

Some Dates in the History of St. Leonard's Church, Sandridge.

A Paper read at a Meeting of the Society, held at Sandridge, June 24th, 1900, by the Rev. J. A. CRUIKSHANK, M.A.

In 785 the Province of Canterbury was dismembered, and King Offa secured the elevation of the Bishop of Lichfield as a third Archbishop in England, over his kingdoms of Mercia and East Anglia, thus depriving Lambert, Archbishop of Canterbury, of seven dioceses. This arrangement lasted for only fourteen years; but the circumstance is sufficiently interesting to justify its quotation, from the fact that the earliest recorded mention of Sandridge is, that in the year 796, the parish being part of the revenue of the Mercian kings, was given by Egfrid, the son of Offa, the founder or refounder of St. Alban's Abbey, in the first year of his reign to Abbot Eadric, second Abbot of St. Alban's monastery, and to the monks of St. Albans. The name under which it was given was that of Sandruage, so denominated by the Saxons from the soil of the place, and the service by which the inhabitants held their lands; for the soil is sandy, and "age" signified the service of bond tenants.

Twelve successive Saxon Abbots held the manor; but, between the years 1066 and 1077, King William I. probably held Sandridge. He appointed Abbot Paul de Caen, in whose hands it was in the time of the Domesday Survey.* It was rated for ten hides, and those lands, with several other lands belonging to the Monastery of St. Alban, were confirmed to it afterwards by the characters of several succeeding kings.

St. Alban's Abbey Church was consecrated on Holy Innocents' Day in the year 1116. The church at Sandridge was consecrated and dedicated to St. Leonard by Herbert Losinga, first Bishop of Norwich, the founder of Norwich Cathedral, certainly not later than the year 1119,† under the denomination of a chapel. It was of old, it seems, appropriated to the said monastery, and a vicarage ordained and endowed; both of which, together with the manor—to which the church is an appendant—the Abbot and Convent held till their dissolution.

* A.D. 1088.

† He died A.D. 1119.

The most ancient remains are those of the wall dividing the nave from the chancel, still marked by the rude semi-circular arch, carefully plastered on its underside—which shows that it was not a mere *relieving* arch—and the two exterior endings, north and south, all three in Roman tile. There are also some corresponding portions traceable at the west end of the church. At that time, whether Saxon or Norman, the church consisted, apparently, of a smaller chancel, or apse, and a nave without aisles.

About the period A.D. 1150 to 1170—or even earlier, in King Stephen's reign*—the side walls were taken down for almost their whole length, and the two arcades of octagonal Norman pillars, with their beautiful capitals and the semi-circular arches of Tottenhoe stone, erected in their stead. A clerestory was raised over this arcading. The east and west walls were left untouched, but the north and south aisles were added in flint-work. The windows were not as they now appear, but were of that period—Norman. A portion of one of them may still be seen, with a new stone head added to it. This great change took place not later than the year 1180. The ancient doorways were apparently transferred to the aisles. It is suggested that the beautiful capitals of the old Norman arches, and those of the Early English arch were the work of some of the best workmen engaged upon the Abbey. To this period belongs the Norman font of Tottenhoe stone, which, before the restoration, stood against the pillar near the north porch door.

The next change was made in the reign of King Edward I.† during the Early English period, by removing the west wall, with its low semi-circular headed arch, and replacing it by a new wall, with an Early English arch and two columns, with capitals, of Early English work, opening into the tower.

Between the years 1350 and 1400, some feet in height of the old wall, dividing the nave from the chancel, were taken out, the upper portions shored up, the upper part of the two Roman tile pillasters that supported the chancel arch were cut away, and the beautiful stone-work screen, which still exists, inserted. The old wall, together with the old arch, had gone over, out of the

* A.D. 1135 to 1154

† A.D. 1270 to 1307.

perpendicular, about three inches to the west when the screen was built. The screen was built truly perpendicular, and the difference between it and the old wall was made up by extra thickness of plastering. The intention of this screen appears to have been to give a wider view of the elevation of the Host than the original narrow Saxon arch admitted. About this time, too, a rood loft was introduced on the west front of the old wall.

In the year 1399 the chancel was rebuilt from the foundation by John de la Moote, the thirty-first Abbot of St. Alban's, who was elected Abbot on the 9th of October, 1396. It has a priest's door on the north side, and early Perpendicular windows, some almost obliterated paintings, and some remarkable timbering, resting on buckle corbels. About the same time the south-aisle door and the small Norman windows of both aisles, splayed from the exterior, were replaced by Perpendicular work. Apparently it was during this period that the Low-side window was opened in the south-east angle at the junction of the chancel and nave, possibly to enable people from without to look upon an accessory altar in the nave against the chancel screen, beneath the rood loft.

In the seventeenth century, about the year 1688, the tower fell. Salmon, the county historian, writing in the year 1728, says: "The steeple hath been down, and lain in rubbish almost forty years, without any endeavour to repair it, to the great shame of the inhabitants."*

* In the Churchwardens' Accounts for the year 1699, the item "Paid for taking Down som of the Church Steeple £3 4s. 6d." occurs; and in the year 1701 we read, "John Jaques for Hanging up the Bells, 17s. 0d." This shows that some attempt was made to do something at the west end before Salmon wrote.

Again, a letter from Mr. Edmund Wood, vicar, in 1710, to the Registrar of the Archdeaconry, Mr. Brown, gives some account of important repairs done to the roof of the church.

"Sandridge, July 22nd, 1710.

Mr. Brown,—Whereas it happened that the chief capital beam in the body of our church, called the crown piece, to which the rafters were affixed, was by length of time or default of officers in not taking timely care to keep it well covered, the said crown piece was much perished and broken in the middle, so that the rafters sunk down and had like to have given way, for the whole covering of lead and timber to have fallen upon our heads. Neither could we perform divine service without evident peril to life or limb. Therefore, John Jaques,

About the year 1786 the clerestory, which had a row of small windows on each side, was removed by the present Mr. William Paul's father, under the direction of the churchwarden, Mr. Ralph Thrale,† of No Man's Land Farm. In 1800, the dormer, or attic windows shown in

our churchwarden, calls a vestry and showed some of the principal neighbours that appeared there, their own danger, particularly one who used to sit under a dormer window, which was just ready to drop upon his head, who, nevertheless, seemed not very forward with a reparation. However, after two vestries called, and Easter approaching, and few appearing either to consent or gainsay, therefore the churchwarden sets the plumbers and carpenters and smith and bricklayer on work, as he did himself too, and was very diligent to see after the labourers and to put his own shoulder to some of the heaviest burdens to my knowledge, and lost many a day's gainful work by attending to this, which he did not only out of his own good inclination, to the good of the church, but as a sworn officer and guardian of it, as he plainly affirms. Now that the church is well repaired is owing to the care of the said churchwarden, but some of this neighbourhood, to make themselves look like a wise and governing sort of people, since they cannot deny but that John Jaques has well performed his duty in this matter, and know his power in church affairs, being of their own election, nevertheless, keep him out of his money, and the workmen too, by a sort of cavilling about the workmen's bills, who, God knows, are not yet paid one farthing on the account, or at least, as I hear of. Henry Wilson, the plumber, will swear to the truth and equity of his bill, and I doubt not so will the other workmen also. Therefore I pray your Venerable Court will not let honest well wishers to the church be run down and defrauded, while they are doing their duty, without your care for their relief. With my humble service to you in hopes of your advice and assistance, both in relation to my churchwarden in particular and the Church of England in general.

I am,

Your very humble servant,

EDM. WOOD.

The Churchwarden and workmen are very willing to lay their bills down in your Court, to be censured by such skilfull workmen as shall in your wisdom be appointed to examine them.

Endorsed—These for Mr. Brown, Register of St. Albans.

This letter seems to make it clear that there was at any rate one dormer window existing a century before William Paul erected those shown in Figures, 24 and 26.

In the year 1733, 1s. was paid to John Nash "for keeping up the Barge end of the church." [ED.]

† "William Paul's father. William Paul lowered the old roof without taking off the lead, having put in fresh beams, laying planks on the old original 'tier' walls which had a row of small windows on each side, and then lowering one side, say six inches, and then the other, and so on, using wedges. The wall removed was about a yard high, and very tender. The attic windows then put in were made by Wm. Paul." See Dr. Griffith's Papers, Sandridge 2. a. (c). [ED.]

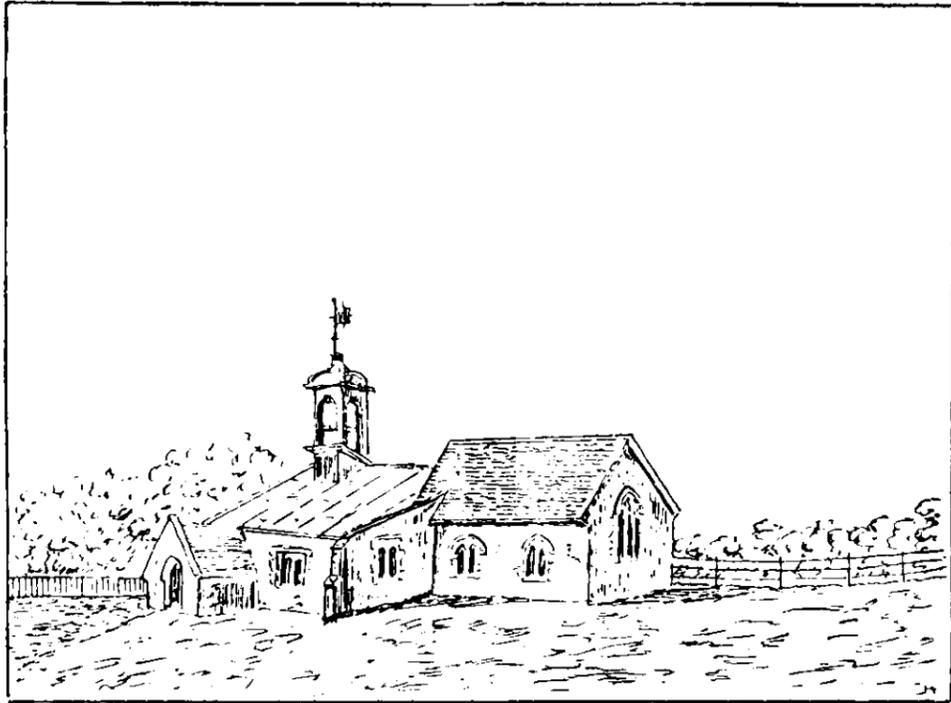


FIG. 24.—SANDRIDGE CHURCH FROM THE S.E.

From the Lewes Evans Collection, after a sketch by Pridmore, about A.D. 1890.

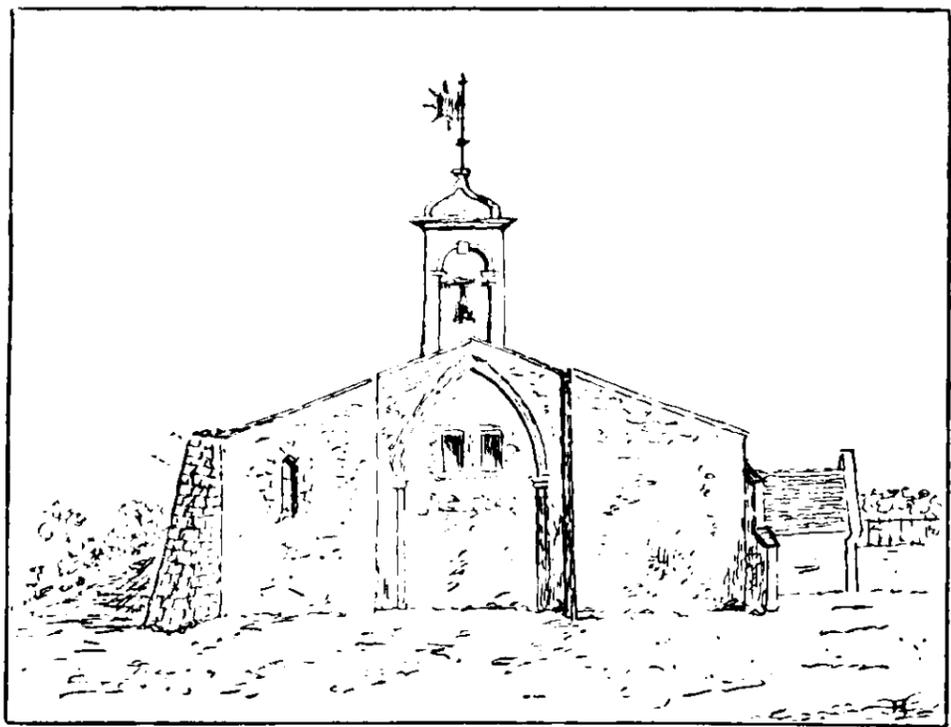


FIG. 25.—SANDRIDGE CHURCH FROM THE W.

From the Lewes Evans Collection, after a sketch by Pridmore, about A.D. 1890.

the photograph in the vestry of the church, were added by William Paul.* The altar rails were made by William Lawrence, the father of the present William Paul's grandmother.†

The tower was rebuilt on a very mean scale in the year 1820, ‡ with its west wall over graves. The foundations giving way, it got out of the perpendicular, tore away the nave roof, and frightened the congregation out of church one Sunday during morning service.§ This tower was pulled down at the restoration of the church, when a bay was added, and the clerestory rebuilt.

The mediæval tiles taken from the nave were relaid in the chancel. The organ, given some years ago by three of the parishioners, was removed from its temporary position in the chancel to the west end, and the dividing wall between the chancel and nave so dealt with as to obviate, to a great extent, the difficulties formerly caused by the obstruction. The churchyard was levelled at the same time. The whole expense of this work amounted to about £3,800. The vestry was the gift of Miss Burchmore. The east window is a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kinder, of Sandridgebury, and their daughter, Mrs. White. There are also memorial windows to Mr. George Young, of Nash's Farm; the late Rev. John Griffith, LL.D., vicar, 1872—1891; and the late Mr. and Mrs. T. Powney Marten, of Marshalswick. The pulpit was presented by Mrs. T. P. Marten, and the lectern by Mrs. Marten.

* There were dormer or attic windows here before the year 1800. The small view, Fig. 24 taken about the year 1800 shows one on the south side, and another larger one of about the same period (Fig. 26) shows one on the north side also. Another view (Fig. 25) which is from a sketch by Pridmore taken towards the end of the 18th century, shows the West-end with the Early English arch exposed. There is another view extant from Dr. Griffith's collection which also shows this exposed arch. [ED.]

† This shows that they must belong to the 17th century. [ED.]

‡ Dr. Griffith gives the date as 1837. [ED.]

§ The Parish Accounts throw just a little light upon the building of the Tower:—1836, "Sept. 23, Mun for picking stones for Church Tower, 5s. 8d." "Paid Mr. Hall on Church, £20." In 1837 three sums, viz., £20, £10, and £30 were paid to Mr. Hall on account, and, in 1838, "May 13, Mr. Harry Cox for Stones for Church Tower, £5." [ED.]

The Bells.—In 1553 there were three bells, which were recast in 1837. The ring of six bells now in the tower was completed by relatives and friends of Mr. Thomas Smith, of the Pound Farm, “a man of singular kindness and judgment,” and churchwarden for 44 years, from March, 1842, till his death in January, 1888.

Vicars of Sandridge [Sandrugge], Hertfordshire.

This list of the Vicars is mainly the work of the Rev. H. T. Fowler, and will be found in the Fowler Papers, under the heading “Sandridge.”

RICHARD HARWODE, or HOREWOOD.—His will is dated 26 March, 1419. He was buried in the chancel of St. Leonard's, Sandridge, and the supervisor of his will was John Bryan, rector of Ayot Mountfichet (St. Peter's). [See “Herts Genealogist” Vol. I., p. 66]. *Patron*: Abbot of St. Alban's.

JOHN BRYANE, [on the death of Richard Harwode, probably the same person who was supervisor of Richard Harwode's will] 1419?—He made his will 3 September, 1445, which was proved on the 19th of November following*. *Patron*: Abbot William Heyworth.

ROBERT RIDLEY.—Resigned, June, 1465. His will was made the same year. [Wills, Arch. St. Alban's, “Stoneham,” f. 114]. *Patron*: Abbot Willam Alban.

WILLIAM TYLER,† Chaplain.—26 June, 1465, on the resignation of Robert Rydley. An annual pension of £3 4s. 8d. was reserved. [Regist. John Wheathampstead II. p. 46]. He resigned the Vicarage of Codicote on the same date. Before that he had been Vicar of Pottesgrave which he resigned 28 August, 1463. [Regist. John Wheathampstead II. p. 16]. *Patron*: Abbot William Alban.

* This same John Bryan, vicar of Sandrugg, and Philip at Nasch, on 16 August, 1445, witnessed the will of Richard Hemmyng, of the same parish, which was proved 23 September, in the same year. His death seems to have had an effect on both witnesses. The vicar made his will 3 September and Philip at Nasch made his 14 October following. Both died very shortly afterwards, for the will of the former was proved on the 19th and that of the latter on the 20th November following. “Herts Genealogist,” Vol. III. p. 141.—[Ed.]

† *Alias* Cony. See Reg. John Wheathampstead II. 16. [Ed.]

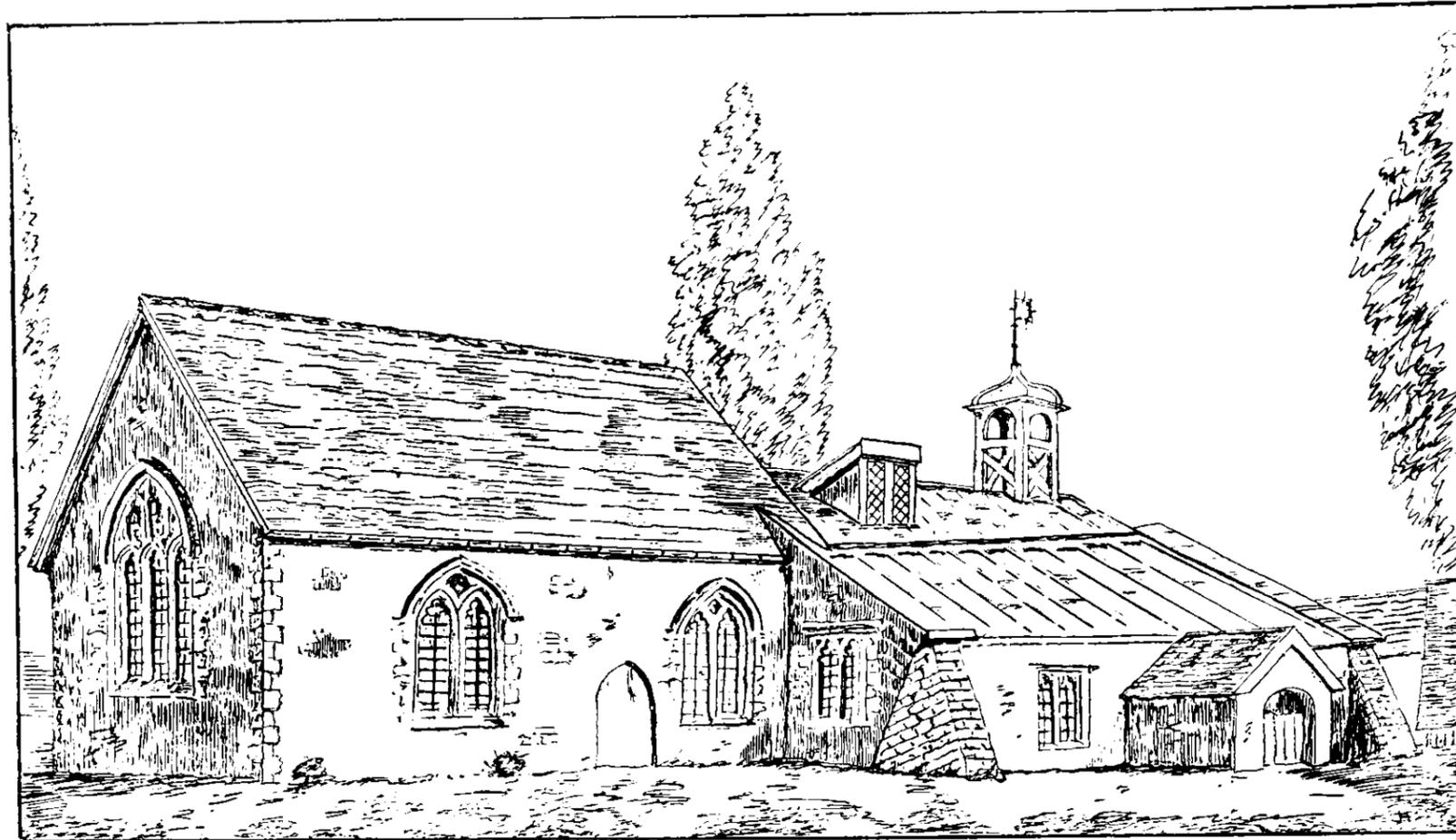


FIG. 26.—SANDRIDGE CHURCH FROM N.E.

From a coloured sketch formerly in the possession of Dr. Griffith, taken between 1800 and 1820.

THOMAS THIKTHORPE, "Capellanus."—13 August, on the resignation of William Tyler. Pension reserved. He resigned the Vicarage of Newenham on the same date. [Regist. II. p. 81, 82]. On resigning this living he was presented to Ridge, 12 October, 1470. [Regist. II. 91].* *Patron*: Abbot William Alban.

JAMES WALEYS, "Capellanus."—12 October, 1470, on the resignation of Thomas Thikthorpe. Pension reserved. [Regist. II. 94]. On the same date he resigned the Vicarage of Ridge, to which he had been appointed 3 July, 1462, on the flight of the Vicar, J. Bernard. [Regist. II. 11]. He obtained a licence to make a pilgrimage to Rome and the Holy Sepulchre, 2 January, 1476.† *Patron*: Abbot William Alban.

GILBERT LANCASTER, "Capellanus."—14 December, 1477, on the resignation of James Waleys. Pension reserved [Regist. II. 176]. He appears to have resigned on, or soon after 14 April, 1485, the date of an attested promise of the vicarage to John Lenarde. *Patron*: Abbot William Wallingford.

JOHN LENARDE.—14 April, 1485 [Reg. II. 273]. He became vicar of Abbot's Walden, date lost, which vicarage he resigned about 1488 [Reg. II. 291]. *Patron*: Abbot William Wallingford.

HUGH HARDING.—He witnessed the will of Raufe Rowlett, 16 February, 1543 [Herts Genealogist, Vol. II. 126]. He signed the Inventory of Church Goods as Receiver for the Crown in 1552 [see Cussan's "Church Goods in Hertfordshire," p. 27]. *Patron*: Probably King Henry VIII.

RICHARD ADAMSON.—15 April, 1574, on the death of Hugh Harding. *Patron*: Sir Christopher Smith, knight, for this turn.

RICHARD WOODWARD.—9 February, 1581. "No graduate or preacher: resident: the living valued at £8 and in Her Majesty's gift during the minority of

* Thomas Thikthorpe was appointed Vicar of St. Peter's, St. Alban's, 14 December, 1477, which living he resigned 21 December, 1480. Regist. II. 238. [Ed.]

† Regist. John Wheathampstead II. 119. [Ed.]

one Mr. (Thomas) Jennings." [*Acta*, Archdeaconry of St. Alban's, quoted by Urwick, Nonconformity in Herts p. 328.] *Patron*: Queen Elizabeth.

STEPHEN GOSSON.—31 October, 1586. Scholar of Christ Church, Oxford. Poet and Satirist. Author of "Schools of Abuse" in 1579. The baptism of two of his sons is recorded in the Sandridge Register. Resigned Sandridge in 1591 for the Rectory of Great Wigborough, co. Essex. He died Rector of St. Botolph's, London, 13 February, 1623-4, and was buried in the Chancel there. To the poor of Sandridge he bequeathed 40s. [Cussans, Herts. Vol. III. Hundred of Cashio, p. 228]. *Patron*: Thomas Jennings, esquire.

WILLIAM WESTERMAN, D.D.*—11 February, 1592, of Gloucester Hall, Oxford, Rector of Bushey in 1594. Chaplain to Archbishop Abbot in 1608. In 1594 the number of communicants in Sandridge was returned as about 200. [See Urwick who quotes from *Acta*, p. 331]. He was buried at Sandridge, 21 June, 1622 [Parish Register]. His wife and children are also buried there. *Patron*: Thomas Jennings, esquire.

RICHARD WESTERMAN.—Record wanting. On the death of William Westerman. He is supposed to have been a son or nephew of William Westerman. He was deprived † by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners 4 May, 1630. ["Calendar of State Papers," Charles I. Vol. clxvi., No. 16, quoted by Urwick, p. 331]. *Patron*: Sir John Jennings, knight—probably.

JOHN LEDINGTON, B.D.—8 May, 1630, on the deprivation of Richard Westerman. Buried at Sandridge, 29 September, 1630. *Patron*: Sir John Jennings, knight, junior.

ALEXANDER WEDDERBURNE.—17 September, 1630. On the death of John Leddington. He resigned

* In 1608 he published two Sermons, preached at Paul's Cross, "The Faithful Subject, or Mephibosheth," and "Solomon's Porch," and in 1612, "Jacob's Well," which he preached in St. Alban's Abbey before the King. He is supposed to have been brother to John Westerman, Master of St. Alban's Grammar School. At any rate he is denominated in the will of John Thomas Hilocomius "my Soveringe Kinsman Mr. Westerman Clerke, viccar of Sandridge." See "Herts Genealogist, Vol. II. p. 316. [Ed.]

† for incontinency.—[Ed.]

July, 1643, and became a Presbyterian minister in Scotland, at Kilmarnock, where he died in 1678. ["Burnet," quoted by Urwick, p. 331].

JOHN HARPER, M.A.—11 July, 1643. On the resignation of Alexander Wedderburne. He resigned, or was deprived by Parliament about 1645, when the "Directory" was introduced. He became curate of Aldermanbury, London, in 1666. [Kennet's Register, p. 843, quoted by Urwick, p. 332]. *Patron*: Richard Jennings, esquire.

JOSEPH DRAPER*.—On the deprivation or cession, as is supposed of John Harper. He was incumbent at the time of the Survey of 1650. He accepted the Directory. A son, George, was buried at Sandridge, 26 June, 1656. ["Parish Register"]. He was ejected at the Restoration.

THOMAS OWEN.—31 October, 1661. He appears to have been Presbyterian Minister at Brantfield, under the Commonwealth, from whence he was ejected in 1660 to make room for the rector. He conformed in 1662, and died Vicar of Sandridge in 1680. ["Kennet's Register," 553: quoted by Urwick, p. 332]. *Patron*: Richard Jennings, Esquire.

EDMUND WOOD, died 1714.

WILLIAM COWLEY, [on the death of Edmund Wood]. *Patron*: John, Duke of Marlborough.

SAMUEL GRICE.—8 June, 1721. On the death of William Cowley.† *Patron*: John, Duke of Marlborough.

* There is some uncertainty about Joseph Draper. Walker in his "Sufferings of the Clergy" gives him as one of the sufferers; and, later, connects him with St. Thomas Hospital, London.—[Ed.]

† In the Sandridge Parish Accounts these items appear:—For the year 1731:—"Madam Grice for Holland to mend the Surplis and Twice Washing and Mending 5s.": In 1733 "Madam Grice for getting of the plate cleaned and washing the Surplis 5s.": in 1734 "Maddam Grice, Ch. Linen, 5s.": and again in 1743—"Mrs. Grice for Washing the Church linnen 5s." But in 1744 the matter was out of Mrs. Grice's hands, and the Churchwardens paid for "Washing the Surpluss 1s. 6d." Four years later, in 1748, they paid "the Clerk's Wife for a year's washing the Surplice 7s. 6d."—[Ed.]

THOMAS EVANS.*—24 April, 1744, on the death of Samuel Grice. *Patron*: Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough.

WILLIAM LANGFORD.—30 November, 1774, on the death of Thomas Evans. *Patron*: John, Earl Spencer.

ROBERT WELTON.†—25 October, 1793, on the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Langford. *Patron*: George John, Earl Spencer.

CHARLES SPENCER BOUCHIER.—9 May, 1823, on the death of Robert Welton ‡ *Patron*: George John, Earl Spencer.

JOHN GRIFFITH, LL.D.—14 October, 1872, on the death of Chas. Spencer Bouchier. He was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge; B.A. in 1840; he obtained honours both in classics and mathematics, being 10th Wrangler in the Mathematical Tripos, and in the second class of the Classical Tripos. In 1843 he

* In the year 1758 the Churchwardens provided a "Heirscloth and Hood for a Master of Arts," at a cost of £3 17s. 0d., so that the vicar was, presumably, a graduate. [Ed.]

† Amongst Dr. Griffith's Papers, there is an interesting account book which was kept by Robert Welton from 13 May, 1773, to 31 December, 1792, which incidentally affords many particulars concerning him and his family. He came from Newington, co. Surrey, in September, 1773, to take charge of St. Stephen's—which living was then under sequestration—at a stipend of 42 guineas a year. In March, 1776, he began to take charge of Sandridge parish also, for the Rev. Dr. Langford, at a stipend of £30 a year and the surplice fees. He served the two cures for practically the whole period covered by this account book, and from 1778 for a year or two did surplice duty also at St. Michael's. In the year 1784 he was also acting as a kind of domestic chaplain to Lady Spencer at Holywell House. He was instituted to the living of Chaldon, near Caterham, co. Surrey, in 1780, from which he drew about £100 a year, and the rent of about £25 for the parsonage and glebe, paying a curate there at first £30, and later on £40 per annum. The whole book throws considerable light upon the life of a country parson, of regular and methodical habits, at the end of the 18th century. He notes that he came into Mrs. Sabine's house at St. Stephen's, 3 November, 1773; that he painted Chaldon Parsonage in the summer of 1790, and the house at St. Stephen's at the same time. In 1798 Chaldon Parsonage was again painted, and Sandridge Parsonage in the summer of 1799, in 1805, and again in 1814. He was a beautiful scribe, as both this account book and the registers of Sandridge show. A son, Robert, who had been apprenticed to an apothecary at Reading, is buried in St. Stephen's churchyard. [Ed.]

‡ The Rev. Charles Boutell, one of the two first Secretaries of this Society, appointed in the year 1845, was curate of Sandridge for several years.

took his M.A. degree, and became LL.D. in 1859. In 1843 he was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Hereford and Priest in 1844 by the Bishop of Lichfield, and for some time was curate of Darley Abbey. In 1853 he succeeded the Rev. F. W. Robertson as incumbent of Trinity Chapel, Brighton, and in 1856 succeeded Dr. Henry Cotterill as Principal of Brighton College. He retired from that post in 1871. *Patron:* Rt. Hon. John Poyntz, Earl Spencer, K.G.

JAMES ALEXANDER CRUIKSHANK, M.A.—9 June, 1890, on the cession of Dr. Griffith. *Patron:* Rt. Hon. John Poyntz, Earl Spencer, K.G.

AUSTIN OLIVER, M.A.—16 October, 1890, on the cession of J. A. Cruikshank. Resigned 1905. *Patron:* Rt. Hon. John Poyntz, Earl Spencer, K.G.