

WITLEY.

A SURVEY OF THE PARISH
CHURCH OF WITLEY AND
GREAT AND LITTLE WITLEY
CHAPELS.

MADE IN 1923

FOR THE BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AND ALSO

A LIST OF RECTORS
FROM 1277.

BY

R. A. WILSON,
RECTOR.

Printed by
G. T. CHESHIRE & SONS, LTD.,
Stourport-on-Severn,
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*To G. T. Cheshire
from Rector
East 1945*

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The Committee appointed by the Bishop to advise him and his Chancellor about alterations or additions to Churches and their ornaments and furniture has completed a survey of all the Churches in the diocese and their chief possessions. Every parish has now a copy of its own survey, but, as this has to be kept in the Church safe, and few would see it, it was printed by instalments in the Parish Magazine and is now issued in a more convenient form.

The Parish Church.

THE CHURCH of S. Michael and All Angels has not its like in the diocese, nor, so far as we know in England.

Its chief feature is the interior decorations. The walls have raised plaster ornament, gilt on a white ground, and the ceiling is embellished in the same way but far more elaborately, with the addition of three large and many small paintings framed in the plaster designs.

HISTORY.—Of the old Church nothing remains except the gateposts of the Churchyard, which are made from pillars of the arcade with their bases inverted over them. They appear to date from the thirteenth century.

The new Church was planned by the first Lord and Lady Foley. He died in January 1733. She finished the rebuilding, but died in December 1735 before the Church was opened.

The second Lord Foley in 1747 brought the windows and ceiling from the Chapel at Canons near Edgware, when the Duke of Chandos's house there was broken up.

About the year 1861 William, first Earl of Dudley, cased the Church with stone—it had been of brick with stone facings—and did up the interior, taking away the old box-pews and putting in new seats and other fittings. The architect was S. W. Daukes.

In the twentieth century the ceiling showed signs of collapse. The second Earl had it secured to steel girders.

DESCRIPTION.—In plan the Church is a Basilica, with aisleless nave, eastern transepts, and a shallow rectangular recess instead of an apse. It is built of brick faced with stone, and is roofed with slate.

The door is at the west end under a small portico and opens into a vestibule, on each side of which is a vestry under the west gallery. Above the vestibule rises a small rectangular tower, surmounted by an octagonal cupola with gilded dome.

The interior dimensions of the Church are:—Length 80 feet, width of nave $33\frac{1}{2}$, width in the transepts 50, height 30 feet.

There are ten round headed windows, three on each side of the nave, two in the west galleries, not so tall as the others, one in the north transept, and an east window with additional rectangular side-lights filled with a formal design in coloured glass. These windows have painted glass by Joshua Price, after designs by Sebastian Ricci. They are dated 1719 (except one of 1721) and came from Canons in 1747. The subjects beginning with the east window and going round by the south are:—(1) The Resurrection; (2) The Draught of Fishes, (St. John xxi); (3) The Nativity; (4) The Annunciation; (5) The Supper at Emmaus; (6) The Golden Calf; (7) The Visit to S. Elizabeth; (8) The Adoration of the Magi; (9) The Baptism; (10) The Healing of the Cripple at the Beautiful Gate, (Acts iii).

There is no window in the south transept.

It is occupied by Rysbrach's monument to the first Lord and Lady Foley and five of their children who predeceased them. It is figured in Nash.

The walls are decorated with plaster ornament in relief, gilded.

A deep cornice runs above the windows.

The coved ceiling has in the middle a very large painting of the Ascension, in shape an oblong with semicircular ends and a bow on each side. East and west of this are two smaller circular paintings, the western "The Nativity" and the eastern "The Descent from the Cross." There also 10 oval medallions representing cupid-like angels holding the instruments of the Passion, and 10 other smaller panels of cherubs.

Nash, writing within 35 years of the break up of Canons, says: "The windows were painted by Price and the ceiling by Verrio. They were designed for the Chapel at Canons, but when misfortune befel the magnificent Duke of Chandos they were purchased by the second Lord Foley, and fit the Church as well as if they had been originally designed for it."

This is good evidence. But as Verrio died some years before the Chapel at Canons was built, it has been suggested that the paintings are by his pupil Laguerre, possibly from Verrio's designs. In "The Beauties of England and Wales" (1814), vol. 13, pt. 2, p. 288 etc., a third painter is put forward. The ceiling is by Verrio and was originally fitted up at Canons, and with other decorations was bought at the sale which took place soon after the duke's death. Some part of it may be by another artist, for Lord Orford says that Belucci arrived in England from the court of the Elector Palatine in 1716, and was employed by the Duke of Chandos on the Chapel at Canons. (See Walpole's Works, vol. 3, p. 419). But this is most likely a confusion of the Chapel with Little Stanmore Church, St. Lawrence's Whitchurch, which still has Belucci's paintings.

The plaster work in which the paintings are set is very elaborate. Presumably it came with the paintings from Canons and is the work of Pergotti.

Over the west door is the organ. A semicircular balcony provides a place for the player. On each side of it are the singers' lofts opening into the nave by round headed arches.

The Reredos is of oak with very fine carving. In its three panels were formerly the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Creed. These were replaced in 1913 by mosaics, the work of Salviati of Venice and brought from there by Rachel, Countess of Dudley. The ground is gold. In the centre panel is a Cross, and in the side panels a sheaf of lilies.

Lady Dudley also gave the furnishings of the altar, a white frontal of old Italian embroidery; a silver Crucifix and candlesticks; three Sanctuary Lamps (a thank offering for the safe return of her husband and his brothers from the Boer War,) and a pair of flower vases. These are said to have once been in Rouen Cathedral. Also a silver book-back for the Prayer book of repoussé work with a foreign coat of arms.

The Communion rails are a fine example of wrought brass and iron work, and date from the restoration by the first Earl, as also do the pulpit, prayer desk, font and seats.

The pulpit has carved panels representing:

- (1) The Sermon on the Mount.
- (2) Our Lord preaching from the Ship.
- (3) The Charge to the Apostles.
- (4) St. Augustine preaching to the English.

The Font is of white marble on a black base. The basin is supported by three kneeling angels. The oak cover is surmounted by a very dignified figure of S. John the Baptist.

The carving of all these was done by James Forsyth.

The court seats occupy the north transept from which a door opens into the house. In the north-west corner of the transept is a monument to Thomas Foley, died 1677, (*inscription in Nash*). There used to be a fireplace below it.

The pavement of the aisle and sanctuary is of black and white marble and was laid in 1861.

The Church was lit with electric light in 1921 by Sir Herbert Smith, who bought Witley Court that year.

TABLETS, &c.—In the clergy vestry is a tablet to Thomas Wright (Rector 1661-1701), (*inscription in Nash*).

In the south gallery is a tablet to William Cliffe, died 1695, (*inscription in Nash*).

TOMBS, &c.—Below the nave of the Church is a large vaulted crypt, which was the Foley burying place. Their coffins are now walled up. The coffin shoot is from the vestibule.

The Tomb of William, first Earl of Dudley (died 1885), is in the north west corner bay, which is lined with black marble and enclosed by iron railings. The tomb is of red granite.

Under the north transept is the heating apparatus.

BELLS.—I. A large bell, too badly cracked to be rung. It is sounded by a rope to the

clapper. Inscription: "I to the Church the living call and to the grave do summon all." Maker's mark A. R. with a bell between, 1734, (Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester).

2. A small call bell, inscription: "Samuel Suthall C. W. 1738." Maker's mark R. S. with a bell between, (Richard Sanders of Bromsgrove).

There is a clock in the tower striking quarters and hours, made by Joyce, replacing one by Thorp, of Abberley.

CHURCH PLATE. 1. Cup, silver parcel gilt, height 5 in., diameter of bowl $3\frac{1}{3}$ in., of foot $2\frac{2}{5}$ in. No hall mark. Date (?) time of Q. Elizabeth, or earlier.

There is a gilt band round the bowl with alternate rounds and lozenges, five of each, and two gilt bands round the stem, which is of unusual shape. It curves out like a trumpet below the upper band, projecting slightly beyond the lower band, which like the upper is vertical, but unlike it has zig-zag ornament. Below this projects the foot.

2. Paten, silver parcel gilt, diameter $4\frac{5}{8}$ in. No hall mark. (Date late 15th or early 16th century). In the centre, within a six foil depression is the Vernicle (*i.e.*, the head of Our Lord) roughly incised on the gilt. In the spandrils of the six foil are rayed leaf ornaments gilt. There is a further depression about $\frac{3}{4}$ in. from the outside, and round the edge runs a narrow gilt border. The paten, like the cup is very thin metal.

Also a silver-gilt set consisting of:—

3. Cup, height 8 in., diameter of bowl $3\frac{7}{8}$ in., of foot $4\frac{1}{8}$ in. Hall mark London 1676. Maker's mark, a script R with a pellet below.

4. Paten with foot, cover to cup, diameter 5 in. Hall mark defaced. Same maker's mark.

5. Credence Paten or Alms dish with foot, diameter $9\frac{1}{2}$ in. Hall mark Britannia Standard 1717. Maker's mark partially defaced, a B.

Inscription:—"The gift of the Right Honorable Mary Lady Foley to the Parish Church of Great Witley in the county of Worcester. A.D. 1718." Arms of Foley impaling Strode.

6. Flagon, height 11 in., diameter of top — in., of base $6\frac{3}{4}$ in. Hall mark Britannia Standard 1718. Maker's mark F.A.

Inscription same as on Alms Dish except that the date is 1713. Arms as on Alms dish.

7. A pewter plate, diameter 9 in. Crest and monogram of Foley, a lion rampant holding an escutcheon of the arms.

Also:—

Crucifix.

2 Candlesticks.

3 Sanctuary Lamps.

2 Flower Vases.

Back for book.

These are all of foreign manufacture and were given by Rachel, Lady Dudley.

The inscription on the lamp is "William Humble, John Hubert, Robert Arthur, Reginald, Gerald Ernest. He gave light to them that sat in darkness, and did guide their feet into the way of peace, 1899-1900-1901."

The arms on the Book-back are surmounted by a coronet and are: a cock standing on a hill and holding in its dexter claw a stalk of corn eared. In chief three stars with a crescent below them.

REGISTERS. — 1. Baptisms, Burials, Marriages, 1538 to 1688, 41 leaves. This book contains: (a) the parchment copy from November 30th, 1538, to July 31st, 1556. (b) the paper original from August 20th, 1553, to May 18th, 1630. One leaf, which contained the entries between June 15th, 1557, and March 27th, 1561, is wanting. (c) The parchment original from October 13th, 1634, to September 29th, 1688.

The gaps are from June 1557 to March 1561 and from May 1630 to October 1634. No entries for 1658.

2. Baptisms, Burials and Marriages to 1754 only. 1688-1812. The marriages from 1738 to 1754 are out of place and begin on folio 76.

3. Marriages, 1754-1812.
4. Marriages, 1812-1836.
5. Baptisms, 1813-1874.
6. Burials, 1813-1908.
7. Marriages, 1837-
8. Baptisms, 1874-
9. Burials, 1908-

There are no *old* churchwardens' accounts. There is a parish book beginning 1710, and Hillampton accounts, 1826.

Publications dealing with Witley are:—

1. Statistical and general history of Worcestershire, Fasc. 1. Great Witley by Rev. Thos. Pearson rector, and Rev. John Pearson (his son) 1837.
2. The Parish Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Witley, by Horace Monroe, rector, 1909. Worc. Dio. Mag.
3. For Canons see "The Princely Chandos" by Robinson. Sampson Low, Marston & Co. 1893.

4. "Beauties of England and Wales" 1814, vol. xiii, pt. 2, p. 288.

5. The Illustrated London News of July 20th, 1861, has an engraving and description of the Font.

6. Nash's Worcestershire, 1781.

7. Victoria County History, Worcester-shire.



Little Witley Chapel.

The Chapel of St. Michael and All Angels is said to have been re-dedicated to the Holy Trinity about the beginning of this century. It is an ancient Chapel of Holt and was transferred to Great Witley by Order in Council dated 14th November, 1904.

It consists of a chancel and nave, built of red sandstone and roofed with tiles.

It was almost entirely rebuilt from designs by Perkins in 1867. The nave was lengthened a little eastward and an apse added to the chancel. The walls of the nave, especially the south wall, were not altogether taken down, nor was the lower part of the south wall of the chancel, but the only architectural features surviving are, externally, a built-up door in the north wall of the nave, presumably of the 13th century, and, internally, a piscina in the south wall of the chancel. This was within the sanctuary of the old Chapel but is now a few feet outside it.

The style chosen for the rebuilding is mostly Early English, but the nave windows have two lights with simple tracery.

At the west end of the nave is a bell turret with a spirelet in the Early English style, containing one bell.

The interior dimensions are: Nave, 36ft. 8in. by 17ft. 8in.; Chancel 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ ft. by 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ ft. There is a Vestry on the north side of the chancel, with a stoke hole below, and a porch on the south side of the nave towards

the west end, with low stone walls and open timber work above.

The roof is of English oak; that of the nave single framed with scissor tie beams; that of the chancel has archbraced principals and short wall posts.

All the stone carving, corbels, capitals, font and pulpit, is the work of Mrs. Sale, wife of the then rector of Holt.

The seats are of English oak; and all the fittings, including a brass eagle lectern are modern and suitable.

It is a very successful modern building.

The font of the old chapel, which had been in the garden of Little Witley Farm since 1867, was given back in 1922. It is intended to set it up as a sundial in the Churchyard.

There is one bell: Samwell Thomas C.W. 1733. R. (bell) S. (R. Sanders).

CHURCH PLATE. (1) Cup, height 6 in., diameter of bowl 3 in., of foot 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ in. Hall mark, London 1570-1. Maker's mark may be a spray of rose. Inscription: Poculum sacrum Capellariae de Witley Parva Humph Hill Warden 1705."

A typical Elizabethan with the usual engraved floral band.

2. Paten, cover to cup. Diameter 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Same hall mark. Engraved on button "1571."

3. Credence Paten or Alms dish of Sheffield plate. Diameter 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Inscription "Little Witley d.d. John Foley rector 1833."

4. An electro-plated paten with foot. Diameter 6 in.

5. Cup of Sheffield plate, height 6 $\frac{1}{8}$ in., diameter of bowl at foot 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. Inscription as No. 3.

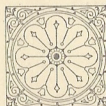
Other Church goods :—

- Brass Altar Cross set with crystals.
2 pairs of Brass Flower Vases.
1 pair of Brass Candlesticks.
1 Brass Alms-dish.
1 Wrought iron hanging Candelabrum.
Brass Altar rails.

REGISTERS :—

1. Baptisms, 1680-1812.
Burials, 1680-1764.
Marriages, 1680-1753.
2. Marriages, 1756-1811.
3. Baptisms, 1813-
4. Marriages, 1837-
5. Burials, 1901-

NOTE.—The graveyard at Little Witley was consecrated in 1899. Previous burials were at Holt.



Great Witley Chapel.

Great Witley Chapel is about a mile from the Parish Church. It was built in 1882 as a Cemetery Chapel in the new graveyard, and was licensed that year. In 1895 it was enlarged so that it might be used regularly for services. The Vestry was added in 1897.

It is a plain brick building with stone facings having a three-sided apse, and, at the west end, a bell cote with one small modern bell.

The main door is on the north side near the west end and has a small porch. Opening into the nave by a similar door opposite this is the vestry. There is an organ chamber on the south side near the east end.

It is roofed with tiles.

Inside it is plastered and colour washed and has an open double-framed roof of pine, the principals and collars arch-braced.

The chancel is formed by a raised wooden floor.

The furniture is all modern. The seating is by chairs.

The font, a white marble basin on a stone pedestal, was that of the Parish Church built in 1735.

Registers and Plate (*See the Parish Church*).

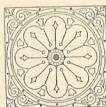
Other Church goods :—

1. A crucifix of ebony with plaster figure.
2. Two brass Altar Crosses.
3. Two pair of brass candlesticks.
4. A pair of three-branch brass candlesticks.
5. A hanging sanctuary lamp.
6. An electro-plated alms-dish.
7. Three pairs of brass flower vases.

CHURCHYARD.—A lych-gate of open timber roofed with tiles.

A memorial cross to the men who fell in the Great War, 1914-1919 (by Davies of Worcester).

On the south side of the graveyard and divided from it by a double hedge is the private burial ground of the Earl of Dudley. It was planned by Rachel, countess of Dudley. The entrance is from the park by wrought iron gates. First comes the Memory garden, where are two stone benches, with kneeling angels in bronze at the ends, within coves of yew hedge. In it are the graves of Reginald Ward, died 1904, Rachel, countess of Dudley, died 1920, and Anthony Orlando Bridgeman, died 1930.



The Rectors of Witley.

The conversion of the English was begun by Augustine in 597. In 668 Theodore of Tarsus became Archbishop of Canterbury and set about organizing what had been at first a missionary enterprise into dioceses and parishes.

The diocese of Worcester was founded about 679, and Witley may have had a Church soon after that. But for the next 600 years the rectors have left no memorial. It was not until Bishops began to keep registers that there is any record of their names, and for long after that they left little more than a name behind them.

The first Church was most likely a small wooden building, built by the men of the place and endowed by the "thegn" or lord of the manor, who in return was allowed to choose the priest who served it, presenting him to the Bishop for approval and institution. The lords of the manor of Witley were patrons of the rectory until 1926, when Lord Dudley's advowsons in the diocese were sold and transferred to the Bishop.

There was a break in the succession of rectors during the Commonwealth, when Parliament abolished Bishops and established Presbyterianism.

The list is based on the lists in Nash's "Worcestershire" and Miller's "Parishes of the Diocese of Worcester."

A question mark before a date means that there is a record of the man as rector at that date, but the year when he began is not known.

? 1277 JOHN called GIFFARD had 2 years' leave of absence for study. He was not ordained priest till 1282.

1278 JOHN DE BRANESFORD clerk, instituted 23rd February. Patron: Sir William de Forches. Alyna widow of Hugh de Poher withdrew her presentee.

1288 HUGH DE CALDEWELL or CALVELL inducted 8th January but not instituted because not in Holy orders. Ordained sub-deacon and instituted 22nd February. P.: Sir Walter Cokeseye.

1307 WILLIAM FOUKES priest, instituted 13th November, on death of H. de C. P.: Walter Cokeseye.

1328 Master RICHARD DE LA FELDE acolyte, instituted 19th April on resignation of W.F. P.: Walter Cokeseye.

1349 WALTER DE MALLEYE priest, 5th July, on death of R. de la F. P.: Hugh Cokeseye.

1350 RICHARD LE PARKERE chaplain, 10th October. P.: Hugh Cokeseye.

1351 GILBERT DE HUNDERTON Vicar of Barsham exchanged with R.P. 1st December. P.: Hugh Cokeseye.

1357 Master WILLIAM ALEYN of Rochewell rector of Spetchley exchanged with G. de H. 7th January. P.: The King as guardian of the heir of Hugh Cokeseye. Dionysia widow of Hugh asserted that she ought to present.

1361 WILLIAM DE HERDEWYKE priest, 21st August on death of W. of Rochewell. Vicar of S. Andrew's, Worcester, 1368. P.: Dionysia widow of Hugh Cokeseye.

1362 SIMON DE PILARDINTON chaplain, rector of Atherston on Stour, exchanged with W. de H. 13th August. P.: Dionysia widow of Hugh Cokeseye.

? 1382 WILLIAM REDE resigned. Afterwards vicar of Upton Snodsbury 1387 and rector of Martley 1389.

1382 JOHN FESAUNT priest, 25th July on resignation of W.R. Rector of Doverdale till 1415.

1386 HENRY WODEWARD rector of Doverdale exchanged with J.F. 14th December. P.: Sir Walter Cokeseye.

1392 RICHARD FAULEY rector of Broughton Hacket exchanged with H.W. 29th July. P.: Sir Walter Cokeseye.

? 1395 RICHARD DUDLE had leave of absence for a year 18th November.

1407 JOHN HAMMOND 31st January. P.: Walter Cokeseye, Esq.

1410 JOHN HAWKYS 6th January on resignation of J. Hammond. Afterwards vicar of Rowington 1412, and Tardebigge 1414-6. P.: John Phellipus, lord of Witley.

1412 ROBERT BOLDE vicar of Rowington exchanged with Hawkys 4th August. P.: John Phelipp.

? 1443 RICHARD BACHILER resigned. Afterwards rector of Astley.

1443 NICHOLAS RICHEMAN, 10th December, on resignation of Bachiler. P.: Sir Hugh Cokeseye.

? 1446 JOHN CLARE resigned.

1446 THOMAS MOTTE chaplain, 10th October, on resignation of Clare. P.: Sir Andrew Ogard.

1461 JOHN CHALONER, rector of Tedstone Delamere from 1448, exchanged with Motte 26th June. P.: Lady Joyce Beauchamp.

1502 JOHN WALL died. ? Rector of Areley Kings 1485.

1502 JOHN REE chaplain, 13th May, on death of Wall. P.: The Bishop by lapse.

1503 RICHARD TAYLOR, 22nd August, on death of Ree. P.: The guardian of the heir of Robert Russell.

1508 JOHN BLAMYRE chaplain, 29th November on death of Taylor. In 1514 he was ordered to induct another John Blamyre to Abberley. P.: The guardian of the heir of John Russell.

1531 RICHARD ADAMS chaplain, 12th December. In 1535 he was commissioned to marry Philip Polehowse and Eliz. Myllys of Witley with one publication of banns.

The income of the benefice was £7 4s. 10½d. P.: John Russell of Strensham and Edith his wife.

1554 ALAN CLYFFE, 14th July, on death of Adams. Buried 6th January, 1570. Presumably the first married rector for several centuries.

1570 ALAN CLYFFE, 13th January, on death of his father. The two Clyffes held the rectory for 79 years. The first must have married before the reign of Mary. His widow Grace survived till 1602. After her

death Alan the second married, being then about 60. His wife's name was Jane. Their first child was born in 1607 and their last in 1621. She died in 1629 and he in 1633. Their descendants lived at Hillhampton for many years.

1634 RICHARD JONES, 17th January, on death of Alan Clyffe. Buried 24th March, 1635. P.: Sir William Russell.

1635 HENRY WHITTINGTON, M.A., 30th April, on death of Jones. Buried 12th February, 1650. P.: William Russell of Strensham.

THE COMMONWEALTH. As early as 1642 Parliament had set up a Committee for Plundered Ministers, which aimed at putting a puritan into every benefice. Not much of this was done in Worcestershire till 1646, when Bishops were abolished and Presbyterianism established and Worcester taken by the Parliamentary forces. Whittington was not disturbed. It is not known whether he conformed to the Government religion or not. After his death Francis Marshall became minister, paying first fruits 22nd November, 1650. He appears to have been living at Witley from 1645, when he married, to at least 1656, when his 7th child was baptized. At the Restoration he conformed and became vicar of Grimley. Joseph Read succeeded him as minister and was turned out at the Restoration. Children of his were baptized in September, 1660, and November, 1661.

The inference from these facts and from the antecedents of the rector who followed, is that party feeling did not run high in Witley.

1662 THOMAS WRIGHT, 22nd February. Son of Ralph Wright, of Stanford-on-Teme, priest, B.A. of B.N.C., Oxford, October, 1638. Rector of Upper Sapey about 1642.

Intruded into Hartlebury during the Commonwealth 1647—60. Ejected at the Restoration. Is said to have declared that wild horses would not drag him to use the new Prayer Book, but thought better of it and conformed and was presented to Witley by Mr. Foley, who had rather puritanical leanings. Died 21st January, 1701, aged 85. P.: Thomas Foley.

1701 JOHN WRIGHT, 28th February. Son of John Wright, of Worcester, clerk (most likely master of the King's School from 1667 to 1696). Magdalen Hall, Oxford, B.A. 1693, M.A. 1696. In 1706 the old Rectory in the paddock opposite the garden house of Witley Court was exchanged for a house where the present Rectory is. Buried 18th December, 1719. P.: Thomas Foley.

1719 ROGER FOLEY, 22nd January. Son of Samuel Foley, Bishop of Down and Connor, 1694—5, and second cousin to Lord Foley. Trinity College, Dublin, B.A. 1708, M.A. 1711. Incorporated at Oxford, 1711. B.D. and D.D. 1736. Rector of Shelsley Beauchamp 1720. Died 16th October, 1764. P.: Lord Foley.

1720 GEORGE NELSON, 13th March. Christ's College, Cambridge, B.A. 1694, M.A. 1709. Buried 31st July, 1741. The Parish Church was rebuilt in his time. P.: Lord Foley.

1741 LUCY BERKELEY, Instituted 14th August, re-instituted 10th October. Son of Rowland Berkeley, of Cotheridge. New College, Oxford, B.A. 1737, M.A. 1741. Also Rector of Acton Beauchamp 1741—93. Died 1793, aged 79. P.: Lord Foley.

1793 WILLIAM CALCOTT, 31st August. Son of Rowland Calcott, of Atcham, co. Salop, and himself of Caynham Court, Salop. New College, Oxford, B.A. 1780. Married his cousin Jane, only daughter of Lucy Berkeley and succeeded his father-in-law in both his benefices, but resigned Acton in 1807 in favour of his wife's nephew, John Rowland Berkeley. P.: Lord Foley

1820 WILLIAM ANDREW FOLEY, 1st August. Son of Andrew Foley, M.P. and first cousin to Lord Foley. Born 1792. Trinity College, Cambridge, B.A. 1815, M.A. 1819. Died unmarried. P.: Lord Foley.

1828 THOMAS PEARSON, 21st October. Son of Thomas Pearson of Tettenhall, Staffs. Born 17th June, 1774. J.P., Chairman of the Hundred House Bench and Vice-Chairman of Quarter Sessions. Chairman of the Building Committee of the Shirehall. He and his son John (afterwards Rector of Suckley) wrote the account of Great Witley in the "Statistical and General History of Worcestershire," 1856. Rector of Stockton-on-Teme 1808. Died 15th March, 1857. In his time Queen Adelaide lived at Witley Court (1843—6), and built the old School (now the Institute), School House and the cottage in which Mr. V. Fryer now lives. P.: Lord Foley.

1857 DAVID MELVILLE, 21st September. Son of David Melville, of Dulwich, merchant. Born 5th February, 1813. Shrewsbury School, 1829—32. Scholar of B.N.C., Oxford, B.A. 1836, M.A. 1840. Tutor of Durham University, 1842. First Principal of Hatfield Hall, 1846—51. Rector of Shelsley Beauchamp and Walsh, 1845. R.D. of Worcester West, 1865—1892.

Hon. Canon of Worcester 1851, Canon 1881. Resigned Witley 1889. Died 8th March, 1904. Hillhampton was transferred from Martley to Witley. P.: William, Baron Ward.

1889 WILLIAM HARTLEY CARNEGIE, 2nd July. Son of Robert Carnegie, of Dublin. Demy of Magdalen College, Oxford, 1878. First Class in Mathematical Mods (1879) and Greats (1881) and Third Class Lit. Hum. 1883 B.A. 1884, M.A. 1897. Curate of Pudsey, 1887. Rector of St. Philip's, Birmingham, 1903. Canon of Westminster and Rector of St. Margaret's, 1912. Chaplain to the House of Commons. Died 18th October, 1936. P.: William Humble, Earl of Dudley.

1904 HORACE GRANVILLE MONROE, 2nd April. Son of the Right Hon. John Monroe, of Bartron, co. Dublin, Judge of the High Court and sometime Solicitor General in Ireland. Born 25th September, 1872. Trinity College, Dublin, B.A. 1896, M.A. 1899. Chaplain to the Viceroy 1897, Vicar of Mortlake 1909, and Wimbledon 1918, Hon. Canon of Southwark 1922, Canon 1927, Sub-dean 1930. Died 17th April, 1933. Little Witley was transferred from Holt to Witley, November, 1904. P.: William Humble, Earl of Dudley.

1910 ROWLAND ALWYN WILSON, 8th February. Son of William Reginald Wilson, vicar of Bolsterstone and Canon of York. Born 18th July, 1868. Rugby School 1882-7. Trinity College, Cambridge, B.A. 1890, M.A. 1894. Curate of Hartlebury 1894. Vicar of Hints, Staffordshire, 1900. R.D. of the new deanery of Mitton, 1921. Hon. Canon 1928. F.S.A. P.: William Humble, Earl of Dudley.