hampton Poyle. To Mr Tilson July 14 1756']

From John Tilson

(iii.155)

Watlington Park, July 20, 1756

My Lord

I received the honor of your Lordships Letter in regard to repairs of the Church of Hampton Poyle. It will be always a great pleasure to me to be able to conform to your Lordships Sentiments. Though I have the greatest share of the Land in that Parish, yet your Lordship may not have been informed that notwithstanding very great Abatements of Rent, that have been made both by my Uncle¹ and myself, my Tenants yet remain very considerably in Arrears. That I am afraid the Plea of Poverty, which they make is a Language that they have learnt in order to gain their ends of their Landlord, and now make use of it upon all occasions. I should imagine therefore that your Lordship will not think it unreasonable that I should endeavour to persuade my tenants [f.155v.] to advance that money, which your Lordship seems desirous that I should contribute towards the repairs of the Church, out of their Arrears. I am now setting out upon a journey

into Gloucestershire, and upon my return from thence I shall visit my Tenants at Hampton Poyle, and hope that I shall then be able to give your Lordship a more satisfactory answer. I am

Your Lordship's Most Obedient Humble Servant

John Tilson.

¹ Christopher Tilson.

From the Revd. Jonathan Dennis

(iii.156)

The Queen's College, n.d.

My Lord,

I take this Opportunity of returning the inclosed Letter, with my Thanks to Your Lordship for the Trouble You have taken in this Affair. If I understand Mr. Tilson right, He purposes to pay his Proportion towards repairing the Church out of the Arrears due to Him from his Tenants. I do not know what those Arrears are; but I was in Hopes He would have remitted a considerable Sum to his Tenant *Peesly*, who has been a great Sufferer by the Distemper among his Cattle. If Mr. Tilson should make it a Condition of his advancing this Money, that the Tenants shall pay all their Arrears (which I fear He will do) I shall then despair of seeing the Church repair'd at all. [*f.156v.*] However We must wait the Event; and I only wish He may be as *willing* as He is *able* to conform to Your Lordship's Sentiments.

I am, My Lord, Your Lordship's most dutiful Son and most obedient Servant

Jonathan Dennis.

From the Revd. Dr. Daniel Burton

(iii.158-9)

Slapton, Bucks., Aug. 15. 1756

My Lord,

I received the favour of your Letter, & by the same Post another forwarded by your Ldship from Mr Beaver. I am very sorry to find, that any irregularity in granting marriage-licenses has hapned in our office, but am pretty confident, It has arisen from a misrepresentation of the parties applying for it. Mr Beaver is very exact in those matters. However, I will take care to transmit the Forms, used in the commons, to my Surrogates, tho' I do not expect much good will arise from them; for the Surrogates at present ask nearly the same questions of the Parties upon *oath*, & if the Parties pay no regard to the one, it is to be feared they will attend as little to the other. however the affidavits being [sic] to be produced will clear our conduct.

Mr Beaver's Letter to me is a Complaint against the official's Surrogates

granting licenses during the inhibition; which is a thing we have [f.158v.] some time had a suspicion of, & detected in some instances, but Ignorance has always been pretended; The present case does not admit of that excuse, being a License granted by Mr Bilstone as Surrogate, & signed by Stewart as Register, dated Aug. 7. 1756 – to a couple, both inhabitants of Oxford, & since married at St Peter's in the Bailey by Mr Swinton.¹ This proceeding is not only a great injury to our Office, but a high insult on your Lordship's authority. I should be much obliged to you for your advice in this matter. I intend to write to Dr Bettesworth about it by this Post, but not knowing whether He be in the commons or the countrey, shall take the liberty of inclosing it with your's, & beg the favour of your Ldship to forward it – I make no doubt, but that Dr Bettesworth will make us satisfaction, & put a Stop to such depredations for the future.

When Surrogates act in this manner, Is not their Bond forfeited? & indeed, do not the consequences extend still further – As the License is not granted by proper authority, does It not affect [f.159] the Marriage itself, & make it null?

I returned to this place yesterday sennight, being detained at my brother's in Glocestershire longer than I intended, by my wife's illness, who has had a very bad & dangerous miscarriage: She has been under Dr Lewis's care, & is now pretty well recovered, & will I hope in a little time gain her strength again.² All the medicines have succeeded as well as could be expected, & She is now beginning on the last part of the Dr's prescriptions, which is the Extract of Bark, to be continued for a fortnight.

The minds of people in the countries, where I have been, & am, are pretty much in the same fermentation, as yr Ldship represents them in town. The Heavy rains have done much damage, & so covered my & the neighbouring parishes; that in some of the finest days after them, I have been an absolute Prisoner, & now with great difficulty, & indeed hardly with safety, crawl out on Horseback. My wife joyns in Duty to yr Ldship, & compliments to the Ladies, with yr much obliged & Dutiful humble Servt

Dan: Burton.

[Endorsed 'Dr D. Burton Aug 15 1756']

¹ John Swinton of Ches., m. Wadham 1719 a.16, M.A. 1726, Ch. Ch. B.D. 1759; C. Launton 1727, R. Oxford, St. Peter le Bailey 1728/9–?

² William Lewis m. Ch. Ch. 1730 a.17, D.M. 1745; a noted Oxford physician d. 1772: A.G. Gibson, *The Radcliffe Infirmary*, p. 90.

From the Revd. Dr. Daniel Burton

(iii.160)

Slapton, Bucks., Aug. 26, 1756

My Lord,

By the enclosed Letter, which I send your Lordship, It is plain that what

Mr Bilstone & Stewart have done in granting licenses, was by direction from their Principal, & that Dr Bettesworth is determined to support them in It: I have not answered the Dr's letter, as thinking it can be of no use. The dispute between us must be referred to the Commons, which I shall be ready to do, if your Lordship approves It. But nothing can be done there, 'till next term.

If your Lordship intends to put your scheme of going into Hertfordshire & Cambridge into execution, You must not venture across the countrey to Cuddesden; the Roads are so bad, & the Waters so much about us, that It is very unsafe for Strangers to venture.

My wife is greatly recovered. We desire our compliments to the Ladies, & I am Yr Ldship's

Most Dutiful & Obligated Humble Servt

Dan: Burton.

From the Revd. Martin Stapylton

(iii.161)

Brightwell, Aug. 16, 1756

My Lord.

I red. the favour of Your Lordship's, & am greatly obliged to Your Lordship, for the trouble I have given upon this Occasion.

I did suspect Quartermain, from his equivocating Answers, to the several Questions I asked him, that he had acted deceitfully wth. the Person who had granted him his Licence;¹ & more so, as I had reason to think Mr. Beaver was the Person, from the description he gave me of him; & who I thought wd. be well informed of all the necessary qualifications, before he wd. grant any Licence.

I am wth. great respect Your Lordships most Dutiful & obedient humble Servt.

M. Stapylton

¹ Thomas Quartermain of Brightwell, husbandman a.26, and Mary Wakeland of Garsington a.24, had entered into a bond with Thomas Galton of Oxford, grazier, on Apr. 28, 1756 at Brightwell or Garsington: O.R.O., O.D.P. d.76, f.15.

From the Revd. Lionel Lampet

(iii.162)

Steeple Aston, Aug. 20, 1756

My Lord

I had the honor of your Ldships Letter, & communicated the Contents of it to Mr Blake & Mrs Roberts, who were glad to hear the business of Sandford had proceeded so far, & joyn in acknowledgment of yr Lordships kind interposition –

The yard Land at Barford is approved of with regard to the price, but

some difficultys have been started about the Title – All but one, however, I hope, are got over. Tis the want of a will, made above 40 years ago – as the family is Extinct, it may never be found. perhaps not quite necessary; our Country Attorneys say, needless; a fine having been passd on the yard Land about 6 years ago. I am sorry to see objections made, only to show the ingenuity of making them –

The Land must be sold, & soon: & except the Governors buy it, a person lyes ready to give the price & £20 more rather than miss it, with all the trifling objections about the title: we have a truly pious woman to deal with, or it had been gone before now. to see this tedious affair compleated, no Endeavors shall be wanting in, my Lord, yr Ldships most Dutiful Sert.

L Lampert

From the Revd. William Stockwood

(iii. 163–4)

Henley-on-Thames, Oct. 10, 1756

My Lord

I had the Honour of Your Lordships Letter & am glad to find that Mr Hayman had the Ingenuity to acknowledge to You his having given me Warning to quit my Curacy; This he had the confidence to deny to me in the presence of the Person before whom he gave the Warning & with this additional Circumstance that he would take his Oath to the contrary tho I could have proved it by the Oath of the Person that was present at the time & by his own Confession of it to Gentlemen of great Credit afterwards. I hope he fully informd Your Lordship how he drew my Congregation, for above 4 parts in five of the Society were of my Parish, to a Church in another Diocese, in opposition to me, when I had promis'd & prepar'd myself at the Request of the Steward, to preach to them in my own Church, where the Sermon had always been preach'd for upwards of 20 years last past, & where there was a numerous Audience consisting of my people left behind in my Church & Church-Yard in order to have heard it.

His Letter to me wch You are pleas'd to Mention, was the most insolent that ever any Curate sent to his Principal that employd him & without any just occasion given by me, but the truth is he suspected I had come to the knowledge of an Affair [f. 163v.] which I was then a Stranger to, & which was very little to his Credit for any man to know.

He is continually complaining of the hardness of the Duty, which, tho I am but in a very indifferent State of health, I do perform myself at this time & tho he acknowledges he never studys, which we are sufficiently apprized of without such a declaration, yet he can find leisure enough to pursue the fashionable Amusements of the Age which it would be much better for him to have nothing to do with.

By Your Lordships. Letter I should imagine that he pretends to have endeav'd. immediately after his Warning, as he vulgarly term'd it, to make

up matters with me, its true he came to me at some distance of time after twice or thrice, but this was rather to affront & threaten me than to acknowledge his fault, & this was always attended with pride & passion & aggravated by the gesture of the Body & Tone of the Voice, These things are grievous to men, especially to those who know they are entitled by their kindness to better Treatment. But as to his sending my Parishoners to speak in his favour, it was about a month before any of them came, & the 2 that did come, as they came only at his request, I was not then disposd to hear them on that head; But its very much that neither before nor since that time, no Parishoner of mine shd. have come of his own accord to speak to me in *his* behalf, who wd be thought to be so much the Favourite of [f.164] the People as to endanger the Peace of the Parish; Nevertheless I did think of making up matters with him if it could have been done with Your Lordships Concurrence & I might have the liberty of some power over him but while I was deliberating of this thing the Mans Passions got the better of him & fully convincd me that its morally impossible for me to live here with him in any Peace or Quiet & without being despisd by my own Parishrs. for overlooking so much ill Treatment & abuse for he has done all in his power to misrepresent me & came once to me on purpose only to tell me with great insolence *that this affair made a great noise all over the Country* I ask pardon for this long & tedious Narration & am with the greatest respect

My Lord Your Lordships most Dutiful Son and most Obedt humble Servt

Wm Stockwood

[Endorsed 'Henley Mr Stockwood about Mr Hayman Oct 10. 1756']

From the Revd. Henry Hayman

(iii.165-6)

[f.166] Henley-on-Thames, Dec. 14, 1756

My Lord,

In about ten Days after I had waited upon your Lordship at Cuddesdon, I call'd upon Mr. Stockwood in Hopes that your Lordship's Letter might have inclin'd him to continue me in the Cure. But I was told, that he did not do Things in a Hurry, as I had done, but should take Time to consider of it. I have often call'd upon him since, to no purpose; For if he has been at Home, I could never get admittance to him; & was lately inform'd by his Maid, that her Master did not know, that I cd. want any Thing wth. him. In the mean While, some of the Duty is done by Mr. Stockwood himself, & some by his Neighbours; – whilst I am excluded from doing any Part of it, & I suppose, must be depriv'd of my Salary also. Surely such Treatment from a Person whom I have serv'd faithfully for these eight Years & three Quarters, is beyond Example; – I do not know how to account for it, [f.165v.] except from Mr. Stockwood's own Words; – He says, I have been

at Henley too long. Tis true, I have been at Henley long enough to me [sic] more respected than he is, & therefore, he may think, 'tis Time for me to be gone. But if this be Mr. Stockwood's Opinion, I dare say it is not yr. Lordship's, & therefore, I have great Hopes, if I cannot be continued in the Cure, that your Lordship will be pleas'd to appoint me to preach the Afternoon Sermon. To be depriv'd of both, for giving hasty Notice, that I shd. quit the first, is extremely hard. As the Lecturer is paid by the Inhabitants, it seems reasonable that *they* shd. choose him; & many of them have already declared, that they will pay no Body but me. The Persom [sic] whom Mr. Stockwood has appointed is Curate of Bix;¹ – But I shd. think, it must be very inconvenient for him, as he is oblig'd to leave his own Church without Prayers in the Afternoon, to be at Henley in Time. I am, my Lord

your Lordship's most dutiful, & obedient Servant,

Henry Hayman
Curate of Henley

[To London and endorsed 'Henley Mr Hayman Dec 14. 1756']

¹ ? John Reade, C. Henley 1757, C. Nettlebed 1763, C. Pishill 1765, R. Little Rollright 1771–89.

To the Revd. Henry Hayman

(iii.167)

St. Paul's Deanery, Dec. 23, 1756

Sir

Wt I was able to say to Mr Stockwood in your Favour did not prevail on him to take you for his Curate again, after you had given him Warning. And indeed I find you both, wch I am sorry for, in such a Disposition towds each other, that I do not think your continuing together will be any Comfort to either, or any Benefit to the Parish. If you are licensed as Lecturer, & did not give Notice that you wd quit the Lectureship, you are intitled to keep it. But if you are not licensed, as the Chancellor tells me he believes you are not, it wd be unjustifiable to license you now, as the Rector will certainly refuse his Consent, He is not bound to provide a Lecturer; nor are the Inhabitants bound to pay one, unless they voluntarily bind themselves to it. I recommend to you wt you will find at last the most prudent Method, to consult the Peace of the Parish & your own Quiet, instead of being led by Resentmt: & am your loving brother & Sert.

TO

[Endorsed 'To the Revd Mr Hayman at Henley']

From the Revd. John Prinsep

(iii.168-9)

Bicester, Dec. 24, 1756

My Lord,

As soon as I had the honour of Your Lordship's Commands, I sent for Mr Jackson, Sir E: Turner's Steward; & from him, who is a very good Judge in such matters, have procured, in the most private manner, an Account, which I hope will be not unsatisfactory.¹

His Account, is – "That what Mr. Nourse has at Blackthorne & Ambrosden is let for £180. per Ann:² according to the calculation of the Neighbours; which he thinks a true one: – that the Rent was raised, some Years ago, by the present Mr Nourse, to the abovementioned Sum, by the method of making the Tenants pay the Land-Tax; [*f.168v.*] which is charged, in the Assessment, to their Names. Mr Jackson thinks the Bargain well worth £200 per Ann: & saies, That there is a considerable Quantity of Timber upon it; which, according to the Rules of good Husbandry, calls for the Ax."

If Your Lordship wants farther Satisfaction in any particulars, I will endeavour to procure the best Information I shall be able: & am, with the highest Respect,

My Lord, your Lordships most obliged, & most faithfull, humble Servant

J: Prinsep.

P.S. Since writing the above, I receive Your Lordship's very usefull [*f.169*] Instructions about our Inclosure:³ upon which I will consert matters with Sir E: who, as I have all the reason in the world to believe, has at heart the Interest of his Vicar & the Vicarage. How shall I thank Your Lordship for condescending to take so much trouble?

[Endorsed 'Ambrosden Mr Prinsep Dec 24. 1756']

¹ Presumably Gilbert Jackson sr.

² John Nourse of Wood Eaton, co-lessee of the manor of Islip, sheriff of Oxfordshire 1741, d.1774: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, v, pp. 24, 312; *ibid.*, vi, p. 210.

³ The Enclosure Act for Bicester Market End Field and Commons was passed in 1757, the Act for King's End in 1793. 'In 1758 . . . the vicar received over 39 acres for small and vicarial tithes': *ibid.*, vi, pp. 28-9, 41.

From the Revd. Benjamin Holloway

(iii.170-1)

Middleton Stoney, Jan. 15, 1757

My Lord,

I have talkd to Widow Eliz: Williams of this parish, who had the bastard Child of wch I inform'd yr Lordship and I find she does not thank those that ought to have presented her, for declining it, she being even desirous to satisfy the Church by doing the legal Penance; that she may, without more

Loss of Time, be thought worthy, by me, to be admitted to the Holy Communion. &c. But she is a Pauper, receiving weekly Collection from the Parish, so that she cannot be at any Expence on the Account: and the Officers of the Court will be ready to expect something. I know yr Lordship is ever ready to do beneficent Offices: and this is a Kindness, not to the Body, but to the Soul of the Party. So, I hope yr Lordship will extend your Charity, so far as to order the Expediting of this *Pe[ff. 170v.]*nance free from Charges.¹ For which, indeed, I wd rather be at some Expence myself, than have such an apparent Scandal be neglected & over-look'd.

I am, My Lord, with all Regard, Yr Lordship's Most Obedient, Humble Servant.

B Holloway.

[Endorsed 'Middleton Mr Holloway Jan 15. 1757']

¹ The case may be unrelated, but Secker 'Pd Fees for a womans doing penance' (9s. 6d.) on Sep. 25, 1757: Account Bk., f. 181.

From the Revd. J. Laserre¹

(iii.172)

Deddington, Jan. 24, 1757

My Lord,

What I presume to trouble Your Lordship about at present, is, That as it has pleased GOD to give me better Health since I have been in this Countrey, & I am most unwilling to be idle, I would humbly signify to Your Lordship, That as Little Barford near Deddington, has Duty only every Fortnight, if Your Lordship approves of it, I would offer my service Gratis to fill up the Vacant LORD's Day – If this should be pleasing to Your Lordship; I would humbly beg to be instructed how to proceed.

I am, My Lord, Your Lordship's most Dutiful Son, & obedient Servt.

J: Laserre.

¹ James Laserre is unidentified in *Foster* or *Venn*, but in his will is described as of Eastington, Gloucs., and was buried, contrary to his wishes, at Deddington on Nov. 6, 1759: O.R.O., O.A.P. wills 140/2/11; MS. D.D. Par. Deddington d.1.

From the Revd. J. Laserre

(iii.173)

Deddington, Jan. 29, 1757

My Lord.

It is my Duty by the very first opportunity, to intreat Your Lordship's pardon, for the Errors I have committed, & the Mistake I have laid under as to Barford – This morning am I undeceived, & now find, That it was not little Barford, but Great Barford, that I was first mistaken in, & next, That there is now Duty done in both every LORD's Day – This I should have

informed my self more truly of before, & acknowledge my fault in not being better instructed before I troubled Your Lordship – I hope it will be attributed to (the real reason) the earnest Desire I had of being employed.

I am, My Lord, Your Lordships most Dutiful & most Obedient Son & Servant.

J: Laserre.

From the Revd. Thomas Forster

(iii.174–5)

Cuddesdon, Feb. 1, 1757

My Lord

The repair of the Chancel is not a covenant in the three Leases of Ambrosden wch I have examined. The words of one are “repair maintain and keep the sd premises in sufficient reparations” 8 James Ist. There are only abstracts in the Register of the 12. 17. and 19 of Chs. the 2d But with a note after each abstract “the same Covenants” or “Covenants as usual”. In the 21 of Charles the 2d. the words are “repair maintain sustain and keep all and singular the Houses Edifices and Buildings in and upon the before demised premises in by and with all and all manner of necessary reparations”. The same words in the Lease of 1685. [f.174v.] There is no exception of timber trees in any of them. I cannot find the next register. I remember I sought for it very carefully several years ago and could not then find it: nor have I seen it since.

I will pay the Rector of Exeter 15. 16. 0 according to Your Lordship’s order.¹

I certainly meant and thought I had writ Mrs Twycross.²

Neither Betty nor I have seen any spectacles though we both have looked for them.

It was a matter of too much consequence for Mrs Smythe to determin immediately whether she would be a Sharer in the Smith Privateer or not. And therefore she gave me no answer.³

I heartily wish the Bishops success in their appli[f.175]cation;⁴ and am, My Lord,

Your most dutifull and obliged humble Sert

Tho. Forster

[To London and endorsed ‘Ambrosden Mr Forster Feb. 1 1757’]

¹ Francis Webber.

² Wife of Robert Twycross. Secker gave her £3 12s. on Nov. 15, 1756, and 5 gns. on Sep. 26, 1757, adding to the 15 gns. he had given to her husband earlier: Account Bk., ff. 167, 181, 16, 134, 175.

³ Barbara Smythe, unmarried dau. Sebastian Smythe III of Cuddesdon, d.1787 a.76: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, v, p. 102.

⁴ This sentence may relate to the Militia Bill which reached the Lords later in the 1757 session; the days of debate were marked by high episcopal attendance: *ex inf.* Messrs. Stephen Taylor and John Walsh.

From the Revd. John Prinsep

(iii.176-7)

Bicester, Feb. 10, 1757

My Lord,

By the best Inquiry, which I could make, without being suspected of having any particular Motive; I am informed, That Mr Nourse, not the Tenant, does pay the Land-tax for Blackthorn & Ambrosden: & that the Tenant, not Mr Nourse, pays the Land-tax for lower-Arncof, over & above his Rent of £70: by the year: And that, at 2:s. in the pound, the Tax of the first is £6.6.6. of the second £2.5.0. My Inquirer tells me, that He found a great Shyness in the People to give him any Information, though they were his particular Acquaintance: & could have no Reason for Diffidence.

As your Lordship had no Person to recommend for Mr Greenhill's Church & mine,¹ I am glad Mr Walter is not unacceptable.² He has a very good character. He resides at Hethe, as rather the most populous; & does the double Duty of both Churches; which is not difficult in two so little; & by the foot way, but half a Mile asunder. Mr Green[*f. 176v.*]hill proposes to allow £30. by the year; & I, 25. Mr Walter will apply to your Lordship for a License, immediately upon your Return into the Country; or in Town, if required.

There is a strong Report here, that Mr Greville has given orders for an Application to Chancery.³ The Pretence is, that He ought not in his Absence to lose his Right, *because his Presentee was intimidated from persuing it.* To support which Pretence, such as it is, they have dressed up a Story, with very particular Circumstances.

I have the honour to be, with the highest Regard, My Lord, your Lordship's most faithfull, & most obliged humble Servt.

J: Prinsep.

Last Night we lost poor Dr. Metcalfe.⁴

[To St. Paul's Deanery and endorsed 'Ambrosden Mr Prinsep Feb.10 1757']

¹ John Russell Greenhill of the East Indies, m. Trinity Coll. 1746 a.16, D.C.L. 1759; R. Fringford 1756-1815.

² Richard Walter of London, m. St. John's Coll. 1751 a.17, B.A. 1755.

³ The bishop presented to Fringford in 1756, whereas the three previous presentations had been by Lord Brooke 1697, Dodington Greville 1726 and Fulk Greville in 1753: *Bacon*, p. 791; *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vi, p. 128.

⁴ Theophilus Metcalfe of London, m. Hart Hall 1706 a.16, M.A. 1713, D. Med. 1724.

From the Revd. John Prinsep

(iii.178)

Bicester, Feb. 12, 1757

My Lord,

I ask Your Lordship's pardon for the last Misinformation. Having some Doubt whether the Persons concerned might not disguise the Truth; I have

since got at the Collector of the Land-tax, one Farmer Beck, & see by his Assessment, that the Tenant for Blackthorn & Ambrosden is charged, at 2s. in the pound –

–	–	–	12:	13:	0
Lower-Arncot	–	–	4:	5:	0

I hope this will come time enough to prevent any ill Consequence of the former Mistake; & am, with the highest Regard,

My Lord, Yr. Lordship's most obliged, & most obedient humble Servt.

J: Prinsep.

From the Revd. John Mather

(iii.179–80)

Lewknor, Feb. 21, 1757

My Lord,

I return your Lordship thanks for a sight of the papers concerning Watlington; I have shewed them to Mr Horne who desires to make his acknowledgments to your Lordship for the favour.¹ They are now returned by Mr Birkhead, the Gentleman now recommended by Mr Horne to your Lordship's approbation.² I found some difficulties in reading the copy of the endowment and presume it is not a very exact one; that part of the Vicar's income which now goes under the name of the Composition, consist's of fixed portions of several sorts of grains and straw, payable by the Impropriator out of the great Tithes; but the Vicar at present can shew no other title to this than the customary payment nor any writing to discover at what time of the year it is due. I have recommended Mr Birkhead for his further satisfaction [*f.180*] to Mr Tilson, whose Title deeds of the Impropriation will probably give him information in these particulars and determine what part will be due to him and what is due to his Predecessour's Executors.³

I am, My Lord, with all duty and respect, Your Lordship's most obedient Servant;

John Mather..

[Endorsed 'Watlington Mr Mather Feb 21 1757']

¹ Edward Horne of Watlington, member of a mercer's family, lessee of the advowson of Watlington and holder of various manors: *Vis. Retns.*, p. 163; *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, pp. 46, 152, 220, 233, 236; *Bacon*, p. 790.

² Richard Birkhead of Lancs., m. Queen's 1740/1 a. 18, M.A. 1752; V. Watlington 1757–84.

³ '[John] H[enry] Tilson . . . bought both rectory and advowson, perhaps in 1753 when he purchased Watlington Park from the Stonors.'; *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, p. 236. Tilson presented in 1784: *Bacon*, p. 790.

From the Revd. John Prinsep

(iii.181)

Bicester, Feb. 24, 1757

My Lord,

As to the Timber on Mr Nourse's Bargain, my Informer, who is certainly a Judge & can have no Interest in the matter, confirms his first Account; & adds, that Himself would give willingly £50. for what there is proper to be felled.

I am, with the highest Regard, My Lord, Your Lordship's most obliged, & most faithfull humble Servt.

J: Prinsep.

[Added in Secker's hand, 'Mr Nourse assures me this [that] these Timber Trees are all Pollards which he hath a Right to lop: and I believe him.']

From the Revd. William Toovey¹

(iii.182-3)

Park Corner, Nettlebed, Apr. 8, 1757

My Lord,

As Mr. Birkhead my late Father's Successor in the Vicarage of Watlington has declar'd He has been favour'd with your Lordship's Promise to assist Him in getting from my Mother what She as Executrix to my Father apprehends Herself solely intitled to, I must beg your Lordship's Patience to give Me Leave in Behalf of my Mother to lay before You a true Representation of the Case. — The Vicar of Watlington for the time being, has time out of mind receiv'd a portion of the Great Tythes, which has been always deem'd the Vicar's as soon as sever'd from the Ground & we can prove that an Executor of a former Vicar who died soon after Harvest as my Father did was paid the Whole & the Executor of another, who died in Harvest receiv'd a proportion of what Corn was sever'd before He died. The Lessees of the great Tythes of Watlington at first refusd to pay my Mother but were at last convinc'd 'twas her undoubted Right & accordingly paid her a part of it; but now, My Lord, One of the Lessees Mr. Johnson of Watlington inform'd Her, Mr. Birkhead had caution'd Him against paying my Mother & more effectually to deterr Him, made Use of Your Lordship's Name, & declar'd your Lordship had promis'd Him your Assistance to get it from my Mother.² By this Artifice of Mr. Birkhead's, my Mother after Trouble & Expence in consulting Gentlemen of the Common Law & preparing to commence a Suit against the Lessees will be frustrated & greatly disappointed if Your Lordship should be determin'd to take the Matter into your Lordship's Hand & assist Him against Her; for She has been inform'd as 'twas the Vicar's due by Prescription, 'twas properly cognizable at Common Law; tho' if your Lordship is determin'd to adjudge it Yourself [f.182v.] She is confident your Lordship's Justice will not prejudice her Right. In the mean time, She cannot dissemble the great

Concern She is under, that your Lordship's Promise should be made Use of by Mr. Birkhead in barr of what She is assur'd is her Right, & if Your Lordship requires it, She will lay before You the Evidence She has to prove 'tis her Right & submit to your Lordship's Decision not only this, but the following Case of the like Nature. My Father before his Death had cutt down some Wood in Shaw belonging to the Vicar of Watlington, after his Death Mr. Horn Patron & Sequestrator of Watlington, carried away, as we are inform'd, Some of it for the succeeding Vicar's Use; out of the little that was cutt, She lost a great part in an illegal Manner, & She is desirous to submit to Your Lordship's Determination the Legality & Honour of Mr. Horn's & his Presentee's Proceedings. I must beg your Lordship's Pardon for troubling You with this Relation, but could not forbear it, as it so nearly concerns my Mother & as the Countenance your Lordship's Promise has given Mr. Birkhead's pretensions will probably be made Use of to revive and exaggerate against my Mother the Malice & Persecution of those Enemies that Party & Faction had undeservedly rais'd against my late Father.

I am, My Lord, Your Lordship's most dutiful Servant

Wm. Toovey

[To London and endorsed 'Watlington Mr William Toovey Apr 8.1757']

¹ Son of Thomas Toovey of Watlington, m. B.N.C. 1747 a.18, New Coll. B.C.L. 1758; ?V. Shiplake 1776-99. It is not clear whether this is the same W.T. who was an inhabitant and freeholder of Henley in 1754: O.R.O., county poll book.

² Thomas Johnson, member of a family of substantial Watlington tenant farmers and brewers: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, viii, p. 229.

From the Revd. Richard Birkhead

(iii.184-5)

Pyrton, Apr. 9, 1757

My Lord,

Very soon after I came to Watlington I went to Mr. Thos. Johnson to inquire of him at what Time or Times of the Year the Composition Money had been usually paid, and whether any Part of it was paid already - he told me that he had paid Twenty pounds of it to Mr. Wm. Toovey since his Father's Death, and had received a Demand for the Remainder; that he was in some Doubt about paying the said Twenty pounds, and desired to know of me what he shd. do as to the Rest - As I was a Stranger to the Place, and to the Customs of it, I told him, I cd. not be certain to whom all that Money must of Right belong, but that he might think himself safe, as to the Remainder, while it was in his own Hands; and further I said that I shd. be very glad to referr Matters of Dispute, if any such shd. arise, to be decided by Yr. Lordship, having been pleased to offer me Assistance - This is a true Account of what passed between Mr. Thos. Johnson and I; and I am under a

Necessity of troubling Yr. Lordship with it, because by a Letter from Mr. Wm. Toovey I find he has sent one that is not so – I beg Yr. Lordship's Pardon and Blessing, and am, my Lord, Yr. Lordship's most dutiful and most obliged Servant

Rich: Birkhead

[To London and endorsed 'Watlington Mr Birkhead Apr 9. 1757']

From the Revd. John Prinsep

(iii.186–7a)

Bicester, Aug. 30, 1757

My Lord,

It might indeed have been sometimes an Ease to my increasing Lameness, that Mr Smith should have lived at Burcester. But I had no thought of consulting my own Convenience, at the Expence of two other Parishes. It was expressly stipulated, that whosoever should serve the two Curacies, of Hethe & Fringford, should reside at one of them.¹ The Reason Mr Smith gave, for his deferring his Removal hitherto, was, that He desired first to be upon a sure Footing, by receiving your Lordship's Approbation. But, before I received your Lordship's Letter; He promised [*f.186v.*] me to remove to Hethe, in a Week or ten days. I am glad, upon his own Account, that it was before.

I was very desirous of Letting the Parsonage House to Mr Ellis; & kept it open some Months, till He could find out his own Mind; nor would I treat with any other Person, till He had given me a Refusal. I could not afford to leave untenanted a House, which by that means would run more out of Repair; & had already made great Defalcations from so small a Living; received at the worst time of the whole Year; & without any thing allowed for Dilapidations.

I have the honour to be, with the highest Respect, My Lord, Your Lordship's most obliged, & most obedient humble Servt.

J. Prinsep.

[Endorsed 'Hethe Mr Prinsep 30 Aug 1757']

¹ Henry Smyth had been C. Fringford in 1728, but had been succeeded by others before 1757.

(iii.187 b–e)

Estimates for repairs to Eynsham church: at *f.187b*, Thomas Chamberlain for carpentry, June 28, 1757 (£21 3s. 0d.); at *f.187c*, Joseph Bowerman for plastering, June 29, 1757 (£5 6s. 0d.); at *f.187d*, John Lord for masonry, Aug. 24, 1757 (£10 10s. 9½d.), and at *f.187e*, 'Mr Roughts Estameate'¹

An Estement for Painting & ornamenting the Chancell belonging to Ensham Church

	per me Wm. Rought		
	£	s	d
172 Dozn. Letters in the Commandments			
Lords Prayer & Creed . . . at 3d. per Dozn.	2	3	6
The Frames & ornamentall work to D[itt]o	0	10	6
The altar Rail Seats Screen windw	1	1	0
5 Sentences & Cleang. the arms & monumt.			
& Blacking Round D[itt]o	1	10	0
	<hr/>		
	£5	5	0
	<hr/>		

¹ These items may reflect the role of Archdeacon Potter in inspecting and advising on the maintenance of church fabric, proposed by Secker in his 5th visitation charge: *Porteus*, v, p. 412.

From Edward Ryves

(iii.188-9)
Oct. 8, 1757

My Lord

I could not answer the favour of Your Lordships letter about the Chancel at Eynsham 'till I had seen Mr. Dod, who receives the Rents of the Duke of Marlboroughs Estate for the Duke of Bedford,¹ I have since spoke to him on this subject, he tells me he can direct nothing without an Order from one Mr. Benwell² or rather from Mr. Butcher, who is the great man, the director General,³ Mr Dod thinks that if Your Lordship will give Yourselfe the trouble to write to him it will be done, the Duke of Marlborough leaves all to him,⁴ and Nothing is done without him, I have Nothing to do [f.188v.] where the D: of Bedford is concerned.⁵ I beleive the D: of M's Money runs very short, or it would be done in a handsome manner as he told me it should some Years ago, I am My Lord

Yr. Lordships most Obedient humble Servt.

Edwd. Ryves

Mr Butcher lives in Great Russell Street

[To Cuddesdon and endorsed 'Eynsham Chancel Mr Ryves Oct. 8. 1757']

¹ John Churchill, duke of Marlborough, had bought the rectory estate at Eynsham in 1715: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, xii, p. 125.

² Samuel Benwell of Woodstock, steward to the Duke of Marlborough, d.1777, a.58: *Jackson's Oxford Journal*.

³ Robert Butcher, 'many years steward to the late Duke of Bedford,' d.1788 'advanced in years': *Gentleman's Magazine*, lviii pt.2, (1788), p. 662.

⁴ Charles Spencer, 3rd duke of Marlborough.

⁵ John Russell, 1710-71, 7th duke of Bedford, 1732: *Compl. Peerage*, ii, pp. 82-4.

From the Revd. Lionel Lampet

(iii.190a)

Steeple Aston, Nov. 3, 1757

My Lord

When I write to your Ldship, you may conclude I have something to ask, but the reasonableness of my proposal being made known, it will, I presume, meet with approbation & a helping hand – At my first coming to Barford, I found the V: house a heap of ruins. I cant say 'tis betterd since, nor cd it be much worse. To repair it, is a thing impossible, to rebuild it, wou'd scarce be expected from a stipend of £12 a year: doubled indeed now, but then in consideration I have doubled the duty since the augmentation. The little plot of ground the house stands, or rather is falling upon, seems to have been taken out of Mr Pollards Orchard. The situation is low, fifty [sic], & at a distance from the church – Now Mr Pollard has a Little Dairy-house contiguous to the church-yard in a clean, agreeable place. Sometime since he intimated to me, that when the Tenants lease was expired, he sd throw 2 little bargains into one; &, as that house wd then be useless, he sd probably pull it down – This being the case, I thought [sic] my house wd serve to pull down as well as his, & the garden-plot rendering his Orchard irregular, he might perhaps listen to an Exchange for his house & an equal quantity of ground.

About a month since I wait'd on Mr Pollard at Finmore & mentiond my Scheme, which he came into with more readiness than I cd Expect – Before any thing further can be done, your Lships concurrence must be had; & directions also in wt manner to proceed, but of this last, there will be no immediate want.

I take this opportunity of acquainting yr Ldship that, upon Mr Harringtons leaving it, Mr Hawkins has, without any applicatn, from me directly or indirectly, offerd me the curacy of Dunstew.¹ I suppose he will write to yr. Ldshp about it. Least he sd not, his reasons to me were, that his church there had of late years given him (I migt [sic] add myself, or it had went unsupplyd) an inexpressible deal of trouble: but now he was free from all engagemts. he was determined to fix on a person he cd confide in, which he cd have no hopes of in a Young Gent. that had the least connections with Oxford –

[f.190av.] So convenient an offer (the parishes being adjacent) was doubtless agreeable to me – & as I shall be able to serve both that & Barford at the usual hours; I mean, Dunstew at Eleven or a quarter sooner in the morning & 3 in the afternoon. & Barford betwixt one & 2, as was the Custom before I had it, I dont in the least doubt your Lordships approbation herein, but I thought it my duty to acquaint you with it, & hope to approve myself on all occasions your Lordships

most Dutiful & obliged Servant

Lionel Lampet

¹ Recte Robert Harrison.

(iii.190b-c)

From the Revd. Dr. Thomas Bray at Exeter College, Nov. 14, 1757, on the arrangements for the purchase of the estate of Mrs. Perkins at Charlton-on-Otmoor for the augmentation of Wheatley¹ (*Hassall*, pp. 80-1)

¹ The estate had formerly been the property of Hugh Thurston and had descended to William Thurston of Hackney and in turn to his daughter Elizabeth, widow of William Perkins of the City of London. It was mortgaged in £500 to James Mabbs of Smithfield, London: Archives of the Church Commissioners, Wheatley file and deed no.509467.

From the Revd. Samuel Long¹

(iii.191a)

Benson, Nov. 24, 1757

My Lord

Immediately after the inclosed Commission was executed, I waited on yr. Lordship with it at Cudsdén; but yr. Lordship being in London; I thought it necessary to send it by the Post. I could by no means get the Gentlemen to meet sooner for the execution of it, the Days which suited one did not another.

The Dean & Canons of Ch: Ch: thought proper to add Mr. Wise their Tenant at Bensington & Mr. Church of Pirton to those mention'd as proper Persons by yr. Lordship.² I hope every thing in the filling up the Commission will prove satisfactory to yourself & the other Governors. I will do myself the Honour of paying my dutifull respects to yr. Lordship when next at Cudsdén, to give thanks for the trouble given in this affair.

I am My Lord Yr. Lordships most dutifull and obliged humble Servt:

Samuel Long
Curate of Benson

[Endorsed 'Benson Mr Long Nov 24.1757']

¹ Of Berks., m. Ch. Ch. 1745 a.18, M.A. 1751; 'minr & vicar' Benson 1760.

² Ch. Ch. held the patronage of the living: *Bacon*, p. 808.

From the Revd. Dr. Thomas Bray

(iii.191b)

Exeter College, Nov. 28, 1757

My Lord

Last Night I received the inclosed Letter from Mr Montague; of which I have taken a Copy for my Instruction. When Mrs Perkins finds she cannot get a better Offer, I am persuaded she will comply; till which Time there is nothing to be done. Should a Treaty come on again, I will be prepared with a List of Names for a Commission, and will get an Abstract, and examine whether any Expences are necessary by way of Fine and Recovery, and whether such Expences, if necessary, cannot be paid out of the Timber.

Being apprehensive that such Expence might arise, in my Representation to Mr Montague, I set the Repairs at the large Estimate of £40. By keeping a Copy of Mr Montagues Letter, I shall have an Opportunity [f.191bv.] of consulting Mr Wright, and preparing Things properly should the Estate be still to be had.¹ But unless the Purchase can be brought within the proposed Sum of £860, and the Estate previous to the Conveyance be made to discharge the Repairs, and other Expences if necessary; I am persuaded it will be best to let it go; and wait another Opportunity. And by this Rule I shall regulate my Conduct, unless I am instructed otherwise by Your Lordship I am

Your Lordship's most obliged and obedient Servant

Thomas Bray

[Endorsed 'Mr Bray Nov. 28. 1757']

¹ John Wright of Oxford city, barrister and steward of St. John's, Trinity and Merton Colleges, d. 1766 a.77: *Jackson's Oxford Journal*.

From Henry Montague to the Revd. Dr. Thomas Bray (iii.191c)
Lincoln's Inn, Nov. 26, 1757

Revd. Sr.

On Receipt of Yours on the 23d. Instant, I have sent, to the Lord Bishop of Oxford, the usual Commission, to View and Enquire into the Freehold Estate, which you propose to have Purchased, for the perpetual Augmentation of your Curacy of Wheatley; This is the first Step necessary, in order to the making any Purchase; and as soon as the Lord Bishop of Oxford shall be Furnished, with the Names of proper Commissioners, You may, therefore, Expect to Receive such Commission, from his Lordship.

The Timber, which is proposed to be Cut, and likewise the Malthouse, which is intended to be taken down, must be both done, before the Purchase is Compleated, and the Estate, thereupon, Conveyed to you, as Curate of Wheatley, and Your Successors in that Curacy; Because, I apprehend, after the Premises are so Vested in You, no Buildings whatever can be, either taken down, or Suffered to Go to Decay; nor can any Timber be Cut, but only just so much as shall be actually Used and Employed in Repairs; nor can any part of such Timber, be Sold or Disposed of, thô to Raise Money, to Buy Bricks, Lime, Stone, or any other Materials, or even to pay for the Workmanship.

In all Cases, between Sellers and Buyers, the Seller is constantly at the Expences of Fines, Recoverys, and all such other Acts, as are necessary to make the Sellers Title perfect and Compleat; and, without which, such Seller could have no Right, or Power, to sell and Dispose of the Estate; And, for this Reason, The Governors have always refused, to bear any part of such Expences.

As for the Title, a compleat, and proper Abstract thereof, must be prepared, by the Vendor, or her Agent; And, after the Governors shall have Approved of the Estate, it self, (which is usually the first thing to be done). Then, such Abstract, together with the Title Deeds, and Writings, must be laid before the Governors Council, for his Perusal and Approbation; who, if he Approves of the Title, will prepare proper Conveyances; And this will be done, at the Governors Expence; But as I am, only, Secretary to the Governors, I have nothing to Do with the Title, or Conveyances: Who am.

Revd. Sr. Your very Humble Servt.

Henry Montague.

Secretary to the Govrs. of Queen Anne's Bounty

P.S. Since I wrote the above, Mrs Perkins called upon me, and as she does not seem Inclenable, to accept of your Offer of £860. I shall, therefore, Deferr sending the Commission, till I hear further from You.

From the Revd. Dr. Thomas Bray

(iii.191d-e)

Exeter College, Dec.1, 1757

My Lord

Yesterday Dr Walker resigned the Headship of St John's, and there is no doubt but Dr Fry will succeed without Opposition.¹ Last Night I received a Letter from Mr Bishop of Islip, with an inclosed Letter from Mrs Perkins to him.² She desires for frivolous Reasons, I would consent to her cutting down 25. or 30 Pounds worth of Timber, previous to the Conveyance. Mr Bishop, who, upon the whole, has been very friendly, would have me offer Ten Pounds more, which he thinks would do. I have been with him at Islip this Day; and given him for my Answer to Mrs Perkins, that I could not in Justice advance beyond the Proposal made. But at the same Time I gave him a List of the Repairs which the Surveyor I employed gave in as proper to be made. And desired him to examine carefully, and give me an Estimate that I might send to Your Lordship, after taking the best Advice I could about it; and bid him *conf. 191dv.* sider well whether, by taking down the Malthouse, which will afford a Plenty of Materials, and cutting down the Timber, leaving £20 worth of the youngest standing, the whole Repairs according to my Plan can be compleated, consistently with allowing Mrs Perkins £10 out of the Timber so cut down. In the mean Time, he will write to Mrs Perkins, as out of his own Head, that he believes he can make a Proposal to me of getting her Ten Pounds more, provided she is at the Expence to clear the Title; And the Title is approved; and she consents to have the Timber cut, and the Malthouse taken down, and the Repairs finished before the Conveyance. Mr Bishop is an exceeding honest sensible Man. I have now left it upon him to bring me the Proposal, which he thinks will take Effect and conclude the Bargain: I have inclosed Mr Bishop's

Letter to me which occasioned this Step, and which differs less in Reality than in Appearance from what was proposed before; because then the Expende in clearing the Title was thrown upon the Purchaser. Before I do any thing positive, I will give Your Lordship due Information, and set Things in a fuller Light, that [sic] I can do at present. By the time the Proposal [f.191e] can come from Mrs Perkins I will get ready a List of Commissioners. I am

Your Lordship's most obliged and obedient Servant

Thomas Bray

[Endorsed 'Mr Bray Dec.1, 1757']

¹ Thomas Fry of Bristol, m. St. John's Coll. 1732 a.14, M.A. 1740, D.D. 1750, President 1757-72.

² John Bishop d. 1784: O.R.O., MS. D.D. Par. Islip b.2. He was agent to both Bray and Mrs. Perkins, '... not an attorney, but a schoolmaster, an exceeding honest man, but less expert as an instrument than I was made to believe ...': Archives of the Church Commissioners, Wheatley file, letter of Thomas Bray, Dec.19, 1757.

From John Bishop to the Revd. Dr. Thomas Bray

(iii.191f-g)

Islip, Nov.30, 1757

Revd Sr.

Incos'd is Mrs. Perkins Letter to me in Answer to your Proposals about the Charlton Estate (I sent to Mr. Mabbs to convey to her) wherein she is desirous to Cut down 25 or 30 pounds worth of Timber to Reemburse the Expences of Repairs she has been at upon the Estate. I press'd Mr. Mabbs in my Letter to him to perswade her she would not get a better price than yours, but I suppose Mr Clark may have solicited for Mr. Kirby who I know has a mind to it and told me the other day at Islip he was gone to London and would call upon Mrs Perkins about it. As Mrs Perkins in the P.S. to her Letter is willing to be guided by my advice I will beg the favor to make one proposal of your giving £870 [f.191fv.] and let the Timber all stand.

Please to give an Answer to this by the Bearer or at your leasure And you will highly Oblige Your Obedient Humble Sert.

J. Bishop

From the Revd. Samuel Long

(iii.192)

Benson, Dec. 8, 1757

My Lord

I yesterday received a Letter from Mr. Mountague (Secretary to the Governors of Queens Anne's Bounty) to let me know, that the 5th. of Decr. Inst: there was a very full meeting of the Governors & that yr.

Lordship was present. I was very much Surpriz'd to find my Curacy of Bensington was not Augmented, as the Governors usually augment but once a year.

I waited on your Lordship at Cudsdon with the Commission as soon as executed, but your Lordship being in London: I took the Liberty to send it by the Post, knowing it would be with yr. Lordship before the meeting of the Governors. I took the Liberty of writing to yr. Lordship at Benson, & put the enclosed Commission into the Post office with my own hands at Oxon; & made them weigh it before me, least it should prove to [sic] heavy for Car: by the Post. I should be glad to know by any Means you shall think proper if yr. Lordship received it; & if it is not properly exe[*f. 192v.*]cuted; for my Curacy not being augmented the 5th. Inst. must wait 'till Aprill or May next, as Mr. Mountague Informs me; I beg pardon for giving so much trouble, but will take an Opportunity of waiting on & thanking yr. Lordship at Cudsdon

I am My Lord Your Lordships most Dutifull & obliged humble Servt.

Samuel Long
Curate of Benson

From the Revd. Samuel Long

(iii.193-4)

[*f. 194*] Benson, Dec. 17, 1757

My Lord

I received the favour of Yours, & think [?I – MS. torn] might meet yr. Lordship at Ch: Ch: if there was a[n? – MS. torn] Ordination tomorrow (for I remember I was myself Ordain'd by yr. Lordship at this time of the Year) I thought to come & satisfy you what I received from our Treasury, as both my Tenants have been already Examin'd on their Oaths: & if I were examin'd on my own Oath, which I am ready to be, I know of no more Certain dues; for Even the Easter dues are Collected & let to my Tenant & are a part of the £20 : 10s: let to one of the Tenants: But if my House & Gardens are to be Valued it will bring it to fifty Pounds per Ann:.

I have some other Surplice Fees arising Chieffly from Burials of Extraparochial People whose Families bury at Benson; But can by no means be call'd Certain.

But The Reason why Bensington was & is always esteem'd & valued at £50 per Ann: is because ([? I am – MS. torn] enjoyn'd Residence at Benson) we Let our C[MS. torn] for as much as we can get. [*f. 194v.*] [MS. torn – ? The De]an & Canons of Ch: Ch: have already Augmented [MS. torn] in this Peculiar Jurisdiction, Mr. Smallwell [? told – MS. torn] me to day that Cowley has been twice augmented the last time the 5th Inst:¹ I hope Yr. Lordship will find some method of Enquiry Satisfactory to yself, for I know not how otherwise to give Satisfaction than by the Commission before Executed Unless, Yr. Lordship will please to enquire of my

predecessors Mr. Evans now Canon of Hereford² & Mr. Tookey who is at Ch: Ch: & enjoy'd it 5 years.³

Mr. Mountague tells me if it is Augmented before Aprill it will be little Loss to me as the Col: Money is ready: & (as the Dean tells me)⁴ particularly appointed for the Augmenting the small Col: Curucys [sic] in Oxfordshire. My Curacy not being augmented the 5th. Inst. will be a small loss to me this year; But I hope Yr. Lordships Goodness will set the affair going, [MS. torn] be no farther prejudice to

My Lord Yr. Lordships most dutifull obliged & obedient humble servt.

Samll: Long

[To London]

¹ Edward Smallwell of Westminster, m. Ch. Ch. 1739 a.18, M.A. 1746/7, D.D. 1775; royal chaplain 1766, bp. St. David's 1783–8, bp. Oxford 1788–99.

² John Evans of Herefs., m. Ch. Ch. 1742 a.16, M.A. 1748; canon residentiary of Hereford, d.1783.

³ Paul Tookie of Cambs., m. Ch. Ch. 1741 a.16, M.A. 1748; C. Drayton 1756, C. Benson 1750, V. Chalgrove 1758–83, P.C. Stratton Audley pre-1761.

⁴ David Gregory.

From the Revd. Henry Powell¹

(iii.195)

Witney, Dec. 9, 1757

good my Lord

I have the honour of yr Lordship's Letter of the 6th, by which I have the grief to find, yr Lordship thinks me rather remiss some time ago in a Duty incumbent upon me. I must therefore beg leave to acqt. your Lordship that the Notice for Confirmation was no sooner received than read, and not for four Sundays only, but to that immediately preceding Confirmation. I also visited the most promising Houses in the Parish, where the answer given was, that your Lordship had so frequently of late years confirmed at Witney, Burford, and Bampton, that they had not then Any of a proper age. These were the words of the Parishoners. a very just but undesigned Compliment – for it's well known that no Bishop takes greater care of his Diocese than yr Lordship. The Parish is far from great, and several Families there are in it, who have not a Child. Had there been Any to be confirmed, they would most certainly have been prepared.

I am, my Lord, yr Lordship's most devoted, most Obedient and most Humble Servant

Hen: Powell

[Endorsed in a 20th century hand 'Brize Norton']

¹ ? of Brecon, m. Jesus 1744 a.18, B.A. 1748; C. Brize Norton 1756–64.

From the Revd. Charles Knollys

(iii. 196-7)

Burford, Dec. 10, 1757

My Lord

In answer to your Lordship's enquiry concerning my conduct in respect of Yelford duty, I humbly submit the following reasons in justification thereof to your consideration. In a conference at Cuddesden, before I entred on that Curacy, I represented to you, that I heard the service was monthly, on which you observed, that the late Incumbent¹ during his time had made provision to have that Church served once a fortnight, which tho' you did not approve, yet as Mr Newcome had been long in possession of that Rectory, you declined making an alteration; But as it was become void, the case was different, and as you were to give Institution, you had a right to insist on having service performed every sunday. I replied the Parish was small there being only three houses the Rector's included – and in fact there are but two – Mr Lenthal's & the parsonage – the other Mrs. Groves's nigh the Mansion being in another District – that the number of inhabitants consequently were few – and tho' since increas'd do not exceed 12 exclusive of Children [f. 196v.] That Cockthrop Church was within a mile, and Ducklington a mile & half – To this plea, I remember your Lordship said, I might for the same reasons urge there was no necessity for its being served at all – my ansr. was, that was far from my intention, and was ready to do duty there, as often as you should enjoin me – and tho' the roads were bad, and the distance seven computed miles & a half, which by measure is ten at least, especially as I am compell'd to go out of the common way – yet I wou'd go every Sunday, when the weather would permit – you then concluded with saying, you wou'd have me go, as often as I could – accordingly I went every Lord's-day for some time, when Mr Lenthal speaking to me about it, said he was not willing, I shou'd, as the Benefice was in his Gift – and that he wd. make you acquainted wth. it on which I went every fortnight – and he afterwards certified me he had spoken to you of it at Dr. Freind's and you seemed to acquiesce – this is the true state [f. 197] of the Affair. Notwithstanding I ride every other sunday 20 miles – and am obliged in the winter to be on horseback before day in order to officiate at Yelford & Black-bourton[.] shd. you judge it expedient, I will do the same weekly as long as my health & strength will suffer me; and when I cannot endure that exercise, I will freely resign, tho' my ecclesiastical preferment clear of Deduction doth not exceed £150 per annum, being determined to make your will, my Rule.

I am, My Lord, Your Lordship's obliged & devoted humble Servant

Banbury.

The value of Yelford R. is not communibus annis above £29 – 7 – 2 subject to Taxes & Repairs.

[Endorsed 'Yelford Ld Banbury Dec 10. 1757']

¹ John Rogers or his predecessor Henry Newcome.

From the Revd. Dr. Thomas West¹

(iv.1)

Magdalen College, Jan. 4, 1758

My Lord

Your Lordship directing me to send You the State of the Curacy of Yftley and its improved Value;² I beg leave to acquaint You that I have consulted some former as well as present Deeds, of which I have taken Extracts, and find that the certain yearly Value has been for some time settled at £12 in Money. In Dr Bakers time it was provided that the Curate should be paid £3 in lieu of his Sunday's Dinner over and above the £12.³ And agreeably thereto Mrs. Brooks pays me eight pounds and £3 in lieu of a Dinner on Sunday chargd on her Lease.⁴ And I receive £4 Yearly of Mr Edward Hurst charged on his Lease.⁵ I receive likewise Easter Offerings and Surplice Dues which together may be set at £2 Yearly tho' they vary every Year. I am no[t] otherwise licenced, than by being appointed verbally to the Curacy of Yftley by Dr Rye⁶ and continued by Dr Potter, but as it is necessary for me to be more par[ticu]larly qualified to receive the Augmentation, I will procure a Nomination from Dr Potter, and wait upon Your Lordship for a Licence, My Lord

Your most Dutyful Obedient Humble Servant

Tho: West

¹ Of Somerset, m. Magd. Coll. 1726/7 a.15, M.A. 1733, D.D. 1745; P.C. Iffley 1758–78, d.1781.

² Iffley was 'annexed to the archdeaconry of Oxford': *Bacon*, p. 797.

³ William Baker D.D., archdeacon of Oxford 1715–24, bp. Bangor 1723–7, bp. Norwich 1727–32.

⁴ The rectorial estate was leased to the Brook family from the early 18th cent. to 1794. An Elizabeth Brook held it at her death in 1756: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, v, p. 202.

⁵ The Hurst family of substantial yeomen held freehold property in Temple Cowley: *ibid.*, p. 88.

⁶ George Rye.

From the Revd. John Prinsep

(iv.2)

Bicester, Mar.2, 1758

My Lord,

Your Lordship's experienced Goodness encourages me to beg Information in a point very material to my Vicarage: – for how long a Term, with your Lordship's Consent & my Patron's,¹ I can let a Lease of the new Inclosure? So, I mean, as to bind a Successor: & I mean it with the strictest Fairness; that He may come in to his full share of such Improvements, as no Tenant will make, but just in Proportion to the Term of his Lease.

I have the Honour to be, with the greatest Respect & Gratitude,
 My Lord, yr Lordship's most humble, & most obedient Servant,
 J: Prinsep.

[Endorsed 'Burcester Mr Prinsep March 2 1758']

¹ Sir Edward Turner.

From the Revd. Dr. Thomas Bray

(iv.3)

Exeter College, Mar. 13, 1758

My Lord.

I have the Pleasure to acquaint your Lordship, that the Difficulties concerning the Purchase at Charlton are in Effect got over: Mr Kenrick the Governors Counsel having declared himself satisfied as to all Particulars but one, concerning which full Satisfaction is by this Time given; so that the Purchase will take Place at the Time appointed. On Wednesday next I shall go to Islip to Mr Bishop and put a finishing hand to the Cutting down the Timber, which is in a good Measure done, and dispatch what else is necessary before the Conveyance. Afterwards I will write to Mr Montague. I will likewise take five Pounds of the Timber Money, and have it paid with Twenty Pounds of my own to Your Lordship in London, unless I am otherwise directed. With respect to Mss [sic] Smith's Twenty Pounds,¹ I [f.3v.] must desire your Lordships Instructions; Whether Your Lordship would be pleased to take the Trouble of having that Remittance made; or whether Your Lordship would be pleased that I should wait upon Mss Smith, and desire to have the Money to return to Your Lordship.

I am Your Lordship's most obliged and obedient servant

Thomas Bray

[Endorsed 'Wheatley Mr Bray March 13. 1758']

¹ Presumably Miss Barbara Smythe of Cuddesdon.

Secker¹ to the Rt. Revd. Dr. John Hume²

(iv.35)

Lambeth, Sep. 17, 1761

My good Lord

I am going to scold you. A Paper hath just now been brought me, written by Mr Beaver, & signed by your Lordship, in which Thame is affirmed to be in the peculiar Jurisdiction of the Bishop of Lincoln.³ If this were true, it would be needless for your Lordship to say it: and your saying it will cost the poor new Vicar five Pounds, because they will construe his two Livings to be in two Dioceses. Again, if it were true, why is your Lordship to certify it, & not the Bishop of Lincoln? But it is notoriously false &

impossible to be true. Whilst Oxfordshire was part of the Diocese of Lincoln, that Bishop could not have a Peculiar in his own Diocese: the very Expression is an Absurdity. When Oxfordshire was taken out of his Diocese, his whole Jurisdiction in that County was abolished in the Charter of Foundation of your [f.35v.] Bishoprick, by as full and as strong Words as could be used. It is possible for any other Person or Persons to have a Peculiar in the Diocese of Oxford: but it is not possible for the Bishop of Lincoln to have one. Your Lordship might read, if you would take the Trouble, a clear State of this Matter in Letters of mine to the Bishop of Lincoln & to Lord Granville, which are in your Hands.⁴ They were written to prevent Lord Granville from presenting to the Bishop and the Bishop from receiving his Presentation. I did not succeed with them: perhaps the less for being then a Bishop out of Court Favour. And I thought I had done enough by the Pains which I had taken, without adding the Expence of going to Law with them: which I left to my Successor, if he should think it proper. I shall by no means blame your Lordship, if you do not think it proper. But why you should chuse to be Felo de se, by giving it of your own Accord under your Hand that they are in the Right, is utterly beyond the Comprehension of

Your loving Brother

Tho. Cantuar

Bp of Oxford

¹ Although Secker was now archbp. Canterbury, this letter is included because it contrasts Secker's attitude towards a contended peculiar with Hume's, and because it demonstrates his continued interest in Oxford diocesan affairs.

² Of Devon, m. Merton 1721 a.15, Corpus M.A. 1727, D.D. 1743; bp. Bristol 1756-8, bp. Oxford 1758-66, bp. Salisbury 1766-82.

³ John Thomas remained bp. Lincoln until Nov. 1761: *D.N.B.*

⁴ See iii.45-57.

From Gilbert Jackson, sr.

(viii.14-15)¹

At Mrs Estwick's in Old Fish Street, [London]

Dec. 14, 1741

My Lord

Here have I been this month confin'd to & Coach [sic] by the Gout, daily in hopes of being releas'd, to have the pleasing opportunity of paying my Duty to Yor. Lordship, but all in vain, for still am I sorely afflicted, & the Great God only knows the end thereof.

Surely [it is] time for Yor. Lordship, & I Both to know if to continue, or separate in regard to the Tithes: I doubt not my Lord, but You'll have many Tenants offer to succeed me, but the presant Rent really [is] too much for me to give; but far be it from me to Depretiate Yor. Lordships Estate, & let it be said, through my Infirmities I leave it, not being able to attend [f.14v.]

but sorry shou'd I be, to have £20. per ann. abated to another, wch the Person so taking, must think I have paid to my own detriment. Yor. Lordship has told me, & I learn [from] Mr. Sims, that His Grace of Canterbury,² says it's worth the Money, He suck'd in his Opinion from Sr. John D'Oyly, who made it to Himselfe a good Bargain, Ploughing all His Own Land in the Parish, during His Term in it.

If the £20. per ann. [is] not to be abated, I sincerely wish Yor. Lordship a good Tenant, and am with Great Respect, Yor. Lordships

Most Dutifull & Most Devoted Humble Servant

Gil: Jackson

I beg the Ladies accept of my Compliments – I ask pardon for writing by the Post but have no servt. in Town

[Endorsed 'Mr Jackson']

¹ All items in group viii have been selected from O.R.O., O.D.P. c.2160.

² John Potter.

(viii.16–17)

Letter from the Revd. John Burton¹ reporting in detail on a water cistern at Banstead Downs. Secker is seemingly interested in installing a similar type at Cuddesdon; he reports that Gen. Oglethorpe demands his, Burton's, presence prior to going 'to Portsmouth to fetch up his Indian King', n.d.

¹ Nominated one of the first trustees for Georgia.

From Gilbert Jackson, sr.

(viii.35)

May 27, 1751

My Lord

I just now reciev'd the favour of your letter, & shall be extremely glad to do any thing towards forwarding your Lordship's pious & generous designs. I apprehend it is in my power, & I am ready to part with the coteles & land you mention, but cannot say any thing of the price as I know not what land you will want. On that score however there can be no difficulty, for I am persuaded your Lordship would not offer me less than the value, & I shall be far from desiring any thing unreasonable. I am, My Lord, with the greatest respect

Your Lordship's most Devoted & Obedient Servt

Gil. Jackson

[Added in Secker's hand 'He afterwards changed his Mind: and told me in Conversation that he desired to be excused from selling the Houses & Ground']

To Thomas Sims

(viii.45)

Cuddesdon, May 21, 1755

Mr Sims

I am informed that on Saturday last some of my Ground in Denton Field was by your Direction ploughed & laid to yours. If you can bring any credible witnesses to prove that this Land is yours & not mine I am ready to hear them. But if you cannot I think it my Duty & I give you this amicable notice of it to defend my Rights agst your Encroachmts by due Course of Law. And therefore I advise you to suffer quietly what you have taken away to be laid back to my Land in which Case I shall over look what you have already done. I hear also Complaints of you with respect to other persons Lands: but I meddle no farther with those than to recommend it to you not to seize or claim any thing to which you cannot according to the Judgmt of honest & skilful persons prove your Title[.] For no man shd rely too much on his own Judgmt especially in his own Case And I am persuaded you will find more Benefit from living on good Terms with your Neighbours than from any other Method of promoting your own Interest. I say these things from good will to you: & desire your Answer may be in writing if you give any to

Your friend & servt

TO

[Endorsed 'Denton Field To Mr Sims May 21. 1755']

From Thomas Sims

(viii.46-7)

Wheatley, May 22, 1755

My Lord

I think it my Duty, first to thank you, for the favour of your letter, sent by Mr Whitmill, as also, for your kind Advice therein[.]¹ I humbly pray leave, next, to satisfie your Lordship, that there has been Considerably more Ground ploughed from my Lands, then I had ploughed to them on Saturday last, from yours my Lord[.] I have a land, and a Yard that lays next it, which heds part of the same Furlong my Lord, your three Yards, I have ploughed from d[?]itt[o, and which, I have been told, should be as big as yours my Lord, as a land, and a Yard, is equal to three Yards[.] Mr Whitmill did, Thursday, or Friday last, soon after my land, and Yard were sowed, plough from them, notwithstanding, mine were not so big, by twenty feet, which is one third the bigness, your Lordships three Yards are, from which I am in hope, you will my Lord think, the more favourably of me, and that I have not in this (as I hope [I] never shall) rely'd too much, on my own Judgment, espescially in my own Case[.] Its much my [f.46v.] Desire, to live in friendship, and on good Terms, not only with my Neighbours, but with every body, to the promoting of which my Lord, I

humbly beg you will direct Mr Whitmill to get any Man he pleases, and that I may another, then, what shall be agreed by them, for a third Parson [sic], which of us are in the Wrong; if mine the fault, I shall readily take, your Lordships advice to suffer quietly, and have land back, if done a miss, that it may be overlookd, by so kind, and good a Friend, as my Lord Bishop of Oxford, being with the greatest sence, of Gratitude, and Respect[.]

Your Lordships Most Dutifull & most obliged Humble Servant

Thos. Sims:

¹ John Whitmill of Thame: O.R.O., county poll book, 1754.

To Thomas Sims

(viii.50)

Cuddesdon, June 13, 1755

Mr Sims

No Report hath been made to me by the Persons appointed to view the Ground: & I am informed that they would not give any Opinion concerning the Matter. Yet I am likewise informed, that when they met, there appeared several Witnesses in favour of my Claim, but none in favour of yours, though I desired you to produce Witnesses on your side if you could And therefore I hereby acquaint you that I shall order immediate Proceedings at Law against you, unless you send me in writing either a sufficient Assurance that you will restore the Land which you have taken or a better proof that it belongs to you than a mere Imagination of a Right to Equality which you cannot support by Evidences. I am

Your friend & servant

Tho. Oxford

Note of John Allnatt

(viii.51)

I will acquaint Mr. North of my Lord Bishops request, who shall lett his Lordship know the earliest opportunity, but as for my part I cannot say positively what proceedings have been taken in relation to Mr Sims¹

John Allnatt
Clerk to Mr. North

¹ John North of Watlington.

From Thomas Sims

(viii.52-3)

Garsington, June 15, 1755

My Lord

This humbly waits, to let you know, I have this day, been (again) to desire Mr Townsend,¹ and Mr Sadler,² who Mr Whitmill, and I made

Choice of, agreeable to your Lordships Pleasure, to settle the Complaint, made to you, by Mr Whitmill[.] They have promised me my Lord, to Wait on you to Morrow, by nine, or ten a Clock; if your Lordship thinks proper[.] Dare say my Lord, you will find some Mistakes, as to the heavy Complaints, your Lordships letter mentions, I had Yesterday, from Mr Whitmill[.] I dont know what Witnesses, Mr Whitmill may have to produce, in favour of Your Lordship's Claim, when Mr Sadler, will I hope to Morrow, satisfie you my Lord, that Mr Whitmill himself, ownd to him, at the very time we were in the field, that those Yards were to high on the Furlong[.] Needless sure, to trouble you my Lord, in saying more now, as I hope [to have] the pleasure to Morrow of paying my Duty, and asureing with how much truth I am

Your Lordships most Dutifull most Obliged, and most Humble Servant

Thos. Sims:

I have sent to Mr Whitmill, to acquaint him of it, if he pleases to Wait on your Lordship with us

¹ Perhaps Henry Townsend of Garsington: O.R.O., county poll book, 1754; Secker paid 'A man for viewing my ground in Denton field, I think Mr Townsend' 10s. 6d. on June 14, 1755: Account Bk., f.151.

² Perhaps Edward or Joseph Sadler both of Garsington: O.R.O., county poll book, 1754.

The letter of John North to Secker, May 13, 1756, at *iii.149*, belongs with this sequence of letters at this point.

From John Nourse

(*viii.61*)

Woodeaton, Dec. 12, 1756

My Lord

I take the Liberty of informing you, that Robt. Holly (one of the Lives in your Lordship's Lease of Ambrosden) is dead,¹ & that I am desirous of your Consent to fill up the Vacancy in it, & beg the favour of your Lordship to let me know your Terms. I should be greatly oblig'd to yr. Lordship to look in the Counterpart, & see if the Lease is not granted to the late Sr. John D'Oyly & Mr. Whorwood in trust for me, as I cannot at present find the Original, tho' dont despair of it upon a stricter Search after it.²

If yr. Lordship comes into the Country at Christmas, I will do my self the Honor of waiting on you, if not, in Town after the Holydays.

I beg leave to present my Duty, & to subscribe myself yr. Lordships most Obedt. Servant

John Nourse

¹ Of Woodeaton with freehold at Arncot: O.R.O., county poll book, 1754.

² James Whorwood of London, m. Trin. 1745 a.16, M.A. 1752, R. Holton 1751-58.

From John Nourse

(viii.62-3)

Woodeaton, Jan. 8, 1757

My Lord

I beg pardon for not answering your Lordship's letter so soon as I ought having been prevented making the Inquirys you desired during the Holydays, and now indeed I cannot send you so perfect an Account as I could wish, particularly relating to the Lands. My Tenant can give me no other Account but that the Glebe of Blackthorn (the only place where there is any) is equal to three yard Lands, and dispersd in small parcells about the Fields, except a Close & Paddock adjoining to the House, & a Dairy ground towards Piddington, the other particulars of the Estate are the Great Tythes of Blackthorn, Ambrosden & Lower Arncot[.] I shall answer your Lordships farther Demands as I find them in your letter, & begin with the Buildings, which are a good til'd House, Dove house & Barn, two other thatch'd Barns, Cow house, three Stables, Cart Hovels & Pigstys, all of them old but I hope by being kept dry may serve some years longer, these are all the Buildings belonginging [sic] [f.62v.] to the Lease hold, those at Arncot are on my Freehold there. It is let at the same rent as when renewd last, and no fine ever taken by me, or I beleive any one else before me, it was then held by Lease, which has been expird some years, and the Tenant goes on, on the old Terms. I pay the Land Tax for Blackthorn & Ambrosden, & the Tenant for Arncot, tho' in Effect I presume, I pay that also.

I am much obligd to your Lordship for endeavouring to save me a London journey but I fear I must come as I cant find the Lease, except Mr Morton can save me that Expence, who will wait on your Lordship any Morning you will appoint & settle that Affair, which he says may easily be done by a proper Surrender from Sr. Thos. D'Oyly with safty to your Lordship & me.¹ If I have omitted any thing requisite for your farther Knowledge I am very desirous of answering any other Questions you shall please to ask for I am very far from endeavouring to secrete any thing relative [f.63] to the Estate or Profits of it.

If this Account is satisfactory to your Lordship & you & Mr Morton can find that the Surrender of the Lease as before mentiond will be proper for our Security, I hope you will, as soon as you conveniently can, let me know the Terms for filling up the Vacant Life. I am with great Respect

yr. Lordships Most Obedient Servant

John Nourse

[Endorsed 'Mr Nourse Jan 8 1757']

¹ c.1701-2 to 1759, 3rd bt. 1746, m. Queen's 1718 a.16: *Compl. Btage*, iv, p. 34.

From John Nourse

(viii.64)

Woodeaton, Jan. 14, 1757

My Lord

The Weather has been so bad since I receivd your Lordship's Letter that I have not been able to go to Blackthorn, but will the first day I can, & hope to get a satisfactory account for You.

I am obligd to you for your ready Compliance to my Request with respect to Mr Morton who I hope has waited on you and made that matter safe to your Lordship. I will take Care and get the proper Certificates; Now my Lord I beg leave to inform you of the Rent which I hope will induce you to set the fine that this Affr. may be settled between us.

The Rent

Blackthorn &	180
Ambrosden	
Arncot	70
	<hr/>
	250

This is the exact Produce of your Lordship['s] Estate which I hope you will look upon as such when You set the Fine. I am

My Lord yr most Obedient [MS. torn]

[J. Nourse]

From John Nourse

(viii.65-6)

[f.66] Woodeaton, Feb.12, 1757

My Lord

Mr Morton has inform'd me that he has had an Interview with your Lordship & that you have been so good as to agree with his proposal of a Surrender by Sr. Thos. D'Oyly for which I return you my thanks.

I should have answerd your last letter sooner but the Waters prevented my going to Ambrosden till yesterday, I have obtained a Certificate of the Chancells being in repair, and look'd over the Farm at Blackthorn in order to inform your Lordship of the Timber on it, which is only some pollard Elms Round the Homestall & Close adjoining, & about a Dozen more in the Dairy ground as tis call'd, & a few small Ashes between two ponds in the Paddock; which I take to be yours, except as much as may [be] [f.65v.] necessary for Repairs; I Allways lookd on my self obligd to the Repair of the Chancell & am very willing to have it particulary [sic] expressd in the Lease. I have likewise inquired into the Quantity of Land which my Tenants beleives to be upwards of 150 Acres, but dispersd in such a number of Parcels all over the Fields, that he cannot pretend to be certain; One Parcel

consists of Leys of Furze nine of which Mr Cockeril the Vicar pays a Claim to as being part of the Endowment of the Viacaridge [sic], and has told my Tenant that if he had been younger he should have thought of disputing it.¹ Perhaps his successor may. I have desired Mr. Morton to send the Surrender for Sr. Tho: D'Oyly to sign, which when done I will bring to Town, and then will talk the above matter over with your Lordship, & I hope conclude the Affair with you.

[f.65] I imagine if I produce a Certificate of Mr Jodrells Age when I come to Town it will be sufficient, if not, I will desire him to send one to You.² I am

Yr Lordships Most Obedient Servt.

J. Nourse

[Endorsed 'Amersden Mr Nourse Feb. 12. 1757']

¹ Thomas Cockerill, succeeded by Samuel Terrent in 1765.

² Unidentified.

From the Revd. Dr. William Gower²

(ix, no. 1)¹

Worcester College, Sep. 6, 1743

To the Right Reverend Father in God Thomas Lord Bishop of Oxford, our much honour'd Patron & Visitor.

Whereas the Reverend John Tottie AM. Fellow of Worcester College in the University of Oxford,³ has accepted & is in Possession of the Archidiaconal Dignity & Office of Archdeacon of the City, Diocese & Jurisdiction of Worcester, being estimated at more than the yearly Value of Ten Pounds in the Kings Books: & whereas there appears to be a reasonable Cause of Doubt, whether the said Dignity, be within the express Letter of the Statute de Successione, so as to vacate a Fellowship in the said College; as likewise whether the Case of the said John Tottie be within the true Intention & Meaning of the said Statute: I therefore the Provost of the said College, do, as the Statute de Statutorum Executione directs, most humbly supplicate your Lordship, as Visitor jointly with the other Visitors of the said College, to take the said Case into your Consideration, & to give your Judgement & Determination, thereupon, I am

My Lord Your Lordships most dutifull & most obedient Servant.

Will: Gower.

¹ O.R.O., O.D.P. material from Cuddesdon not yet referenced, listed in W.J. Oldfield, 'Episcopat. Oxon.' p. 154. All items in group ix are on single folios unless otherwise indicated.

² Of Worcs., m. Worcester Coll. 1715, a.13, M.A. 1721/2, D.D. 1739, Provost 1736-77.

³ Of Staffs., m. Worcester Coll. 1721 a.16, M.A. 1727/8, canon of Ch. Ch. 1760, D.D. 1760; archdeacon of Worcester 1742-74, R. Worcester, St. Martin 1751-74.

From the Revd. Dr. William Gower*(ix, no. 2)*

Worcester College, Sep. 8, 1743

My Lord

I have taken the Liberty to send by Mr Tottie an Appeal to your Lordship, as Visitor of the College upon his Case, in pursuance of your Remark, that it has not hitherto been regularly laid before you: I hope the Form of it is such as your Lordship shall approve of. I have desir'd him likewise to deliver a Copy of the College Statutes, which I am much concern'd your Lordship has been so long without, & which indeed was owing to my imagining you already had them in your Possession. I have endeavour'd to get Information about the Method of Proceeding upon the Request of Mr Veneer,¹ & find that, except the regular one, there is no other way of obtaining his Degree, but by Diploma; & that as to this Purpose a Letter from the Chancellor is requisite,² & that he will be oblig'd to pay the Act Fees, & the Cost of the Instrument, which must be upon a Forty Shillings Stamp, the difference will be very little between the Expences of a Degree taken this way, & one taken regularly. I imagine this was the whole of what your Lordship wanted to be inform'd about; if in this or any other Instance, I can procure Satisfaction to your Lordship it will be great Pleasure to me, as it always will to give Proof with how much Submission I am

My Lord Your Lordships most dutifull & most obedient Servant

Will: Gower

¹ John Veneer of Devon, m. All Souls 1711 a.16, B.A. Worcester Coll. 1715.

² Charles Butler, earl of Arran, 1715-58: *History*, p. 889.

(ix, no. 3)

A petition similar to William Gower's of Sep. 6, 1743, from the vice-provost, the Revd. Roger Bouchier,¹ and 3 fellows: Henry Geers,² Joseph Amphlett³ and George Heming,⁴ Sep.15, 1743, seemingly in the hand of John Tottie.

¹ Of Oxford city, m. Gloucester Hall 1695 a.14, M.A. 1702.

² Of Herefs., m. Worcester Coll. 1719 a.17, M.A. 1725/6.

³ Of Staffs., m. Worcester Coll. 1735 a.20, M.A. 1741/2, D.C.L. 1750; V. Bampton Lew 1757-80.

⁴ Of Worcs., m. Worcester Coll. 1735 a.18, M.A. 1742.

Value of the Archdeaconry of Worcester¹

(ix, no. 4)

Receipts.

In Procurations	50	03	08½
In Pensions (lost)	1	19	02½
From the Appropriation of Claverdon	8	00	00
	<hr/>		
	60	03	11

Deductions.

In Procurations & Synodals to the Bp. of Worcester	6	6	08
In Tenths to sd. Bp.	5	17	00
In Salary to the Collector of the Procurations	2	13	04
In Salary to the Register	2	13	04
	<hr/>		
	17	10	04

Remains de claro

42 13 07

Value of a Fellowship of Worcester College.

The yearly Salary	39	02	06
Decrements allow'd	4	00	00
Chamber allow'd, whose yearly rent is	8	00	00
	<hr/>		
	51	02	06

[In the hand of John Tottie]

¹ For details of the archdeaconry see *Bacon*, p. 963.**From the Revd. Dr. William Gower**

(ix, no. 5)

[f.1] Worcester College, Dec. 13, 1744

-My Lord

I must beg your Lordships Permission, that our Sollicitor may attend you, with the Deed, for Conveyance of the Lands, adjoining to the College, which we have just purchas'd of St Johns College; & which I sometime ago inform'd your Lordship, we were in Treaty about, as the Act of Parliament requires the Concurrence of the Visitors signify'd by their Hand & Seal. The Necessity we are under of enlarging our Situation, gives us no reason to doubt of your Lordships Approbation of this Agreement; & we therefore humbly beg the Favour, that your Lordship will execute your Part in it. We likewise hope for your Lordships Consent, that we may offer a Petition to Parliament, for adjusting & rectifying some Inconveniences, & Deficiencys, in the Will of Mrs Eaton our late Benefactress,¹ & for which no Remedy can be obtain'd but by this means. She has left two Leasehold Estates, as part of

the Endowment of her Fellows & Scholars, which we imagine too precarious a Tenure, to fix a perpetual Establishment upon. She has moreover requir'd in her Will, that her Fellows, & Scholars, should enjoy all the same Privileges with the present, which we humbly conceive, would be too great an Invasion of the Rights of Sr Thomas Cookes's Provost & Fellows,² (who are possess'd, the former, of a Claim to the Rent of all Chambers, besides those of the present Foundation; the latter, of a Claim to all offices in the College) unless some satisfaction be made in this respect. And as she design'd, her Settlement should take Effect soon after her Death, the Provision she has made for the Trust, (if the beforemention'd Purposes should require a longer Continuance of it, then was foreseen) will be very insufficient, & may prove dangerous; especially, if it should fall into the Hands of such Persons, of whom either we could not be well assur'd, or who should be so remote, as not to be able to act with the Convenience requisite. For she [f.2] has appointed, after the present Trustees, the Executors, & Administrators of their Survivor, to succeed in the Trust.

The matter of our Petition, therefore, is to beg such Relief in the several particulars, as the Parliament shall think proper to allow us, & we hope they are of such a Kind, as may deserve your Lordships Consent & Approbation, for our Proposal of them. Our Solicitor tells us it will be necessary to move it first in the House of Lords; & if we have the Honour of your Lordships Concurrence, we shall endeavour to get a Petition ready to be offer'd this present Sessions. I am, my Lord, with all Duty

Your Lordships most obedient & most humble servant

Will: Gower.

[Endorsed 'Prov. of Worcester Dec 13. 1744']

¹ Miss Sarah Eaton, dau. Byrom Eaton principal of Gloucester Hall 1662–92, d. 1739 leaving her estate to maintain additional fellows and scholars at Worcester Coll.; for further details of the bequest and its use see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, iii, pp. 300, 309.

² For the role of Sir Thomas Cookes in the establishment of Worcester Coll, see *ibid.*, p. 300.

From the Revd. Dr. William Gower

(ix, no. 6)

Oxford, Jan. 27, 1744/5

My Lord

We have at last got our Petition executed, & sign'd by the several Parties concern'd in it. And in Confidence of your Lordships Inclination to favour us, which you condescended to assure me of, when I had last the Honour of waiting upon you at Cudsden, we beg Leave to make use of your Lordships Mediation, in order to have it laid before the House of Lords. I shall forthwith send it up to our Sollicitor, & beg your Lordships Permission that he may attend upon you to this Purpose. As it is great Happiness to us to enjoy the Advantage of your Lordships Patronage, I hope we shall always

retain a becoming sense of it, & give every Proof of Duty & Reverence in return for it. This will always be the Endeavour of

My Lord Your Lordships most dutifull & most obedient servant

Will: Gower.

From the Ven. John Tottie

(ix, no. 7)

Oxford, Mar. 10, 1745/6

My Lord,

Your Lop. will be so good as to excuse this application, wch my present situation makes necessary, in relation to my Fellowship. I am not without hopes, from the particular circumstances of my Case, of a favourable Decision by the Visitors, when they have an opportunity of meeting together for that purpose.¹ But in the mean time my Interest in the Fellowship will expire, as it does of course at Midsummer, unless your Lop. is pleased with the other Visitors to admit a Petition from the Provost & Fellows, that I may be continued in a farther enjoyment of it *pendente Dubio*. I am the more encouraged to hope for your Lop's. approbation of this Request, because as the Visitors may not be able to meet before that time, the rejecting it will be to all intents & purposes determining the Point against me. I am with the greatest deference,

My Lord Your Lop's. most Dutifull & obedient humble servant

J. Tottie.

¹ The visitors were the bishops of Worcester and Oxford and the vice-chancellor of the university of Oxford.

To the Ven. John Tottie

(ix, no. 8)

[f.1] St. James's Westminster, Apr. 7, 1746

Sir

The Illness, wch hath been for a considerable time in my Family, hath engaged my Attention so much, that I have not answerd your Letter so soon as I ought to have done. And I am very sorry, that I cannot answer it now to your Satisfaction. I esteem you very highly, & heartily wish you much greater Advantages in the World, than your Fellowship of Worcester College. But it doth not appear to me at present, that you are intitled to that Fellowship according to the true meaning of your Statutes. And though I were of a contrary Opinion in that respect, wch I shall very gladly be on proper Evidence, yet I shd think, that since the Question of your Right hath been proposed to the Visitors, it ought to be determined, if possible before any thing is done about your Continuance. And it seems as possible to determine it before Midsummer as after. I have made Applications to the other Visitors for the purpose more than once. And as I shall still with great

Readiness come into any proper Scheme for the Accomplishmt of it, so I cannot but be persuaded, that you may find out some Method wch we shall all approve. I am very sensible of what you urge, that if the Visitors do not consent to your Continuance, this will be in Effect the same thing with giving the Point of Right against you. But undoubtedly you are sensible too, that if they do consent to it, whilst that Point continues unde[f. 1v.]cidid, & never decide it, this will be the same with giving it for you: wch, till I am better informed, I apprehend wd be wrong. It wd be much more agreeable to me to do wt you desire than to refuse it. And I hope you must see, that no other Motive, than that of being faithful to my Trust, can influence on this occasion your loving brother & humble servt

TO

From the Ven. John Tottie

(ix, no. 9)

[f. 1] Oxford, Apr. 16, 1746

My Lord,

Some business having call'd me from home for a few days, at my return I had the honour of your Lops. Letter. I think myself happy in having a share of your Lops. esteem; but I am not so unreasonable as to desire, not so unwise as to imagine, that any partial considerations should influence your Lop. in an affair where there is no room for Favour. In my late application to your Lop. it was not my intention to evade a determination of my Case: It is before the Visitors that they may determine it; but the time & manner of doing it, it did not & does not become me to prescribe: I have only to wish it may be in the least expensive way. But if in so short a time as is now remaining, any real difficulties shd. prevent the meeting of the Visitors, I yet hope my former Request may not be thought unreasonable.

I should not have now troubled your Lop. with what I am going to say in regard to the Point in Question, had not your Letter told me that it is your present opinion that I am not intitled to my Fellowship according to the true meaning of the Statutes. According to the Letter of them I certainly am not, but according to the evident Intention (if that be the true meaning) I am willing to flatter myself that I am. Our Statutes were compil'd in the year 1714; Consequently by estimating Ecclesiastical [f. 1v.] Preferments according to the old Valuation in the Kings books, they undoubtedly supposed an Encrease of the Income in proportion to the Decrease of the value of Money, & the Estimation of ten pounds yearly was design'd to denote an Equivalent to the value of that Sum in Harry the 8ths. time. In my singular Case it is quite otherwise: The same Quantity of Money was receiv'd from the Archdeaconry in Hen. 8th's time as is now; only it is now perhaps six times less real value that it was then; must constantly decrease with the Value of Money; & is not at this time, as I can fully make appear, equal to the Annual Income of a simple Fellowship. So that in my Case, the

very Supposition upon wch. alone the Statute has any sense or meaning in it, cannot possibly be allow'd.

I ask pardon for saying thus much; I shall only add, that as I have the highest Opinion both of your Lops. Abilities & Integrity, so I shall with the utmost Satisfaction acquiesce in your Judgement; & tho' with the Loss of my Fellowship I lose my very Subsistence, however I may lament my hard Fortune, I shall never impeach, no not in Thought, the Equity of the Sentence that deprives me of it. I am

My Lord, Your Lops. most Dutifull & obedient Servant.

J. Tottie.

To the Ven. John Tottie

(ix, no. 8)

[f.1v.] St. James's Westminster, Apr. 19, 1746

Sir

I have no Suspicion that your present Application to the Visitors was intended by you to avoid the Determination of your Cause: & am sensible that you cannot prescribe to them the Time & Manner of determining it. But you may very properly, on acct of the particular Circumstances of it, solicit them to determine it speedily, & inquire & propose to them the likeliest Methods for that End. And I do not apprehend that there can be need of much, if any, Expence on the Occasion. The College hath applied to us for the Interpretation of a Statute. We may, if we judge our selves able, interpret it without asking the Opinion of any Counsel upon it. And if either the College or you think it requisite to lay any thing before us in relation to it, I should [f.2] conceive it were better to do this your selves, than to employ any other persons. In this manner Sentence may be soon given. But if none be given, & your Request be granted, the Consequence will be your keeping a Fellowship, to which, so far as I can form an Opinion at present, I am of Opinion you are not intitled. For indeed your Argumt by no means gives me Satisfaction. I wish it did. And therefore, till I am better informed, I cannot comply with your Desire: wch were I once persuaded of your Right to your Fellowship, wd be done with great pleasure by your loving brother & servt

TO

[This letter was copied by Secker on the same piece of paper as his letter to Tottie of Apr. 7, 1746 but is here placed chronologically.]

From the Ven. John Tottie

(ix, no. 10)

Oxford, Apr. 21, 1746

My Lord,

I think myself much honour'd by the favour of your Lops. last letter. I should be very sorry to be thought not to do every thing, that is incumbent upon me to do, in the Affair that is now before the Visitors. But what methods can I propose for obtaining a Meeting of them? a thing, if I am

rightly inform'd, absolutely necessary in order to a Judicial Determination. The Bishop of Worcester¹ having undertaken to settle all previous matters with your Lop. I cannot make it a question, but that by this means, a Method will be concerted in a more proper way, than I can possibly Suggest. To say the Truth, your Lop. having declar'd your present opinion to be so fully against me, it has quite disheartned me from proceeding with any Spirit in the Affair. I own (as we are apt to be partial in our own Cause) I did think I had a good Plea in Equity, & that my Case might very reasonably have been adjudged, not to have been within the *Intention* of the Statute: But I submit to your Lops. Opinion, wch. I have no reason to think any thing I can offer will alter; & so far as I, for my own part, am concern'd in the Doubt proposed by the College, I had rather be determin'd by your private opinion than publick Decision: for I shd. much rather chuse to resign my Fellowship quietly than be remov'd from it with making a Noise in the World. I am

My Lord, Your Lops. most Dutifull Son & Servt.

J. Tottie.

¹ Isaac Maddox, M.A. Edinburgh 1723, D.D. Camb. 1731; dean of Wells 1734, bp. St. Asaph 1736-43, bp. Worcester 1743-59.

From the Provost and others

(ix, no. 11)

May 26, 1746

To the Right Reverend Father in God Thomas Lord Bishop of Oxford, Patron & Visitor of Worcester College.

May it please your Lordship.

Whereas the Right Reverend & Reverend the Visitors of Worcester College, upon hearing *ex parte* the Reasons of the Doubt relating to the Fellowship of the Revd. John Tottie, A.M, have agreed to determine the Cause as soon as possible, & have likewise agreed that upon application made by the College they are willing to continue the said John Tottie for a certain time longer in his Fellowship, whose Right therein would otherwise determine at the Feast of St. John Baptist next ensuing; We therefore the Provost & Fellow of the said College do humbly & willingly request Your Lordship, that in conjunction with the other Visitors you will be pleased to grant to the said John Tottie such further Continuance in his Fellowship as to you seems meet, & that you will favourably accept this Supplication from us in his behalf.

Sign'd Will: Gower Prov:

Roger Bouchier Vice-Prov.

Henry Geers Fellow

J Amphlett Fellow

G. Heming Fellow

Sam: Male Fellow¹

¹ Of Shrops., m. Worcester Coll. 1737 a.16, M.A. 1744.

From the Patrons and Visitors of Worcester College¹ to the Ven. John Tottie

(ix, no. 12)

June 6, 1746

Whereas

We the Patrons and Visitors of Worcester College . . . have received Petitions from the Provost and Fellows of the said College requesting us to give our Judgment upon a doubt arising from the Statute de successione in relation to the Right of the Revd John Tottie MA to continue Fellow of the said College he having accepted & being in possession of the Archdeaconry of Worcester and whereas we have not yet been able to give Judgment upon the same and are informed by the said Provost and Fellows that the said John Totties Right to his Fellowship will determine at the Feast of St John Baptist next ensuing unless we shall grant him a further continuance therein on their supplication which they have made to us for that purpose We do therefore by these presents according the Power invested in us by the said Statute grant unto the said John Tottie a further continuance in his said fellowship for the term of one year to be computed from the said Feast of St John Baptist next ensuing, provided the said Fellowship shall not be in the mean time judged and declared by us void on account of his being in possession of the said Archdeaconry

Sent to the Archdeacon June 6. 1746

[In Secker's hand]

¹ Secker, Maddox and Euseby Isham.

From the Rt. Revd. Dr. Isaac Maddox

(ix, no. 13)

Bristol, May 7, 1747

My Lord,

I fear it will be utterly impracticable for the Visitors of Worcester College to meet together before Midsummer next. I am truly concerned it should so happen; but yet it [is] very hard, if not unjust, should Mr. Archdeacon Tottie lose his Fellowship meerly because We cannot meet together.

The Archdeacon is still convinced that he is entituled to continue in his Fellowship & has shewed me the Opinion of Mr. Wright of Oxford, which he will communicate to Your Lordship.¹

This being the Case & the Delay in no Way arising from the Archdeacon who is desirous to have the Affair heard & determined, Your Lordship most probably will be of Opinion to lengthen out the Time of his Continuance in his Fellowship; the Reason for so doing being still the same as it was when we signed the last Order for that Purpose, June 14. 1746 upon the Application from the College which was exhibited to each of the Visitors.

I hope I have found much Benefit by these Waters & am directed to

continue here some Time in the next Month

I am, with great Regard, My Lord yr. Lordships affect. Bror. & humble Servt

Isa. Worcester

¹ John Wright

From the Ven. John Tottie

(ix, no. 14)

Oxford, May 9, 1747

My Lord

The Bishop of Worcester has informed me that he thinks it will be impossible for the Visitors to meet before Midsummer; in which case he has encouraged me to write to your Lordship to beg your consent to the Indulgence of a farther continuance in my Fellowship, as the Reasons of the Petition exhibited last year by the College & of the Visitor's compliance therewith do still subsist. I am likewise directed by him to transmit to your Lop. a Copy of Mr Wright's opinion, which I have done, not with a design to direct your Lops. Judgement, but only as an Excuse for this Request. I beg your Lops. pardon for giving you this trouble, & am with the most dutifull Submission

My Lord, Your Lops. most obedient humble Servant

J. Tottie.

The opinion of John Wright

(ix, no. 15)

- Qu.1. Whether there be not a Distinction in Law between *Dignitas* & *Beneficium Ecclesiasticum*? or whether the latter includes the former?
- Qu.2. Whether the words *Beneficium cum curâ Animarum*, or *Beneficium sine curâ animarum* be descriptive of an Archdeaconry wch. has Jurisdiction, & is a Dignity? And if it be comprehended under either of those Denominations, under which?
- Qu.3. Whether in case the Words *Beneficium cum curâ Animarum*, & *Beneficium sine curâ Animarum* be differently applied by the Statute Law & the Canon Law, according to which Law are the Statutes of a College to be interpreted, *wch was Incorporated in the year 1714*?

1. Tho' Canonists include in the Word *Beneficium* Dignitys as well as Parochial Benefices, yet all the Acts of Parliament wch. mention them seem clearly to make a Distinction between them: This Distinction evidently appears in the 5 & 6 W. & M. relating to the Stamp Duty, wch. provides that 40s shall be paid for every Skin &c on which any Dispensation to hold *two Ecclesiastical Dignitys or Benefices or both a Dignity & a Benefice* shall be wrote:¹ This Distinction

also may be collected from the 13. Eliz. 12.² whereby it is enacted that none shall be admitted to *any Benefice with Cure* unless he shall first have subscribed & read the Articles in *the Parish Church of that Benefice*; by which it appears that they understood nothing to be a Benefice with cure, which had not a Parish Church belonging to it: It is observable, that all the Acts of Parliament wch. mean to comprehend Dignitys as well as Benefices expressly mention Dignitys or use other large words to include them; But where only Parochial Cures are intended, they describe them by the words Benefices with cure, as is done in the 13. Eliz. 12. & 12 C.2. 17.³

2. The Canonists comprehend an Archdeaconry under the word Benefice, & they consider it as having a Cure; But in common Speech as well as in all Acts of Parliament, the Word Benefice seems restrain'd to Parochial Benefices.
3. Before the Reformation Colleges were deem'd *Ecclesiastical Societys* & were governed by Ecclesiastical Laws, & the Bishop of the Diocese was Visitor: But soon after the Reformation they came to be consider'd as *Temporal Societys*: and therefore as to all Colleges founded of late years, I think the Statutes should be interpreted according to the modern use of the words & as they are understood in Acts of Parliament, & not according to the Canon Law.

John Wright.

[Copy in Tottie's hand]

¹ An Act for Granting . . . Several Duties Upon Vellum, Parchment, and Paper for Four Years: 5 & 6 William & Mary cap.21 (1694)

² An Act for the Ministers of the Church to be of Sound Religion (1571).

³ An Act for the Confirming and Restoring of Ministers (1660).

To the Rt. Revd. Dr. Isaac Maddox

(ix, no. 16)

St. James's Westminster, May 12, 1747

My Lord

I recd yesterday the Honour of your Lordships Letter, in wch you inform me, that you fear it will be impracticable for the Visitors to meet before Midsummer. And I find the Bp of London is of your Lordships Opinion, that we cannot act as Visitors without meeting. If this be so, the Consequence seems to be that we cannot grant Mr Tottie a longer Continuance without meeting, & that former Grants of that Kind are void. However, as there are such Precedents made; and as your Lordship thinks it wd be hard if not unjust, to refuse making another in this Case, & as the Time presses, I shall concur in it. But at the same time I beg Leave to declare, that I will act no more in this manner, till we have good Opinions, in due Form, to direct us, how we may or may not act. —

[TO]

To the Ven. John Tottie

(ix, no. 16)

[f.1] St. James's Westminster, May 12, 1747

Mr Archdeacon

I am sincerely disposed to do every thing in your Favour, that I properly can. But a Doubt hath been raised by the Bp of Worcester, whether the Visitors can act without meeting. He seems to apprehend, they cannot. And the Bp of London, [f.1v.] whom we have both consulted, is of that Opinion.¹ Now if this be the Case, we cannot grant you a Continuance in your Fellowship without meeting, & the former Grants of that Kind are void. However as such Precedents have been made, and the Bp of Worcester is desirous that we shd make another, & the Time presses, I shall consent to it. But I will act no more in this manner, till we have good Opinions, in due Form, that we may. I thank you for Mr Wrights Opinion on the main Question: wch shall be carefully & impartially considered by your loving brother & humble sert

TO

[This letter was copied by Secker on the same piece of paper as the preceding letter.]

¹ Edmund Gibson.

From the Rt. Revd. Dr. Isaac Maddox

(ix, no. 17)

[f.1] Bristol, May, 16, 1747

My Lord,

The Honour of your Lordships Letter of the 12th was greatly acceptable to me. I have always been of Opinion that the Visitors (who are by the Statutes constituted such *simul & conjunctim*, & directed to give *consociata consilia*) should meet together. I told Mr. Geers so upon his Application to me soon after I was made Bishop of Worcester, but as Your Lordship & Mr. Vice-Chancr. had signed, I would not refuse him my Hand.

Your Lordship is very candid in Mr. Tottie's Case, who I really think deserves all the Favour we can reasonably & properly shew; & I am convinced none of the Visitors desire to exceed those Bounds.

There is a Circumstance very much in his Favour that distinguishes his Case from Mr. Geers's & I believe all the other Cases; which is, that all the Visitors did actually meet together & agree (if the College applied in his Favour as has been done) to grant him a Continuance in his Fellowship; & it is only to extend [f.2] the Term of this Grant that he now applys. Had the Visitors been able to meet, there had been no Room for this Request; but as that is not the Case the Ground & Reasons of our former *joint Agreement*, when met together, still subsists; & I consider this Prolongation of the Time as a Matter included in our former Resolution. For could we have certainly foreseen that this Affair could not be determined by Midsumr. 1747 I make

no Question, but that we should have lengthened out the Time, as is now requested, for the very same Reasons that we agreed to grant him a conditional Continuance till that Day.

As for the Future; it is perfectly agreeable to my Sentiments not to act any more in the separte [sic] Manner and I most heartily concur with your Lordship in that particular; tho' I do not think Mr. Totties Case to be exactly of that Nature as he only requests the Continuance of a Grant which was agreed upon when we were met together. I am greatly obliged to your Lordship for your very friendly Regards to me & am with much Respect yr. Lordps. affecte. humble Servt.

Isa. Worcester.

From the Ven. John Tottie

(ix, no. 18)

Oxford, June 1, 1747

My Lord,

I beg leave to return your Lop. thanks for your kind Indulgence to me in consenting to a farther Continuance of my Fellowship; & at the same time to submit to your Lop. a Copy of the Instrument for that purpose. I should not have presumed to have varied from the Form in which the last was drawn, had I not receiv'd the Bishop of Worcester's Opinion in favour of the present alteration. In case your Lop. does not approve of it in the shape it now appears in, with whatever Alterations you are pleased to return it, the Instrument shall punctually be made out accordingly. I only beg leave to mention that the College are perfectly disposed to receive their Visitors Injunctions in whatever manner they please to give them; and that, for my own part, I am not desirous of continuing one moment longer in the College, than 'till I have a house to put my head in, & an Income sufficient to keep me from starving.

I am My Lord Your Lops. most dutifull & obedient humble servant

J. Tottie.

To the Ven. John Tottie

(ix, no. 16)

[f.1v.] St. James's Westminster, June 2, 1747

Sir

I am sorry to make Objections. But till I know the Reasons, wch persuade my Lord of Worcester, that the Limitation to one year wch was in the former Grant of Continuance, ought to be omitted in this, inserting it as before will appear the righter way to your loving brother & humble servt

[TO]

[This letter was copied by Secker on the same piece of paper as those to Maddox of May 12, 1747, and to Tottie of May 12, 1747, but is here placed chronologically.]

From the Ven. John Tottie*(ix, no. 19)*

Oxford, June 4, 1747

My Lord,

I should have acquainted your Lop. with the Reasons the Bp. of Worcester mentioned to me for the Alteration in the Grant, had I not imagined he might have suggested them to your Lop. himself. He observ'd that it was certainly the Intention of the Visitors, at their last meeting, to continue me in my Fellowship 'till they could give their final Judgement upon the doubt proposed to them; that their Limitation of the Term to one Year went upon the presumption that they shd. undoubtedly meet before the Expiration of it; that unavoidable unforeseen Accidents might in the Course of the ensuing Year, as they did in this, prevent a Meeting of the Visitors; or that even the Death of a Visitor & the Vacancy of a See, might render one impossible; In which case I can have no Remedy, but must be deprived of my Fellowship, without any Decision upon the Point in question; & when my keeping of it wd. be even more necessary to my Subsistence than ever; And that he apprehended no Sort of Inconvenience could arise from making the Grant more indefinite in Point of Time. I entirely submit to your Lops. Judgement how far these Reasons are of weight: If you think them not sufficient to justify the proposed Alteration; I beg the favour ('tho' I am sorry that I am obliged to be so troublesome;) that your Lop. will please just to intimate as much to me in a Line, & your Directions shall be punctually followed by

My Lord, Your Lops. most Dutifull & most obedient Servant

J. Tottie.

From the Revd. George Wilmot¹*(ix, no. 20)*

[f.1] Balliol College, Dec. 7, 1747

Right Reverend Lord,

I humbly beg leave to lay before your Lordship as Visitor of Worcester College the following Case and submit it to your Lordship's Judgment not doubting but that your Lordship will think yourself interested to do justice on it.

I have been lawfully possess'd of a Scholarship in Worcester College since the 24th. day of June 1739. A Vacancy in the Chaplain Fellowships of Balliol College happening this year and I finding no probability of any such thing at Worcester College, tho' I have long expected it, I determined to offer myself a Candidate there and had the honour to be elected by that Society on the 29th. of Nov: last. The day following the Election I had notice given me that the Provost of Worcr. College, by Virtue of an Order pretended to be lately made, tho', as I am well informed never entered in the College Register, and wch., if enter'd I conceive to be of no Validity, intended to strike my name out of the College Book and deprive me of the

benefitt of the Scholarship as soon as the present Quarter should expire. I waited upon him to know the truth and found it as represented. I expostulated with him some time to no effect, which has obliged me in pursuance of my Friends Advice, to give your Lordship this trouble for which otherwise there had been no Occasion.

The Statute of Worcester College containing all the disqualifications of Fellows and Scholars (for they appear in both Cases to be the same, tho' the Provost is pleased to put a different Construction upon the Statute) is as Follows.

Statuimus quod nemo Sociorum sive Scholarium Foundationis hujus sive donationis beneficio ultra vicesimum quintum annum a primâ admissione in Collegium quoquo modo gaudebit, nisi Visitatores, Praeposito et majore parte sociorum supplicantibus, ulteriorem moram cuiquam concesserint. Et si quis Sociorum sive Scholarium uxorem duxerit eum intra anni Spatium amovendum, censemus et ipso facto amotum decernimus. Statuimus item quod si quis e Sociis vel Scholaribus assecutus fuerit haereditatem Fædumve seculare aut annuam pensionem, durante vitâ, supra duplum valorem emolumenti quod ratione Societatis reddit quotannis. Vel si [f.1v.] quis Beneficium Ecclesiasticum cum Curâ animarum vel sine Curâ supra valorem annuum 10 Librarum in Libro Census Regii fuerit adeptus, tunc eum vel eos post annum, qui *Gratiæ* dicitur pro non Sociis et Scholaribus habendos fore eosdemque Collegio privatos decernimus ipso facto.

I humbly conceive that a Fellowship of Balliol College by no means can fall within this Statute, in any sense whatever and as I can do any Duty at Worcr. College, wch. can either by Statute or Custom be required and have offered to do it, that accepting of it is by no means sufficient disqualification, at least for the Provost or indeed the whole Society witht. the Consent of a Superior Authority to dispossess me of a Freehold.

2ndly. I would beg of your Lordship to consider that I am not yet admitted upon the Foundation of Balliol College nor can by any means be entitled to any Salary or Stipend from the same till the 29th. of Nov: next, when I may be admitted or rejected as the Society shall think proper. The Statute of Balliol Coll: will, I hope, set this matter in a very clear Light – “Electus quisque per integrum probetur annum, quo completo, per eosdem, a quibus eligebatur, eodem modo aut admittatur vel repellatur.” – Being in actual possession of nothing by the Election except a Room witht. wch. I should not be able to attend the Duties of the College & being intituled to no Emolument or Privilege but that of constantly officiating as Chaplain half the year gratis, I conceive at present, that the Statute of Worcester College above recited cannot, however construed, be supposed to intend any immediate disqualification.

3dly. I would represent to your Lordship that the Sense of Worcester College in these Cases has formerly been very different from what it now appears to be and a Person has been allowed to continue a Member of that

Society after accepting a Fellowship at Merton College where, as I am informed, some Stipend is allowed – This was the Case of Mr. Wall who was elected Fellow of Merton College (as appears by the College Register) the 4th. of August 1734 and continued to enjoy the Salary of the Scholarship at Worcester College (as appears by their Books) till the end of Midsummer Quarter 1735 or a whole year.²

These things I submit to your Lordship's Judgment and humbly request of your Lordship that you would take them into your Consideration with the other Visitors and [f.2v.] that you would, if it shall appear reasonable, with them prohibit any proceedings of the College against me till the Sense of the Statute can be ascertained and the whole affair regularly determined. I am, my Lord, with all respect, your Lordship's

most dutiful and obedient Servant

G Wilmot.

¹ Of Worcs., m. Worcester Coll 1739 a.16, M.A. 1745/6.

² John Wall of Worcs., m. Worcester Coll. 1726 a.18, Merton M.A. 1736, D. Med. 1759.

Notes in Secker's hand, endorsed 'Wilmot Mr.'

(ix, no. 21)

n.d.

Mr Edmonds Scholar of Jesus chosen Fell. of Oriel for some time held both¹ Qu[ery] how it ended

Mr Cooksey Sch. of Worcester chosen fellow of Merton abt 2 or 3 years ago his scholarship declared vacant at the end of the Quarter²

Mr Wall was continued by the Inadvertence of Dr Blechingdon³

¹ The same Henry Edmunds who undertook to give an opinion in the dispute over the Lincoln College peculiars.

² Holland Cooksey of Worcs., m. Worcester Coll. 1739 a.17, Merton M.A. 1746, Lincoln's Inn 1749, barrister-at-law.

³ Richard Blechingdon of Surrey, m. St. John's Coll. 1685, a.17, D.C.L. 1695/6, principal Gloucester Hall 1712–14, provost Worcester College 1714–36.

(ix, no. 22)

Statement of the grounds of appeal to the visitors of the college by George Wilmot, M.A., on his removal by William Gower, provost of Worcester College, from his scholarship, from participation in commons at the college, and from the college books, the denial of his right to appeal, his claiming that the holding of a fellowship at another college was no disqualification and that the grievances complained of occurred within 15 days of the statement; drawn up by John Stewart, notary public, Jan.5, 1747.

From the Revd. George Wilmot

(ix, no. 23)

[f.2] Balliol College, Dec. 3, 1750

Rt. Revd. Lord,

I am sorry I am obliged to press upon yr. Lordship for the Determination of a Case, which has now lain before yr Lordship as one of the Visitors of Worcester College, near three years. I shd. have been far from troubling you with a Complaint, had not I thought myself greatly injured; and, tho' the thing in dispute may appear to one in yr Lordship's high Station of little or no Consequence, yet it is by no means so to one in my Circumstances. I shall readily acquiesce in any Determination, but must earnestly entreat yr Lordship to endeavour to bring it to some. I am now applying to the Ld. Bp. of Worcester, to the same purpose. Were there any other Application to be made in this Case, in order to procure redress, Your Lordship and the other Visitors should not find me thus importunate; and, as I ask but justice from them, [f.1v.] it wd. be injustice to a Person invested with your Lordships Sacred Character to suspect, that you will either refuse or retard it. I am, My Lord, with all respect

Yr. Lordship's Dutiful and Obedient Servt.

G Wilmot.

[To London and endorsed 'Mr Wilmot concerning his Appeal Dec 3 1750']

To the Revd. George Wilmot

(ix, no. 24)¹

St. James's Westminster, Dec. 4, 1750

Sir

I always have been and shall be ready to do my part in hearing your appeal and giving [?assistance] but you know [the] visitors are to act jointly and [the] Bp of Worcester being first named in [the] statutes the same must require that he should be first mover in [the] business. I am Sir your loving brother and servant.

TO

To the Reverend Mr Wilmot at Balliol College Oxford

¹ The letter is in cipher.

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