



THE HISTORY OF  
WHITCHURCH  
AND  
CHRONICLES  
OF WHITCHURCH  
BUCKS

RE-PRINTED WITH ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Cover photo:  
Whitchurch House  
by Roy Garnham Elmore

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2001

## FOREWORD

My copies of Joseph Holloway's *The History of Whitchurch* and G. W. Wilson's *Chronicles of Whitchurch* are gradually disintegrating through use and age.

As they are now long out of copyright, I have re-originated them by scanning both with OCR (Optical Character Recognition) and re-formatted them to form an easily accessible record of each book.

The original title and half-title pages are omitted but, with the exception of the the 'List of Subjects' for the *History of Whitchurch* which had to be slightly revised to accommodate the new page numbers and the addition of a 'Contents' list for the *Chronicles of Whitchurch*, the text content of each is complete and unaltered.

Between the two titles (pages 45 - 59), I have incorporated a section containing additional information that may well be useful in understanding some of the more obscure references and help to place many of the events in their appropriate time frame.

The cottage that now stands at Whittle Hole was built by my great-grandfather for his own occupancy in 1868, at a cost of £98 17s 6d., and was lived in by my parents for over 62 years! I was born there in July 1940.

ROY GARNHAM ELMORE

Old Timbers  
Bellingdon  
Bucks

January 2001



HISTORY OF  
WHITCHURCH  
BUCKS

BY JOSEPH HOLLOWAY

1889

## ADVERTISEMENT

These Lectures are printed by request. I have, for a considerable period, devoted my spare time in collecting scraps, facts, and information, relating to the village, and I found myself possessed of a lot of materials which I had no other object than to preserve. Some of these gleanings I read to my friends privately, and being requested to make a Lecture of the same, I asked advice of my worthy friend, the Local Historian, Mr. R Gibbs; hence the following Lectures were the result. It will be understood that the statements and facts contained herein, are derived from all sources available. Local and national histories and libraries, have been searched, and no trouble or expense has been spared to make the same correct, but in no case will the author be responsible for any mis-statement or error, should there be such. It is a pleasure to me, to think of the courtesy and help shown in looking for information and I desire to thank all my Friends far and near, for kindnesses shown, which have made my duties pleasant and easy.

JOSEPH HOLLOWAY

Market Hill House, Whitchurch, Bucks,  
March 1889

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## ADDENDA

The village of Whitchurch is situated on the Turnpike road from London to Birmingham and is on the track of the old Roman road leading from Towcester on through Aylesbury to Dorchester, it is about 5 miles north of Aylesbury, and 12 miles south west from Buckingham. It stands on high ground and consists chiefly of one main street. Many of the houses denote antiquity, being built of wood frame filled up with bricks and plaster, and having overhanging storeys, good paved paths skirt the high road on either side; on the west of the main street there are bye roads, one of which leads to an open space called the Market Hill

The sub-soil is of clay, loam, gravel and stone, the clay is well adapted for bricks, and has been worked at a brick kiln here for many years, good stone for building purposes is also found, many old stone buildings and walls tell us that thousands of loads of this material have been raised to supply the neighbourhood. Several of the Churches around are built of Whitchurch stone.

The village itself, being on high ground, and consequently dry, is considered to be one of the healthiest in Bucks.

There are 1580 acres of Land in the Parish. The assessment in 1798 was £176 19s 3d – in 1889 it is £3875 0s 0d. The population in 1801 was 646 – in 1881 it was 754.

# PART 1

## INTRODUCTION

The place of our birth is ever dear to us; whatever may be our vicissitudes in life, to whatever part of the world our avocations may call us we hold a lingering love for the spot where we first saw the light, where our happy childish days were spent, where our joys and sorrows commenced. I participate in that feeling, and as a native of Whitchurch, the son of a native, and the grandson of a late aged and long resident, I shall ever hold a feeling of great regard for my birth-place, that feeling has prompted me to exhibit an interest in the village, and tempted me to gather together all the historic facts and scraps relating to it, I possibly could, which I have strung together, and now take the liberty of placing before you in the shape of a lecture.

The first item to attract the notice of an historian would as a matter of course be the —

## NAME OF THE PLACE

he is about to describe. I confess that here I meet with a difficulty as I find the modern name and the original one strangely differ. There are I find no less than ten variations in the name given to our Village, as follows:— Wicherce, Wicherse, Whicherge, Whicherche, Witchurge, Whicherche Whitchurts, Whichchurch, Whitechurch, and Whitchurch. Referring to old documents, Dooms-day book for instance, I find that the old name of the Village and the new have no connection whatever; in that old authority and even before that book was compiled, “Whitchurch stands *Wic herce*. The following has been given as the meaning of the word,—Now Wic herce is Saxon or Anglo Saxon, “Wic” signifies dwelling house, habitation or village street, this last appellation well describing Whitchurch. The affix “herce or herse” represents an army station, a camp, a stronghold. Nowas Whitchuroh stands on high ground, on the old Roman trackway, it is more than likely that a military station existed here. Thus we may take the old name as representing a village standing on an ancient military way.

Leaving then the original we will come on to the more modern name’ and I fancy the name of Whitchurch would point to the Church and from that in some way or other derive its name, thus we find it called Which— White— Whit— and I am fortified in this by the following — In the Whitchurch (Salop) Parish Magazine for 1866, an account of that town reads thus “According to Dooms-day, Whitchurch was formerly called Weston, and it was held in Saxon times by Earl Harold. Soon after the Conqueror, a spacious Church built of white stone was erected at Weston. An event of such importance in those days was sufficient cause for changing the name of the place from Weston, to “Albuim Monasterimun,” or “Blance Minster “ afterwards the White Church or Whitchurch.”

In EDMUND’S “Traces of History of the Names of Places,”—Page 312. After referring to several towns and villages, with the prefix, “Whit or White” as Whitborn, Whitfarm, (Durham) Whitbourne, (Hereford) &c, he says the prefix White or Whit generally means that the place belonged to a “Cistercian Monastery,” the monks of that order wearing a white cassock, as example St. Whites (Gloucester) belonged to the Cistercian Abbeys of Haxley and Timbertan, as did White Town, now Whitson, (Monmouth.)

In the year 1398, the Rectorial Estates and all the Church Revenues of this parish were appropriated to Woburn Monastery and the Church was under the control of the monks



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of the Cistercian order sent here to attend to the spiritual wants of the people. "Some of these monks and friars it is reported lived in the old house now belonging to M. A. Holt, which is remarkable for its shape and size, its cellars and dungeons &c—" And at certain times they walked in procession to the Church with all the then serious disposed persons of the parish, who fell under their influence, all dressed in white, and the heads of the procession wearing their "White Cassocks,"—making a great show.—Thus I find a connection between Whit and the Church, which name is handed down to us to day,—thus "Wic herce" was called Whitechurch, now Whitchurch.

There are several amusing stories respecting the name of our village and one we will notice here. About a century ago the name of Guess was a family name here. An old man named John Guess was one day driving down the turnpike road, some sheep belonging to Mr. William Hogg, and was overtaken by a gentleman on horseback, who, not knowing much of the neighbourhood, accosted the old man, asking "What Church is that," "Which-church." replied the old man,—Why that Church, replied the Gentleman pointing with his whip :—"Which-church" replied the old man again : "why can't you see it, says the gentleman, are you blind?";—Which-church sir," replied the old man. Turning to the sheep, says the Gentleman, "you have some good sheep there old fellow, whose are they"—"Sheep Sir, sheep Sir" says the old man, "why they be Hoggs" "What!" says the Gentleman, "why what's your name" looking rather confounded, and wondering what a kind of man he was talking too. "My name sir, my name" replied the old man, "Why "Guess,""; away rode the Gentleman, not a bit the wiser, and astonished at the old man's stupidity and nonsense.

The oldest description of the parish of Whitchurch is given in Dooms-day Book which of course can be fully relied on. William the Conqueror having established himself on the Throne of England, caused a survey to be made of his newly acquired dominions, and with so great exactness describing the lands and the possessions, that it remains to day a most valuable record of the state and conditions of the then country. It was to serve as a register, guide, or record, of towns, parishes, manors &c., and to enable a true and just taxation to be levied. The work is now 800 years old, but is in a good state of preservation, it consists of two volumes, is written in "Old English" and is called "*Dom-Buc,*" or Dooms-day Book. The ancient divisions of the land into hundreds and parishes in most cases remain un-altered. Whitchurch is in the "Cotteslow Hundred" which hundred comprises the three Old Hundreds of Mursley, Earli, and Cotteslow, thus it is called the Three Hundreds of Cotteslow, The cutting up of the country into hundreds is said to be of Saxon origin, meaning 100 houses, or 100 manors, or 100 parishes, or 100 hides of lands, in fact the true meaning is uncertain. JUDGE BLACKSTONE says Alfred the Great divided England into counties, hundreds and tythings, to prevent disorder, and to make each district responsible for its own acts.

Again referring to Dooms-day Book, we find that Whitchurch was taxed at eight hides, (or 800 acres) at a yearly value of £8. There were twelve carucates of land, or land sufficient for twelve ploughs, in the demesne or belonging to the barony or manor, there was three carucates, and two more might have been added. There were fourteen villeins—these were tenants or householders – there were two bordars, having seven carucates of land— (these were what we now term farmers)—holding land sufficient for seven ploughs, —there were eight servants,—and six carucates of pasture, altogether valued (at the time of Edward the First) at .£10 annually.

## THE MANOR OF WHITCHURCH

Manors are of great antiquity. They were at first derived from the Crown. William the Conqueror, having established himself on the Throne, took all lands into his charge, and



## THE HISTORY OF WHITCHURCH

devised them to certain of his Norman followers, under certain conditions, as a recompense for their martial services in the Norman expedition, and also to secure their assistance when needed. They were tenants, not freeholders, and instead of paying rent in corn, or cattle, or money, they rendered certain services, and were bound down to fight under the Lord's banner without any pay, when called to arms; thus a large force was always ready, and could be gathered to support the Lords and the King.

Lords of the Manor had power, with leave of the Crown, to give or sell, or let their Manors. They erected on the best part of their lands, (which they kept in their own hands), the Manor House. Then they sub-divided or let the remainder to the freemen who were to assist in war, the husbandmen who were under agreement to till the ground and find corn for the household. Then there was the Common, which was for the poorer classes and their cattle. The Barons and Lords had a great deal of power. They gave laws to their dependants, constituted courts, granted privileges, punished offenders, in fact their life and death were in the hands of their Lords. Hence it is that there is a great difference and variety of customs in respective Manors to day. Our own Manor of Whitchurch is considered an easy one, it is so when compared with others.

A Freeholder is a person who does not hold under the Manor, but has his property free, hence freeholder. For a certain payment, he or his predecessors have arranged with the Lord, and redeemed his estate. A Copyholder is one who holds his property subject to the customs of the Manor, and is bound by all thy customs connected therewith.

Whitchurch being an easy Manor, copyhold property is nearly equal in value to freehold.

A Copyholder cannot in fact sell his copyhold, although he may obtain the value of it. He has to surrender it to the Lord, and the Lord bestows it on the tenants successor, and admits him into the manorial property. Most manorial transactions are arranged in the Lords Courts, known as Court Baron; at this Court, which was formerly held once a year, all copyholders (which then included the whole parish,) attended, a jury called the homage was also empanelled. Their duties were to see that the Lord had his rights, that all customs were observed, and the death roll presented. All tenants had to pay their suits, services, quit rents, heriots, and reliefs. All encroachments on the Lord's boundaries, marks, nuisances, trespasses on the Lords interest were prosecuted. The following is an ancient form of homage and service. The jury being present with the Lord of the Manor, the tenant shall come in ungirded, his head uncovered, and kneel before the Lord, holding his hands together between his Lords, and shall say—"I become your man this day forward, for life and member, and of all earthly worship, unto you will I be faithful and loyal, and owe you the faith I owe to my King." Then the Lord shall kiss him. How low, says one writer, was the natural dignity of man reduced by this abject submission, caused by the Feudal System. There is another form, an Oath being taken by a free man or free tenant. Holding in his right hand the book he shall say—"Know ye this my Lord, that I shall be faithful and true to you, and faith to you shall bear for the lands which I claim to hold of you, and that I shall lawfully do to you the customs and services which I ought to do, at the terms assigned. So help me God and his Saints." And he shall kiss the book.

Suits and services attached to tenants and copyholders, in those times **were** very burdensome, they are now converted into business and money transactions known as quit rents, fines, heriots, dues &c. In some cases they are fixed and certain, and nominal, in others arbitrary and excessive.

In Whitchurch Manor the tenants are subject to heriot. A heriot originally meant a tribute due to the Lord, for better provision in time of war; on the death of a great man, his war

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horses, his arms and armour used by him were forfeited to the Lord. The best beast is now taken, be it horse, ox, cow or sheep, as due to the Lord, or the best piece of furniture or plate, these customs now are commuted into money payments.

There were two Manors in Whitchurch in the days of Edward the Confessor held by two brothers, (who were the king's Thanes,) and they had power to sell them.

At the Dooms-day Survey the Conqueror bestowed the Manor upon Walter Giffard, son of Osborn de Bolebec, whom he created Earl of Buckingham; this was about the year A.D. 1070; he was a great man among the Normans; and he was a near relative of the Conqueror, being descended from Aveline, sister to the Conqueror's great grand mother. He had a large share in the possession of Royal lands, and was Assessor in the Great Survey, and for his zeal and attachment he held many Manors even 107 in England, 48 in Bucks, taxed at 85 hides; Crendon, Pollicott, Chilton, Dorton, Winchendon, Whaddon, Great Horwood, and Newton Longville he held in his own hands, the other Manors he let out to sub-tenants. At his death in 1103 the Manors came to his son Walter Giffard, who died without issue, his possessions passing to the crown; he was assessed for the marriage of the Kings daughter at 94 knights feet. It is said that Notley Abbey was founded by him, being built in the park belonging to his Manor at Crendon; his estates and Manors were divided amongst his kindred, when his Manor of Whitchurch passed into the hands of Hugh de Bolebec. This Bolebec was son of Sieur Hugh de Bolebec a great follower of the Norman Duke, and a relative also. Hugh de Bolebec is the supposed founder of the Bolebec Castle, and also founder of Woburn Abbey. After this, Whitchurch Manor passed into the family of the De Veres, Earl of Oxford; some of this family resided here, and Aubrey De Vere was Sheriff of Bucks 1135; it continued in this family a long time even from the first Earl to Robert De Vere the sixth Earl. He was a man of great powers and ability and so esteemed and distinguished by his virtues and piety as to gain the favour of all, also the title of Robert the Good. His life was short; he died and was buried with his predecessors at Clon, A.D. 1331. The succeeding Earls of Oxford were Lords of Whitchurch until 1548, when Edward the seventeenth Earl, settled the Honour of Whitchurch on the Duke of Somerset, who had married his daughter. Whether this newly married couple got embarrassed or not we cannot say, evidently the Manor was sold, and bought by John Waterhouse Esq., who died leaving it to his widow Annie Waterhouse, 5th Feby, 1583. In the year 1632 it passed by marriage to the family of Watsons, who sold it to the family of Smythe, hence it came into the possession of Sir Edward Smythe, Knight, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas of Ireland, who lived and died at Whitchurch, and was buried in the Church, Feby. 26th, 1682. He was succeeded by his Son, Edward Smythe, Esq., who married June 24th, 1675, Mary Matts of Whitchurch,— She was descended from a family who had long been possessed of property here. She was probably grand daughter of Ralph Matts, Gent, who willed to be buried in Whitchurch Church in 1618. By their marriage they had one daughter, Sarah Spencer Smythe, who was baptized here, July 16th, 1682. Edward Smythe died 1690, and his widow Mary, became Lady of this Manor. About this time the Manor passed, probably by purchase, to John Reynolds, Gent. His son transferred it to Governor John Russell of Chequers Court, Ellesborough, who after a few years possession sold it to George Rowland, Gent, of Aylesbury, 1728, whose Granddaughter carried it in marriage to David Williams Esq., afterwards to Sir David Williams, Bart., of Golding. It passed with Sophia Charlotte, their only daughter by marriage to Thomas Tyringham Bernard Esq., the second son of Scrope Bernard Moreland, Bart., of Nether Winchendon, and Kimble, thuai'n' 1832, Thomas Tyringham Bernard Esq., afterwards Sir Thomas, was Lord of this Manor. In 1857 it was sold to John Guy Esq., of Chearsley, who in the year 1867 sold it to Mr. Joseph Parrott, Solicitor of Aylesbury, in whose family it remains, and who are the present possessors.

The following are

### THE CUSTOMS OF THE MANOR

First—That upon every admittance to any copyholder there is due to the Lord one years quit rent for a fine and no more.

Second—That upon the death of any copyholder dying resident upon the Manor, there is due for a Heriot his best good, but if he die not resident or surrender the whole of his estate in his life-time, in either of those cases there is due for an Heriot three shillings and fourpence and no more.

Third—That any copyholder may pull down any bay or bays of building, cut down any trees, or dig any pits upon the part of his copyhold without impeachment or waste.

Fourth—That any copyholder may demise or leave his copyhold from three years to three years for the term of twenty-one years.

Fifth—That there ought to be public notice of every court holden for this Manor, given fourteen days at least before each court, that the tenants who live remote may have notice thereof.

Sixth—That the Jurymen do each of them pay fourpence towards their dinner at every court, and the Lord of the Manor pays the remainder of their expense of eating. The Lord of the Manor also by ancient custom pays for a half a pint of ale for each Juryman, and any more liquor they drink is to be paid for equally by the parties who drink it.

Seventh—That it is the custom for the foreman of the Jury to subscribe one shilling, and the rest of the jurymen sixpence each to the steward's clerk for writing their presentments.

The following forms are used also.

Suppose Mr. White has sold Mr. Black his property, the day is fixed for conveying it over, all parties are present with the Lord. Mr. White takes the rod, and holding it in his hand, says, "by this rod I surrender to my Lord all the interest in my copyhold as described on the Court Rolls of this Manor, to the use of Mr. Black," and gives the rod to the Lord, who gives it to Mr. Black, and says, "by this rod I admit you as tenant to the property now surrendered, subject to all rights and customs of this Manor." A surrender and admission like this takes place every time a copyhold property changes hands. This surrender is usually made at a Court Baron, but it is very often arranged out of Court. Legislation has done a deal of late years to assist copyholders, so much so that now either the Lord or copyholder has power to enforce the enfranchisement of property, and in the course of time, Lords of Manors, Copyholders, Quit Rents, Heriots, Courts Baron and Courts Leet will have to be numbered amongst the things of the past.

We will notice now

### THE OLD PARISH CHURCH

Ancient Churches were poor mean buildings compared with those of the present day. At one time there was only one consecrated building in a diocese, or district. By degrees with the help of Barons, and Lords of Manors, Churches sprang up, these noblemen often falling the timber, and digging the stones on their own estates.

The original Church of Whitchurch stood on the same site at the present building, and consisted of a nave and chancel and a round tower, at a distance it looked more like a building for agricultural purposes, with its walls of rough hewn stone, and its old fashioned O.G. tiled roof. It was erected at the close of the tenth century, it answered its purpose and had its day, and was succeeded by the present structure at the beginning of the fourteenth century.

## THE HISTORY OF WHITCHURCH

The Church generally being the largest and oldest building in the town is an interesting object, over which we may ponder a while. There is always a very striking and peculiar feeling comes over us when we visit a Church or Churchyard. Its sacredness; our associations from babyhood, baptism, public worship, marriage festivity, and sorrowful mourning—and as we intrust into its hallowed keeping, all that remains mortal of our friends and relatives,—it brings to our minds a solemnity, a reverence which no other place or building produces.

In the early days of Christianity, people were accustomed to meet in great numbers at the dedication of a church, which was usually performed on some Saints day, in whose name the Church would be dedicated, thus our Parish Church was dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, whose name it still bears.

Whitchurch Church stands on high ground, as Churches built about that time generally do, it is on the Eastern side of the main street. It is a large Gothic edifice (originally Early English but has been much altered) and consists of a nave with two side aisles, chancel, south porch, and a square embattled tower at the west end some 64 feet high. At the corner of the tower and at several angles of the building are massive and lofty graduated buttresses, some of modern erection, doubtless added to strengthen the structure. There is a spiral staircase inside the tower leading to the clock and bell loft where hangs a set of 6 bells which do credit to the bell founder who placed them there.

The inscriptions on the bells are as follows :—

First Bell:—HENRIGVS \* BAGLEY \* ME \* Fecit 1680. Cantatce \* Domino \* canticvm \* novvm.

Second Bell :—Mat: Varney and Wm. Fincher, C.H. Wardens \* John Briant Hartford. Fecit 1797.

Third Bell :—vND—SOLEMNE-VOYCE -.1619.

Fourth Bell :—WEE—SOVND—FORTH—OUR—BBEATH \* Nichollas Topping—Thomas Palmer -Churchwardens 1619.

Fifth Bell:—Thos. Fowler and John Bowler C.H. Wardens\* John Fincher—George Cheshire—Matthew Varney—Wm. Fincher—Inhabitants Wm. Wooderoffe—Minister—Thos. Mears of London. Fecit. 1794.

Sixth Bell:—Thomas Shuffield—William Bull—Churchwardens \*Thos. Mears of London. Fecit. 1797. \* WARNING UNTO DEATH \*

The Sanctus Bell, commonly called the Tinkler bears no inscription or date, it is called to use by the clock hammer every hour.

The South Porch is the principal entrance, it is built of stone, with a gable roof of tiles—it has an arched door-way, with the date 1657, at which time the Church was probably restored. The entrance is by a pair of large folding doors, the porch contains on each side stone seats, the Church is entered by a massive Old English oak door, thickly studded with iron and nails. The first feature to notice is the massive pillars and arches between the nave and the aisles; on the south side are three round pillars with four pointed arches; on the north side are three octagonal pillars and four pointed arches, the tower communicates with the nave and aisles by three large arches, which are now filled up by matchboarding.—LISPCOMBE says, “at the west end of the nave, the arch is filled up by a neat rising gallery supported by four columns, it was closely wainscotted all round, and fitted up with rising and comfortable seats, the entrance to which was by a staircase leading down behind into the south aisle.” This gallery was generally occupied by the singers and their musical instruments ;” on the top front of the gallery was fixed the “Psalm board,” into which was slid the numbers of the Psalms, Anthems or Hymns to be sung, this gallery was removed by

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the Rev. Alfred Turner, in the year 1861. There was also a vestry room made in 1827 by order of the vestry, at the north end of the belfry, with a 9 inch brick partition between north aisle, and wood partition and door into belfry, this was taken down in 1861.

LIPSCOMBE says, the arch at the east end of the nave was filled up by a wainscotted screen, which formerly separated the nave from the chancel, it was a very fine piece of carved wood work, rarely to be met with, being taken away it greatly improved the appearance of the Church. "The Royal Arms" then hung over this arch as did "the Creed" and "Lords Prayer" and close by the "Ten Commandments." The Royal Arms now are fixed up in the Belfry, the Commandments re-written, and now hang at the east wall of the chancel. The pulpit at one time stood on the south side of the nave, it was carved oak and panelled hexagonally, on the stem support was the date 1701. The nave is lighted by six clerestory windows, in the centre of the nave, suspended from the roof by a chain, is a fine brass chandelier for eight lights, with a label having on one side "the Gift of Mrs. Rebekah Evans, 1755," on the other, "to the beautifying of this Church," LIPSCOMBE says it is a very useful ornament, and the only one bestowed upon the Church during at least a century. Mrs. Evans is supposed to be a widow of one of the Incumbents. The word nave or *nafis* Saxon, and means hub or centre, thus it means the middle or body of the church, the word aisle is French, *alia* or wing, most of the Norman Churches were built with a nave and two wings or aisles, and in the form of a cross.

In the south wall of the chancel are two recesses, these are the piscina and the sedilia, they are in unusual proximity, the small recess is five feet span by three feet high, with a pointed arch resting on four slender shafts, in this recess is two grooved basins with a hole at bottom leading to a drain to carry off the water in which the officiating priest has been washing his hands, or the vessels used in the service at the Mass and Holy Communion; the stone ledge or shelf under the same arch was for the cups, vessels, cruets &c. The large recess called the sedilia, is a seven feet span by five feet high, with a low elliptic arch under which are three stone seats for the officiating priests, when these are in a level with each other the priest sits in the centre with the deacon on his right and subdeacon on his left, in this sedilia the priest sat on the highest seat, the deacon and subdeacon on the lower seats,—this is a very old piece of work, a capital engraving is to be found in LIPSCOMBE'S history. The chancel contains three two-lighted windows on the sides, and a large three-lighted window of no mean appearance at the east end; in the window on the south side is a roundell of coloured glass representing a pelican feeding her young, encircled by a coloured border, on the opposite window in the north side is a roundell in red, green and yellow forming triangles representing the Trinity. The east window on the south side of the chancel is a memorial window to John Tattam Esq, who died 1854, and Mary Ann his wife, who departed this life 1853, it is a beautiful stained glass window, and represents the Resurrection and Holy Trinity; we may add here that there is left.6100 in good security, the interest of which is placed in the hands of the Vicar and Churchwardens to keep clean and repair this memorial, and also the tombstone and rails in the churchyard, and the overplus, if any, to be given to the most deserving poor of the parish. On the north side of the chancel was the priest's vestry, which communicated with the chancel by a fine arched doorway, now blocked. On the south side of the chancel was a large side vestry, or chantry chapel, which is indicated at the east end of the south aisle by a blocked arch, and close to, are two cavities or niches communicating with each other. The chancel was restored in 1850, the old seats and pews with screen were taken away, on some of the seats were carved the letters R. H. supposed to be the initials of Richard Hobbs, of Woburn Monastery, who was a benefactor to the Church, on others were Latin inscriptions "Orate pro bona statum Mag, is, tri"—"J Roberti Power." In the floor of the chancel were several old sepulchral slabs



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and stones which were removed in consequence of the new floor being laid and are now lying in the path leading to the Vicarage; new altar rails and steps leading to the communion table were also erected. There are some very old oak seats left in the Church, affixed to the end of one is the offertory cup with iron top and three looks, on a carved stem,—one seat with back appears to have been a remnant of the confessional box, with its small whispering cavities. The old oak roofs in the nave and aisles are visible, and some are carved bearing different dates and initials as follows— in the nave, “T.G., 1716, J.C.”; “E.G., 1630”; in the south aisle, “1681”— “T.W. 1681.” The font stands at the west end of the south aisle, it is a circular stone basin of 20 inches diameter, and rests on a slender shaft 3 feet 6 inches high, it bears the inscription “William Olliffe, Joseph Collett, Churchwardens, 1661, T. B.” It has a wooden cover suspended from the arch by a rope and pulley, the initials T.R. are supposed to be Thomas Rickard, clerk. In the year 1496 John Power a citizen of London, willed to be buried in St. John’s Church, Whitchurch, Co. Bucks,—he willed £10 to the works in the body of the Church, and £10 to the making of a new rood loft, and £10 to repair the steeple, and for a new treble bell to agree with the old bells. In 1621, Anthony Creswall died here Rector of this parish, and willed to be buried in the middle of the choir before the image of St. John the Evangelist, he willed 20 shillings to the repairs of the steeple, and 20 shillings to St. John the Evangelist, the Rood, St. John the Baptist, St. Katherine, and St. Nicholas’ lights.

These items remind us that the Roman Catholic religion not only existed in this country, but that here in our own Church its doctrines were taught. The word Rood loft, referred to, (£10 being left to make a new one) is Anglo Saxon, signifying, *Crux* or Cross. In its primary signification it denoted any sort of image, but was afterwards peculiarly adapted to our Saviour fixed on the cross, or the cross itself. The rood loft was commonly over or near the passage out of the body of the Church into the chancel, and it was so called because on it was erected a large carved representation of the Crucifixion. The body of the Church was looked upon as a representation of the Church militant, and the chancel as the Church triumphant by the mystery of our redemption on the cross. Those who would pass out of the former into the latter must go under and by the cross and suffer affliction. When the cross was perfectly set out, the crucifix was attended with other images of the Virgin Mary, St. John, thereby alluding to the words of our Saviour, in John the 19th chap., verse 26,—“who saw His mother and the disciple whom he loved standing by.”

The sums of money left for the Church may appear to us small items, but it was not so; at that time the average value of a good fat ox was 26 shillings, a fat sheep 3/4, a fat calf 3/-, a fat lamb 1/-. Good old times some say! Yes, but what good was it, when the people had no money to buy anything with.

The Church boasts of a communion service, rare, antique, and valuable. Lord Chief Justice Smythe, and his son Edward Smythe were the donors, it consists of six pieces of solid silver, marked “I.H.S.,” comprising two silver plates, two silver cups with covers, a flaggon holding two quarts, and a silver chalice, dated 1570. They gave also a new communion table, and a purple covering for same, fringed with silk, marked “I.H.S.,” also a pulpit cloth, and covering for the pulpit door of fine purple cloth, with a cushion of the same having tassels, and fringed with purple silk. He willed also £15 towards a new treble bell.

## THE MONUMENTS AND TABLETS

“At the east end of the north aisle,” says BROWN WILLIS “is a marble slab, (now covered by pews or otherwise hidden,) on which is a long Latin inscription, with the crest and arms

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referring to Chief Justice Smythe and family; Sir Edward Smythe died February 20th, **A.Do.**, 1682.

On a large slab near the reading desk, at the east angle of the nave, is inscribed in Latin, "Lucius Smythe Armigeri, who died December, 1694" engraved is the family crest and arms.

On a stone slab in the floor of the north aisle now hardly legible, is ——son—— Nicholas, and Mary Wallis of Crislow, who died June 28th, 1762, aged 7 years. Lower down—"Under this stone in hopes of a blessed resurrection is interred the body of—Mrs. Mercy Wallis,—wife of—Nicholas Wallis of this parish, -who departed this life the 20th day of May, 1759, in the 69th year of her age.

"A tender mother to her children dear,  
And to her husband loving and sincere,  
A friend beloved by her neighbours all,  
She died lamented when her Lord did call."

In the same aisle on another slab is this,—"here lieth the body of Frances Bruloe," relict of Augustin Joseph Bruloe ! and daughter of Thomas and Susanna Topping, who died the 19th of July, 1700,—in the 26th year of her age."

There are three brass plates fixed in stone slabs, between the south porch and nave, and although they have had nearly 200 years of wear and tear by hundreds and thousands of visitors and worshippers treading over them, they are as perfect to day as ever.

On one,—"Here lieth the body of Hannah Scott," the daughter of Thomas Scott, and Avis his wife,—who departed this life on the 29th day of March, 1699, aged 20 years.

"Repent in time, no time delay,  
In my prime I was ta'an away,  
And being dead to grave I must,  
And there to molder into dust."

On another,—"Here lieth the body of Thomas Scott," who lived at Crislow, and departed this life on the 23rd day of April, 1699, aged 63 years.

"Since Lord thou hast been pleased,  
To call my body to the earth,  
Do let my soul return to thee,  
From whom it had its birth."

On another,—"Here lieth the body of Avis Scott," the wife of Thomas Scott, who departed this life the 7th day of January, 1707, aged 74 years.

"Lo here lies sleeping in the dust,  
Until our Saviour Christ shall say—  
At the Besurrection of the just,  
Arise you dead and come away."

In the floors of the nave are several sepulchral slabs, from which "the Brasses and effigies are gone," and the inscriptions worn out,—on one is the date 1650, E.C., on another, E.C.G.C. 1712—these tombs are supposed to belong to the families of Cheshire, who at one time were a wealthy family here.

On a brown slab in the floor of the south aisle is inscribed, Joseph Collect, the other inscription is worn away.

On a large stone in the floor of the nave near the pulpit, is the following inscription,—  
"Under this stone is deposited the body of William Hedges, who died August the 4th, 1792,



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aged 69 years.”—and also Elizabeth, wife of William Hedges, who died Sep. 14th, 1816, aged 96 years.

On the north side of the north aisle is a mural tablet of marble, sculptured in relief, is a male figure leaning on a staff, attired in a Roman toga, and bare-headed, an ox is standing behind him, and three sheep are laid in the foreground, underneath is the following inscription,—“this monument is erected to the memory of John Westcar, Esq., late of Creslow, in the county of Bucks, who died on the 24th day of April, 1833, aged 84 years, and also Mary Westcar his wife, who departed this life on the 14th day of March, 1781,”—aged 23 years.

“Unblemished let me live, or die unknown,  
Oh ! grant an honest fame, or grant me none.”

Over the pulpit, is a tablet of white marble, reading thus,—“Sacred to the memory of Miss Ann Hedges, late of this parish, who died 12th of March, 1820, aged 64 years.” “This tablet is erected as a tribute of respect and affection, through life she was a faithful Christian, a kind and sincere friend, charitable and generous in her conduct, ever trusting with resignation to the divine will in sacred hope of Heaven, through the merits of her blessed Redeemer.”

On a neat marble tablet over the reading desk is the following inscription,—“In memory of the Revd. Thomas Archer, who was for 31 years vicar of this parish, born June 23rd, 1788, died May 22nd, 1843,” “also of his son in law, the Revd. Alfred Turner, M.A., 33 years vicar of this parish, born Aug 19th, 1814, died Sep 24th, 1876,—Resting in Hope.”

LIPSCOMB says, in the chancel are preserved the following memorials : Under the east window, (now covered by a Dossal,) affixed to the wall, is a mural oval marble tablet, inscribed as follows.—“The body of Bennett Gaudrey, deceased the 29th day of August, 1666, resteth here,” a hand carved in relief, points to a sepulchral slab in the pavement, on which are the initials “B.G.” On a similar tablet, “The body of Martha Gaudrey, the wife of Bennett Gaudrey, deceased the 25th day of Sept, 1656, resteth here.” On a slab within the communion rails on the south side, “Here lieth the body of Mr. Benedict Gaudrey of the parish of Christlow, who died July 1717, aged 83 years, also the body of Elizabeth Gaudrey, the wife of the aforesaid Benedict Gaudrey, who died Dec 27,—1747,—aged 66.”

A concave oval stone against the wall reads thus. “The body of Ann Gaderen, deceased the 9th of June, 1669,” a hand carved in relief points to the floor. On slabs on the north side within the rails are the initials and dates rudely cut, “H.R., 1776” and “J.G., 1732,” these are supposed to refer to Henry Richards, and John Gaudrey,—when the new floor was laid these were removed, with several other large slabs from which brasses and effigies had been taken of which no account can be given.

On a neat white mural marble tablet on the north side of the chancel is the following—“Sacred to the memory of Thomas Green, Esq, who departed this life the 17th day of October, 1795, in the 63rd year of his age, sincere in the profession of piety, faithful in the discharge of the duties of life, with a conscience pure and undefiled, with a heart firm to justice and truth, he was resigned to God alone. These are the qualities which rendered him truly respectable, and ever to be regretted by his surviving friends erected to his memory by his widow, as a small testimony of ardent affection.” “Mrs. Mary Green, widow of the above mentioned Thomas Green, departed this life the 7th day of November, 1803, aged 67.

On a neat white marble tablet on the south side of the chancel,—“Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Flowers, wife of William Flowers of this parish who departed this life May 18th,

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1823, aged 51 years,—also William Flowers who departed this life March 16th, 1827, aged 56 years.

On the exterior of the Church, affixed to the wall of the south aisle, is a tablet erected by Mr. Westcar, inscribed as follows,—“This tablet is erected by Mr. Westcar as a just tribute of to the memory of Thomas Sirett, who was a faithful and diligent servant to him at Creslow, for more than thirty years. He died April 25, 1811, aged 60 years, and is interred near this place. May this record of his merits incite others to an imitation of his praiseworthy conduct.” This man it appears met his death accidentally at Creslow, being gored and tossed by a cow, while attempting to drive the animal through a gateway, the accident happening in the presence of his employer.

### CHURCHWARDENS’ ACCOUNTS

The oldest Churchwardens’ account book I can find begins thus—“The disbursements of Joseph Stevens and Joseph Brooks, Churchwardens.” This book is in fair preservation; the writing is good and legible. It contains accounts year by year, from 1710 to 1788. A few extracts I intend to notice here and comment on as I go through it. The first thing to be noticed is the accounts of money paid for sparrows, polecats, weasels, foxes, and hedgehogs.

It appears strange that these harmless creatures should be thought to be enemies to the farmers and parish, and that the churchwardens were authorised to purchase them, in order to destroy them—it was so. The hedgehogs were said to be a great enemy to farmers they would suck the milk from the cows and do them other harm, would rob the gardens of fruit and carry it off on their prickly backs. Sparrows to, were destructive and such a nuisance to the parish at large, that it was thought best to reduce them. The first year’s account is as follows—

Pd. ye apparition for hadland money .....	0	2	0
Pd. for bread and wine for ye holy communion .....	0	5	3
Pd. for killing of a polecat! .....	0	0	4
Pd, for catching 4i dozen of sparrows .....	0	0	9
— for killing a weesile .....	0	0	3

It appears the leads on the Church were bad and needed repairing, and the following accounts are given—

Spent with the Plum’b when he came to look upon the leads .....	0	2	0
Pd. for drink when ye leads was a casting .....	0	1	0
Pd for 9 busshell of lime .....	0	4	0
Pd Daniel Jenkins for one bellrope .....	0	4	0
Pd’ to James Grace for his worke and his Son’s worke in ye Church..	0	11	8
Pd. Robt. Toogood for ale, w’ch ye workmen had when they worked in ye Church .....	0	1	6
Pd George Wingrave for flouer dayes worke in helping ye Plumbs....	0	4	0
Pd to John Roff and his son Edward, for 18 dayes work apiece and for ye timbs w’ch they ussed in ye Church ye sum of .....	5	0	10
Pd to William Grace for two days work in whitewashing the Church .	0	2	8
Pd. for a score of sheaves, for to heat ye water for to do ye lime of ye seats in ye Church .....	0	0	6
Pd John Crupp for ale for workemen and the plumbs .....	0	10	0
Pd. for ale for ringing, and for ye plumers and workmen to Jeremiah Warner ye sum of .....	0	9	6
Pd. for Eliz Rickard widdow, for ale for ringing, and ffor the plumbs			

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and ye workmen ye sum of .....	0	9	2
Pd. George Wingrave for making a churchwarden rate .....	0	2	6
Pd. Edward Wallis, ffor looking after ye clock and worke done to ye Church ye sum of .....	3	1	7
Pd. to John Russell, plumers, ffor casting of ye leads and adding of new leads to it, ye sum of .....	15	7	1
Pd. to Joseph Brooks for earring and bringing of ye leads .....	1	0	0
Pd. to George Wingrave ffor entering the accounts into the Church Book .....	0	1	0
The same Churchwardens did duty the next year, the following is among their accounts—			
Pd. for killing a ffox .....	0	1	0
Pd for ye quitt rent ffor ye Church Houses .....	0	1	2
Pd George Wingrave ffor riteing ye Register, in ye year 1710 Bill .....	0	1	6
Pd. for our expenses at visitation the ffirst .....	0	15	9
Pd. for 7 dozen of sparrows .....	0	1	2
———13 dozen of ” .....	0	2	2
———for a wessell .....	0	0	1
Pd. for Thomas Stratham ffor making a new gate and ffor timber and wokemanship, and mounding ye Churchyard gate .....	0	18	0
Pd. for one whesolle .....	0	0	1
Pd. ffor washing ye surplice and ffor mending ye common prayer book .....	0	1	6
Pd. for z polecatts killing .....	0	0	8
Pd. for ye killing of two polecats more .....	0	0	8
For my horse hire about Isaac Alien’s business .....	0	1	6
For my expense and ye Overseers .....	0	1	6
For my horse hire and expenses to Windover, to give them notice for a try all .....	0	2	0
Pd. for ale for ye ringers ye Fifth of November ye sum of .....	0	6	0
These two year’s accounts amount to as reckoned up together —for the year 1710 and 1711—			
The Fouer Rates comes to .....	43	6	8
The Disbursements comes to .....	40	12	6
Ye remainder due to ye next Churchwardens .....	3	4	2
Apr. ye 21, 1712. JOHN ROE, Vicar. THOMS GREENE.			

The next year’s items contain nothing out of the ordinary line, excepting the account of the glazing of the Church windows. The sparrows are not forgotten. There are items of relief down, such as—

Given to a pore woman .....	0	1	0
Given to two pore men who had a loss by fire .....	0	1	0
July ye 11, 1717, give to pore man who had a loss by water .....	0	0	6
Paid 2 wooman’s and 9 children .....	0	1	6
Given to a grot booled woman .....	0	0	6
March, paid for churching and traviling wooman .....	0	0	9
Jan. 8, paid to Mr. Dagnall for a prar book .....	0	12	0

The Churchwardens were in those days a kind of relieving officers, and it was to their

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interest and also of the parish, to get poor travelling men and women off out of the parish, that they might not become liable for their maintenance, hence we come across items like this—

Paid to a grot bolied woman to send her away .....	00	2	0
Paid to a passanger .....	00	0	6
Pd. to a great belied woman .....	00	1	0
Pd. to a traveler woman as had fites .....	00	1	0
Pd. to a man and woman as had the small poox .....	00	15	6
Pd. to 4 men who had losses by fire .....	00	1	0
Pd. to the march on of passangers .....	00	0	1
Pd. to two men as was burnt out .....	00	0	8
Pd. to John Bowler for one coffin .....	00	4	0

The Church clock items tell up in a few years to a very large amount. The glaziers and church windows were a deal of trouble and expense. In the year 1715 were the following—

Spent with the clock smith and other members, that went when			
he came to view to locke on the clock.....	0	1	6
Pd. for ye clock rope .....	0	1	3
Pd. Thos. Stadoms for the frame of ye clock .....	0	6	6
Pd. Wm. Brodford, roparring the clock .....	6	0	0
Pd. ye glassier for mending the church windows .....	0	8	6
Pd. for hood to hote his hiarn .....	0	0	6

A good deal of money was spent in ale for the ringers on certain days, so we find items as—

Pd. for ale at Visitation and expense .....	1	10	0
Pd. F. Rickard for ale for ye ringers .....	0	2	0
Pd. ye ringers gun powder day .....	0	5	0
<b>Pd.</b> for ale at ye King's Coronation .....	0	5	0
Pd. Jonathan Rickard for ale for ye workemen at church windows ....	0	10	6

There are several accounts of money paid for the annual processions. In the account for 1725 is the following—

Pd. Thos. Crupper for procession and for wokemen and ringiong....	0	19	0
Pd. to Jonathan Rickard for bred and chise and ale at the prosecion, also for ringors and work joucks and flowar .....	0	13	5
Pd. to Tho. Steward for ale at the prosicion for ye ringers.....	0	7	0
Pd. to Robard Toogood, ale for prosicion and ringers .....	0	7	0
Pd. to Larance Rickyard, ale for posocion and for ringers .....	0	7	0

It was the custom at one time, to traverse the bounds and outskirts of the parish, called The Processions, or Beating the Bounds.

In Roman Catholic times this perambulating was a matter of great ceremony, attended with prayers, feastings, and superstitious practices. The Rogation Days, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, before Holy Thursday, or Ascension Day, were the days observed for this ceremony. The Lord of the Manor, with a large banner, the Vicar or Rector, or Monks, Priests, and Parish Officers, carrying staves, crosses, handbells, followed by most of the parishioners, walked in procession round the parish, buns, bread, cheese and ale, followed behind; at certain places, the procession stopped for refreshments, or for prayers; the Minister would read some Psalm, and exhort the company to give thanks to God for the increase, and fruits of the earth, while beholding his goodness in providence. It was, says one, “a very merry two days ramble round our old parish.” It was a time that many of the

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wealthy of the parish enjoyed. In many places, money was left and bequeathed for buying refreshments &c.; at Edgcott, an acre of land was left, let at .£3, to bear the expense of the annual perambulation. At Crawley, an estate pays, by will, £4 per annum, for same purpose. At one village in Bucks, an old house stood in the boundary line, the occupiers knowing the rules, opened the door to the procession, who entered and walked out at the back. In another place an oven belonging to a farm house was built on the boundary line, it was customary to put a boy into this recess, and another to climb over it, to preserve the integrity of the line of bounds; it was considered a good joke, and the village lads ambitious of the honour, generally settled it by lot, who was to be the hero of the year. On one occasion as the procession came near they found the mistress about to bake, and the oven full of blazing fagots, the boys seeing the flames issuing from the mouth, exclaimed, "Tom Smith is the boy to go in the oven": poor Tom expecting to be baked alive, uttered a fearful cry, and ran off home as fast as possible. At another point in the road or street, once stood a nobleman's carriage, it was standing exactly on the boundary line. The carriage was empty, waiting for the owner, who was visiting in a house near. The principal of the procession being a nobleman himself, desired the coachman to drive out of the way a bit—"I won't" said the sturdy coachman, "my lord told me to wait here, and here I'll wait till his lordship tells me to move." "Without any further to do the principal very politely opens the door of the carriage, enters in, and passed out through the opposite door, and was quickly followed by the whole procession. At one or two places, two or three of the village lads were bumped, that is a certain part of the person was swung against a wall, tree or post or anything which happened to be near; it will scarcely be doubted that this method of recording the boundary was not forgotten by those who saw or felt this curious mode of registration. All this is now done away since the Inclosure Act was passed, and boundaries fixed.

Hedgehogs and sparrows' accounts continue for years, one is led to think it impossible for a sparrow to be found. In the year 1746, 120 dozen of sparrows were bought, beside polecats, and hedgehogs. In 1783, 67 dozen sparrows and 4 polecats were bought. In the year 1781, a three penny rate collected £16 19 11½, paid away .£16 4 4., but it was not till 1868 that Church Rates were abolished.

## THE RECTORIAL ESTATES AND VICARAGE

In early times all Parish Churches were Rectories, including our own Parish. Rectories are those parsonages or livings which have not been appropriated, but in which all the tithes, glebe lands, and other emoluments, belong to the Incumbent. Vicarages and perpetual Curacies are of subsequent date. Lords of manors and other wealthy persons, erected Religious Houses and Parish Churches, and gave or appropriated to them, lands, estates, tithes, &c., as a source of income. The payment of tithes out of the yearly produce of the soil, for the maintenance of religion and its ministers, was enjoined in the Jewish Church, and was inculcated as a pious duty in the Christian Churches of the west. The idea of giving (or doing), to the God men worship, is supported by all nations of antiquity. A code of laws was made by a King of the West Saxons, 690, which in one part stated, that "the first-fruits of all seedg and corn (namely one-tenth) are due to the Parish Church, to be paid on St. Martin's feast. Him that fails to pay shall be fined forty shillings, and the worth of the due twelve times over." The tithes of a parish at one time were distributed in a fourfold division—one part for the Bishop, one for the Church, one for the Poor, one for the Incumbent. At one time all Bishops and Clergy paid one-tenth of their income into a fund called Queen Ann's Bounty; livings of small value, were exempt and called Discharged Livings. Hence Whitchurch is a discharged living and rated in the Kings book at £8 17 0.

The advowson of the Rectory of Whitchuroh, part of the Barony of Bolebec, descended



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with the Manor, through the De Veres, earls of Oxford, until the time of Elizabeth, widow of John De Vere, 1396, when a great change took place, and the Rectorial Estates and all tithes connected therewith, were appropriated to Woburn Abbey. This was confirmed by patent letters, dated 1398, and after that it became a Vicarage. Thus the spiritual welfare of the parish was controlled by the authorities of Woburn Monastery, who sent Monks and Friars of the Cistercian order to conduct the spiritual wants and needs of the people. All this went on till the dissolution of Religious Houses, in the time of Henry VIII, when many of the lands, glebes, tithes, &c., were granted or sold to the King's favourites, who became what is termed lay impropiators. Thus we find that King Henry VIII, in 1639, for a fine of £4 demised to Ralph Harris, the Rectory of Whitchuroh, with all tenths, glebe lands, rents, services, commons, and profits belonging to the same, being a parcel of the possessions of Woburn Monastery, and in the hands of the King, by the attainder of Robert Hobbs, late Abbot, of high treason (except the nomination and presentation of or to the Vicarage) to hold from Michaelmas then, during twenty-one years, at the annual rent of £14 13 4, payable at the usual feasts. In 1551, the King, by letters patent under the seal of the Court of Augmentations (the Rectorial estate being now no longer tied to Woburn Monastery) demised to Ralph Harris, these estates and privileges for another term of 21 years, at same rent and conditions, after which it went back to the Crown. Queen Elizabeth, by letters patent, dated 5th March, 1568, demised to Ralph Stafferton for good and faithful services, and for £37 17 10, and at the annual rent of £13 15 10½, all the Rectorial Estates, after the termination of Harris' lease, for 21 years. In the year 1606, King James I, granted to Sir John Fortescue, of Salden House, and Richard Tomlyne, the Rectory and Church Estate, of Whitchurch (late belonging to Woburn Abbey) to hold in fee, paying for it £14 13 4, to the Bishop of London 6s. 8d., and to the Archdeacon the sum of 13s. 0¼d. After various transfers these Rectorial Estates, which passed through many families, became the property of Thomas Green, Esq., a highly respected gentleman, who lived and died at Whitchurch House. He was possessor or lay impropiator at the time the open fields were enclosed 1771, and had a deal to do with the Inclosure. An allotment was assigned to him out of the acreage of the parish, as a full compensation for the rights of common, the value of the great tithe and dues belonging to him as lay impropiator, together with the Rectorial Estate then in hand, to the extent of 367a. 2r. 21p., being assessed at £339 19 5½ annual value. In 1789. Mr. Green sold a portion of this estate (now called Holborn Hill Farm) to Richard Hopkins, Esq., of Oving House, valued at £185 15 10½ per annum. After this it became the property of Lord Boston, and was sold by auction, at the Mart, London, on May 1st, 1861, and was purchased by Baron De Rothschild for £13,120, whose representatives still have possession. Another portion of the Rectorial Estate was sold and became the property of the Rev. John Dell, M.A., Rector of Weston Longueville, Norfolk, and is now occupied and belongs to Mr. John Wilson—it consists of 54 acres of land, with buildings and yard. —This portion is still attached to the Church, the proprietor having to keep the chancel in repair, and he holds the honorable title of Lay Rector. When Whitchurch open fields and commons were enclosed, an allotment was made to the Vicar, the Rev. Thos. Atkinson, of about 67 acres, which was deemed a full compensation for the rights of common, Vicarial tithes, and other dues, arising, renewing, increasing, or happening in the said parish. The annual value of this glebe land forms the stipend of the Vicar, which was valued in 1772 at £68 6 11.

In an old Terrier, dated June 1822, we read as follows, respecting the lands, house, &c., belonging to the Vicarage of Whitchurch. "Impriss— A Vicarage house, part built with stone and brick and wood, covered with tiles, and containing 3 bays of building, part floored with boards, part with brick. There is also a stable and coach-house lying together containing

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two bays, built with brick and timber, and tiled. The homestead contains upwards of a rood of ground, it is bounded on the north by the Church-yard, east by the Home Close, and the Hemp Plat on the west part thereof, and fenced in part with a stone wall, part pales, part hedge and ditch. Item —Easter offerings are due to the Vicar from everyone in the parish above 16 years of age, two-pence each; and mortuaries, as the act directs; surplice fees due to the Vicar for every wedding, by publication of banns, 6s. 0d., by licence, 10s. 6d.; for every funeral, 1s. 8d.; churching of women, 1s. 0d. The glebe and profits of the Vicarage amount to about £160 nett value. In an old Terrier dated 1832, we read as follows—”The gross amount is about £71 14 0 per annum, including Easter dues, surplice fees, &c., the whole of which (excepting the dues), arises from land, viz—63 acres in a farm about a mile from the village, without an house, for which I have been offered £63 per annum, and 3 acres adjoining the Vicarage, worth £6 per year. The people of the parish are very poor, so that the rates will be greater this year and will probably reach 20s. in the pound.

Easter Offerings for the year .....	14	0
Funerals, Marriage Fees, &c .....	2	0 0
Farm, rental value .....	63	0 0
Church-yard Close .....	6	0 0
	63	0 0
Total value of living	£71	14 0

1832, T. ARCHER, VICAR.’

The Vicarage House was built by the Rev. Alfred Turner, in the year 1845. It stands on the south side of the Church, it is a neat genteel building of red brick and slated, surrounded by lawns, gardens and shrubbery. It is said that he was assisted by Queen Ann’s Bounty. In 1870 a change was made advantageous to the living, of Land at Bushmead for the adjoining lauds to the Home Close, and the land was thoroughly drained, and new farm buildings erected. The Rev. Alfred Turner let a greater part of his glebe land out in acre and half-acre allotments to the poor, and thus made a large addition to his yearly income. The living is the gift of the Lord Chancellor, yearly value £200.

## RECTORS

Peter De—————occurs in 1189.

Jocelin de Ametina, instituted in 1218, on the presentation of William de Marescal, in possession of Robert de Vere’s Lands, who then stood excommunicated.

Peter de Mara, presented in 1239, by Isabella de Vere, Countess of Oxford.

Nicholas———died in 1312.

John Waryn, inst. 9th Nov. 1312, on the presentation of Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford.

Nicholas Faldye, inst. 1336.

Hugh de Osewyll, presented by Robert de Vere, 11th March, 1325, died Rector in 1345.

John de Pelham, inst. 15th Oct., 1345, on the presentation of the Earl of Oxford’s Feoffee, who was then in remote parts. He quitted for Wycham, in Ely Diocese, when made a Priest.

John Ie Hunt, inst. March 3rd, 1346, on the Earl of Oxford’s Trustees title. He exchanged for Stoke Neyland, in Norwich Diocese, 1355.

Adam Kenne (or Keme), instituted May 15th, 1355, and exchanged with—

John De Bradley, for St. Botolps, Bishopsgate Street, London, 10th Dec., 1363. On the presentation of Thomas de Vere, Earl of Oxford, at his death, to—

Walter de Farendon, who was inst. 2nd Feb., 1368, and exchanged for Ightham, Kent, with—



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John de Tolthorp, 9th July, 1373. He exchanged for Chagford, Devon, with—  
John Tourney, who exchanged for Burwescote, Berks, with—  
John de Walton, admitted 6th June, 1379, being presented by the King.  
John de Tolthorp seems to have exchanged with John De Walton, and to have come here a second time, for—  
Thomas de Fulford, was instituted 30th July, 1382, on the presentation of Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, on exchange with Tolthorp, for Chagford, Devon.  
Walter Worship, presented by the King, instituted 21st May, 1397, on the death of Fulford. He accepted the Rectory of Hardwick in 1400 and quitted this. It was then appropriated to Woburn Abbey and was made a Vicarage.

## VICARS

Walter Dobbes, Capellanus, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Woburn, “ad Vicariam de Whitchurch de novo eidem, Monasterio Auctoritate Apostolica Annexam, 7th Sept., 1400.”  
Thomas Burwald (or Berewold), presented 18th October, 1418.  
John Rogers, instituted 3rd September, 1453.  
John Clyvelode, instituted 30th October, 1456.  
William Wright, instituted 30th September, 1458.  
Robert Stacy, instituted loth July, 1461.  
John Gerbray, instituted 22nd Sept., 1462.  
George Parlond (or Ireland), inst. 18th December, 1468.  
Richard Chernock, inst. 17th Sept., 1479.  
Peter Vavasour, inst. 13th Jan., 1480.  
John Mansel, inst, 13th Nov., 1482.  
Thomas Jakeman, L.L.B., inst. 14th Oct., 1504. He quitted for Aston Clinton. Died Rector there.  
Anthony Careswall, inst. 3rd April, 1509. He willed 6th May, 1521, to be buried in the middle of the choir, before the image of St. John the Evangelist; he gave twenty shillings to the repairs of the steeple, St. John the Evangelist, the Roode, St. John the Baptist, St. Katharine and St. Nicholas’ Lights.  
Richard Muston, inst. 24th May, 1521.  
Robert Palmer, inst. 17th Jan., 1522, and was the last presented by the Convent of Woburn  
Richard Rodworth, inst. 17th Feb., 1545, presented by King Henry VIII, on the death of the last Vicar.  
Robert Norwood, A.B., inst: 3rd Oct., 1556, and resigned it for Slapton.  
William Ally or Alle, inst. 30th Nov., 1560. It appears he left here or resigned, for in 1562 he was made Bishop of Exeter.  
Richard Flynny. inst. 6th Nov., 1574,  
Alexander Sheppard, inst. 23rd May, 1576. He quitted it for the Vicarage of Buckingham, and was succeeded by—  
William Coventry, inst. 30th Dec., 1580. He began the Parish Register in 1598, and was buried here 23rd Jan., 1621.  
John Guilliams, succeeded him same year. **he** quitted, and—  
John Brooks followed in 1624.  
Christopher Coats, inst. 5 Oct., 1626. He was Vicar 53 years, died and buried here; while he was Vicar the living was worth £20 per year.  
Thomas Roe, S.T.B., inst. 3rd July, 1679. He died and was succeeded by his nephew—  
John Roe, A.B., 20th December, 1703. He died loth June, 1716, being Schoolmaster at

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Leighton Buzzard, and was there buried.  
John Nicholson, inst. July 2nd, 1716, and was previously Curate of Nether Winchendon.  
He died 26th March, 1755, and buried here.  
Thomas Atkinson, A.B., inst. 10th June, 1755. He was Vicar at the time of the Inclosure.  
Richard King, A.B., was instituted.  
John Knight Tayler, Clk., inst. 16th November, 1782, was younger son of John Tayler, D.D.,  
Rector of Weston Turnville and New College, Oxon, made A.M., 6th July, 1782. He was  
Chaplain and Private Secretary to Philip, Earl of Chesterfield, who was sent Ambassador  
to the Court of Spain, and died at Aix-la-Chapelle, Dec. 1784.  
William Parsons, L.L.B., inst. 1785, and resigned in 1810, on being made Rector of Cannons,  
Frome. He took also the name of Hopton.  
Samuel Watson, D.D., inst. 28th Dec., 1810, on the presentation of King George III. He  
resigned and—  
Thomas Archer, A.M., and J.P., was inst. 1812, was Vicar 31 years, died and was buried in  
the Church-yard; a tablet is erected to him and his son-in-law, in the Church  
Alfred Turner, M.A., inst. 1843, was Vicar 33 years. He died at Torquay, Sept. 24th, 1876,  
and was buried in Whitchurch Church-yard.  
George Tate Medd, formerly Lieutenant in Royal Navy, inst. Dec. 4th, 1876.

## THE INCLOSURE ACT

An act for dividing and inclosing the open fields and common meadows, and common grounds and lands within the parish of Whitchurch, in the County of Bucks, was passed in the year 1771. "We can scarce believe but that the present hedges, ditches, trees, and hedgerows, existed for ages, but it was not so; previous to the inclosure the parish was divided out in strips called lands, acres, or half-acres, they were known as furrows, furlongs, yard lands, or half-yard lands, except the pasture land or the common, these pieces and patches were separated by a furrow and ditch, or a narrow strip of grass, or an occasional tree or bush, which formed the only boundary line. In those days the cattle had to be watched and looked after by the herdsman, night and day, otherwise they would be found on some forbidden ground, and if BO, the parties that were injured would take the cattle and put them into what was called the pound, that was a piece of ground enclosed by a high wall with a strong gate and lock, which stood on the borders of the High Street, opposite the junction of the Oving road with the high road. The cattle thus pounded were kept there till a full compensation to the injured parties was made. Reference is made to it in the Act, that during the passing and carrying out of the Act, any person or persons allowing their cattle to stray, contrary to the wish and order of the Commissioners, such cattle and beasts to be pounded until the person so offending pay the sum of five shillings for each beast impounded. The inclosing the open fields, I consider was the greatest event in our local history. Such a transmogrification has never been known before, and likely will never be known again, and we do not wonder that it met with opposition—some said one thing, some another; it was thought that by having fences and hedgerows, they would be such hiding places for highway men and robbers, that it would not be safe to go about. Then to have our land which we and our forefathers have held ever since the time of William the Conqueror, took from us, and pieces given as the Commissioners think best, we cannot understand. Then the expense, who is to pay that ? Nevertheless the Act was passed and carried out to the letter.

A great meeting was held at Rebecca Harrison's, at the "Cock" Inn, on April 10th, 1771, for considering the Act. The following gentlemen were appointed Commissioners and Surveyors and Valuers, in order to see the Act carried out rightly.

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Sir David Williams, Bart, was Lord of the Manor. Rev. Thomas Atkinson was Vicar. Mr. Thomas Green was Lay Impropiator. Mr. William Munshull was Clerk of the Peace.

The above were present also the following, who took the oath—

Francis Burton, of Aynhoe, Northampton, Esquire.

Rev. John Lord, of Drayton Parslow, Bucks, Clerk in Holy Orders.

John Plomer, of Aylesbury, Esquire.

Thomas Taylor, of Swanbourne, Esquire.

John Watts, of Sulgrave, Northampton, Gentleman.

These were appointed Commissioners for carrying out the Act.

As soon as the Act was passed, a survey with admeasurement, and plans and map, was made; all persons holding houses, cottages, and lands, and having any claims or interest in the carrying out of the Act, were duly considered and fairly dealt with. The Act refers first to the Vicar and glebe lands, the Commissioners setting apart a portion as compensation for tithes, dues, &c., to the extent of 67 acres. Mr. Green holding the Rectorial Estate comes next to the front, and as compensation to him for the dues of great tithes, and their value, 367a. 2r. 31 p., was assigned to him as equivalent. The Parks, which formerly belonged to the Castle are referred to, and right of pasturage by the poor of the parish is ended by an equivalent portion being cut off. The Commissioners had right to turn and alter all drains, roads, ways, water-courses, &c., with this exception, that by so doing they did not damage or hurt the proprietor of the Water Mill. Great alterations and changes took place. So at a great expense and trouble, in about 12 months, the present ditches, hedge rows, and trees were planted, and a new system of farming and agriculture began to be adhered to. The total cost of surveying, enrolling of the award, passing the Act, and legal expenses, amounted to £1,218 12 11, this was paid by a kind of rate from each person interested. The expenses in making new roads and ways and repairing others was £145 19 5¼. Reference is made to the Lord of the Manor, that in no way, shape or form, nothing could or should defeat, obstruct, the title, dues, and estates, of the said Lord; thus the Act was passed and proved in so doing that it was a great advantage to all concerned, by the land being enclosed, and thus becoming more capable of permanent improvement. Before the inclosure, land let at 10s. 0d., after at 27s. 0d. per acre.

## THE WELLS, SPRINGS, AND STREAMS

We shall not do justice to our Lecture, or Village, if we do not refer to the abundant and bountiful supply of water found here. In almost any part of the village itself, after digging down and penetrating through two strata of rocks, the 6 foot and 8 foot, at a depth of about 27 feet, is found another rock called "The Water Bock," in which is found a copious spring; on the outskirts of the Village this spring gushes out, in some nook or low corner, which ia unaffected by the seasons, never frozen-in the severest winter, or dried up in the hottest summer, and these springs have the honour to be parents to that noble river the Thames. There is something at once so beautiful and so bountiful in a spring of pure water, that no wonder it should become an object of some regard among a simple people, and in the middle ages, when a Christian tinge was given to everything, the discovery of a spring in a romantic situation, or a spring remarkable for the brightness, purity, or taste of ita water, was forthwith dedicated to some saint, and at once placed among the category of holy waters, being endued by a popular faith with powers more or less miraculous. Canons and Priests were powerful in fostering superstition, and in reporting strange tales, pretending to be strengthened by scriptural references, such as the Waters of Jericho, and the Pool of Bethesda, so much so that any place of prominence had its "holy well." "The most famous of these in England, are "The Tunbridge Wells," "The Well of St. Winfred," "Holywell," in

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Wales, also coming near home the famous well at North Marston, "Sir John Schorne's Well," who was Rector of North Marston, 1290. It is related that "Master" otherwise called "Sir or Saint John Schorne," although never canonized, was a very remarkable man, he was thought to have a gift of curing the ague, and gout, and other like complaints, and according to legend he produced a spring by tapping the soil with his staff, and water gushed out reputed to cure certain diseases, and which to day is remarkable for its medicinal qualities. Up till the end of the last century, there stood a finger post at Oving cross roads pointing to North Marston, with the inscription to "Sir John Scheme's Well."

Whitchurch has its wells, one now called Well Head or the Head Well, or originally "The Holy Well," the other Whittle Hole, originally the White Well, both these wells or springs stand about equal distances from the Church, in a parallel line, one on the east side the other on the west side of the Church and Village. The east portion of the Church or Churchyard, or east position in connection with the Church, always implies the best, most sacred, the holiest—thus this East well or the Holy Well, was held in sacred esteem and supposed to possess peculiar properties, "and in fact even to day its waters contain certain mineral qualities rarely to be met with, and it holds a wonderful power of incrustation." At this time, superstition ruled the clergy and people, and they believed almost anything, so much so that if a person was sick, it was the custom to take them water from this Holy Well; also if near to death and in order to satisfy the relatives, as to their recovery or not, a certain part of their clothes were taken by the old Monks straight away from the sick chambers and put in this well, if it sunk there was no hope of their recovery, if it floated it would be well, the patient would recover. The other well referred to, the White Well or Whittle Hole.—The water from this well was not held so sacred as the other, it was blest and given to and for the free and good use of the inhabitants. Now it was to these wells that at certain seasons of the year, the good people of this Village, with their Vicar, Monks, and Friars, went to pay homage, respect, and worship. Well worship was carried on in those days in a high degree, it was certainly a popish relic. In many places the wells were decked out with flowery arches, rockery, flags and banners. After the Reformation these customs were strictly forbidden, as superstitious and idolatrous, the cures which were wrought being doubtless, owing to the fresh air, purity of water, and what in these days we call hydropathic remedies.

On the west side of the Village are four springs, which have called forth attention and admiration—first. Whittle Hole, which we have already referred to, which throws up an average supply of water of "thirty-two gallons per minute," and when the springs are high, has been known to double and treble this quantity, it flows rapidly away and meets another stream, which flows from the second spring called "Fair Alice," which gushes out of the rocks under the site of the old castle. Legend says, that Alice De Bolebec derived great benefit from drinking this water. Third and fourth—the "Park Spring," also "Chattle Stream," originally "Cattle Spring," deriving its name from the fact, that at the time of open fields the herdsmen drove their cattle up to this spring to quench their thirst, it rises at "Scott's Hill, originally "Gun Hill," and throws up an average supply of 40 gallons per minute. These four springs or streams unite together at the Mill Head, and then flow out in one stream called Whittle Brook, a tributary of the River Thames. These springs and streams are referred to in the Inclosure Act, which directs that nothing is to be done that shall alter, divert, change, or turn their courses, to the damage, prejudice, or hurt, of the proprietor of the aforesaid mill. There is one more spring we will notice, called Crabsgrove Spring, a short distance on the north west of the Village, it is remarkable for its short life and existence. It rises out of the earth, serves several meadows, supplies a farm house and homestead, and runs on an even continuous stream, never-failing for about 200 yards, and then disappears in the earth, and is seen no more.

## THE PARISH REGISTERS

Parish Registers were introduced hi England, by Cromwell, Vicar General to Henry VIII, 1538. But little was done till the time of the Commonwealth, 1653, when an Act of Parliament was passed providing for a careful registration of all births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths, in each parish, and a person qualified was appointed Registrar, in the presence of two Justices of the Peace. It generally fell to the lot of the Clergyman or the Parish Clerk, and the registers were often neglected, and no entry made in them. They were often lost, torn up, or allowed to lay and rot in so me damp corner of the belfry. One old writer says—  
If ye want this book to last,

Be sure you keep it from the frast,  
If ye would keep it free from rot,  
In summer, lay it in the sun when hot.

Ignorant Clerks and Churchwardens allowed many an old interesting book and register, to take a part in lighting the church fire. In many cases, in tailors and shoemakers' shops, the strips of measurement were found to be register leaves. One old clerk being a shop keeper, found the old books come in wonderful handy for his shop. One lean bought a parcel at a shop and found it wrapped up in his own baptismal register. A glance at the register of any place, reveals some curious facts and old customs. How in times of plague, evil and distress, mercy and help was shown, how the rich people paid the fees in order to avoid being buried in woollen, how the Clergyman or Registrar were called upon to subscribe to the poor sufferers at the time of the plague and Fire of London, and how anxious people were to be touched for the Kings' Evil, and what a comfort to have the ribbon and gold coin as a memento of the occasion. An incident is told of a lady cutting out of the register the account of her marriage, while a friend was talking to the old clerk, and thus trying to become single again, but lo and behold, a large sum of money in a few weeks is left to her husband, she hastens back to the Church, bribes the old clerk, and has the leaf she cut out properly inserted again.

There are four old registers dating 1653 to 1812, and we wish just to glance through them. Lispcomb says—"The Rev. William Coventry in 1698, began the Parish Register, but that book is not to be found. The oldest Whitchurch Register is dated 1653; it begins thus.—

By virtue of an Act of Parliament made Aug. 24, 1653, I verifi John Steward to have the care of the Reg-book for Whitchurch, and to be Parish Registrar—witness my hand, Henry F, S——

The first entry is "Robert Groond, son of William Groond, born the second day of Oct, 1653, and Mary Sharp, born eleventh, daughter of Robert Sharp. The following are the most popular names—Rickard, Rickett, Bonnatt, Topping, Cook, Hawkins, Hoggkins, Toogood, Mortimer. The 1654 accounts begin with Edward Bossworth, son of Stephen Bossworth, born ye 7 Jan, 1654, at 12 o'clock at night; further down, Nicholas Simmonds, son of Nicholas Simmonds, and his wife Mary, born ye 28th day of Sept, 1656, at four o'clock in ye morning. Mary, daughter of William Matts, and Shibboth his wife, born ye 9 day of March, about four of the clock. The former and following names now appear.—Hollyard, Gurney, Longfollies, Ingrains, Martin, George, Willnott. The list of baptisms begins Hannah Gaudrey, daughter of Benedict Gaudrey, bap July ye 6th 1675.

One interesting item in the registers is a list of the names of persons, touched by the King for the cure of the Evil. This we read as follows :—Persons certified for ye Kings Evil, Cicerly Harris, ye wife of Rich. Harris, certified March ye 10—1681;—Richard Sholton,



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certified April 4—1682; Mary Moors, ye daughter of Elino Gray, certified March 31,—1682; also Richard son of Thomas Rickett, and also his son Francis, were certified April 1—1682.—Proved by Thomas Roe, S.T.B., Vicar. Richard Taylor, aged about threescore years, was certified Dec. ye 11th, 1686. Elizabeth ye daughter of Thomas and Mary Wallis, aged about sixteen years, was certified March ye 14—1686. The practice of touching for the King's Evil had its origin from the days of Edward the Confessor. Scrofula is the scientific name of the disease popularly called The Kings Evil. It has been described as indolent glandular tumours, frequently in the neck, suppurating slowly and imperfectly, and healed with difficulty. This kind of disease is acted upon by the mind to a large extent, when in a state of excitement. These tumours may be stimulated, and the suppuration quickened and increased, which is the ordinary process of cure, whether by the nerves, or by excitement an additional flow of blood to the affected part is not clearly ascertained, but cures in such cases have been effected by some such natural means and it is quite credible that out of the many hundreds of persons said to have been cured by the Royal touch, many have been restored to health, by the mind under excitement operating on the body. In such cases however, the cure may be considered as in proportion to the degree of excitement, reverence or veneration for the operator. Days were appointed for the ceremony, sometimes several hundreds of persons appeared before the King, each person was recommended by the Minister and Churchwarden of their parish. A kind of prayer was gone through, (The form used was printed at one time in the Prayer Book). The King would put his hands on them as they bowed before him bareheaded, and a gold coin and ribbon would be put round the neck, and the people would return home, either supposed to be cured, or on the point of it. The belief in charms, amulets, and the Royal touch has now passed away, with all other superstitions practices. The Gold tokens were marked with a representation of our Saviour and Disciples, around which were the words, "He touched them," on the other side a rose and thistle, or ship, around the words "and they were healed."

The Marriage Register begins 1653, one of the first is John Simon, ye son of Thomas Simon, of North Marston in ye County of Bucks. Yeoman, and Elizabeth Collett, ye daughter of Joseph Collett of Whitchurch, in ye County of Bucks, was married according to Act of Parliament, made ye 24th day of Aug., 1653, on ye seventh day of Dec. Anno Domino 1655, in ye presence of Joseph Collett, and Conday Simon, and of John Steward, Keg of Whitchurch. In the list appears the grand marriage of the Son of the Lord of the Manor "Sir Edward Smythe and Mary Matts were married, ye 24th day of June, being St. John the Baptists day, 1675." Borne of the entries are very difficult to read and detect, being written very closely and in old English style. "John Togood and Jane Woodward, both of this parish, wids, were married by Licence, ye 29 day of Jan, 1681, also Richard Alderman, and Rebekah Rosamond, both of this parish, wids, were married by banes, ye 14 day of May, 1682." In the burial list, we notice the entries read something like the following, 'Cecily Emarton, wid, was buried in woollen on ye 14 day of March, 1684, and a affadivatt was made ye 16 day of March 1684, before Mr. Duncombe, by Anne Cook, widow,—also the same date, Chrystopher Grace was buried in wollen, affidavitt was made by Ann Cook, before Mr. Anderson, Vie. of Greenborough." This singular law of burying in woollen was passed, so as to be a kind of protection for all concerned in the growth, manufacture, and sale of woollen goods, it enacted that after March 25th, 1667, no person shall be buried in any other shirt, shift or sheet than that made of woollen, even the quilting inside the coffin, and wrapping round the feet, were required to be made of wool, any neglect or omission, caused a penalty of £5 to be paid. As the service at the grave was being conducted, the clerk would call out, "who will make the affidavit" then one of the parties would step forward, declaring the body to be wrapped in woollen, and make the necessary oath. Then would the body be laid in the

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grave, and the necessary notice entered in the register. At one time, the oath was taken before a Justice of Peace, 8 clear days being allowed for so doing. The following names appear.—Hobbs, Alderman, Green, Woodward, Shapes, Grace, Smiths, Toppin, Ingrum, Wigg, Gray, Hawkins, Chashire, Coventry, Rickett, Turney, Witney, Hall, Taylor, Cooper, Toogood, Withwinburn, Kibble, Harris, Woster, Horwood.

In 1683, a new item appears in the registers, a record of collections made by briefs. These briefs were licenses authorised by the Parliament for making collections for losses by fire, and for other charitable purposes; the accounts were entered in the register, signed by the Minister and Churchwarden. Thus we find the following entries, “Nov. ye 18th, 1683—collected then towards ye relief of ye poor sufferers at Wapping, Middlesex, by virtue of his Majesty’s letters patent, ye sum of thirteen shillings and fivepence half-penny. Signed, Thos. Roe Vicar, £0 13 5½.” Then follows the details of the names and contributions of the different subscribers. Also “collected for ye poor French Protestants, £1 8 1, May 14th, 1686. Collected on July ye 15th, 1689, for Jewish Protestants who fled here £4 11 6.” “Collected for poor English Captives Redemption, on ye coasts of Africa, ye sum of £3 7 0.” “Collected for ye Dartford Fire Sufferers 4s. 0d.” The full detailed account of these collections are given. We find that the dreadful Fire of London was not forgotten, and the poor creatures received a welcome Gift from this parish, thus we read—“Collected for ye poor sufferers from fire at East Smithfield, London, Sep. ye 7th, 1690, ye sum of £3 11 0.” No. 1 register is parchment, in good state of preservation. No. 2 register has paper-lids, writing hardly legible, and is on bad paper. No. 3 is better, a good stiff-lid book, and fair writing for the time, it contains nothing of special interest or importance. The following names appear as running through the book—Lynod, Topping, Ffinch, George, Simmonds, Bly, Bird, North, Woolman, Billington, Gawdry, Warner, Man, Allon, Toogood, Hobbs, Moors, Churchill, Midmore, Waren, Verney, Elliott, Crouch, Mays, Holland, Durrants, Grace, Glenestr, Bull, Viccars, Burgon, Fleet, Denchfield, Norman, Seamons. The burial list for 1724 begins with “Bernard Holloway, Gent., buried April ye 10th, 1724. In 1728, George Rowland, late of Aielsbury, in this County, Batcholar of Physix, and Lord of this Manor, was buried here, Sep. 13th, 1728. Was buried on Oct. 28th, Whilliam Snake, Schoolmaster.” It appears that the occupations were given at this time of those who were buried, and thus we get quite a catalogue of the names and occupations of the people, there ia—Seamons the farmer, Crupper a publican, Coleman an apprentice, Henley a pauper, Edley a yeoman, Price a tailor, Varney a collar-maker. Matthews a blacksmith, Grace a mason, Tayler a carpenter, Townsend a servant. Stakes a labourer, Snake a schoolmaster, Verney a publican. Bonnes a blacksmith, Kennings, harness maker, Coleman a widow. No. 4 Register, is paper with good stiff lids it begins with an account of the furniture of the Church—“1 large chalic silver, 2 large cups, silver with cover, 1 small cup and cover, 2 silver plates, a linen table cloth, a surplic, a napkin, pulpit cloth and cushion and tassols, communion cloth, 1 bible and 2 prayer books, 1 brass chandelier, a pall, a beir, and 4 registers. John Taylor, Curate. Luke Helsop, Archdeacon, 27th May, 1752.” Whitchurch Feast Sunday, is now and always appeared to be a grand christening day, as far back as 1779, there ia an account of 6 baptisms, next year 5, next 3, next 4, next 6; in 1792, July ye 29th, John, son of William and Mary Green, and William, son of William and Thomas Grace, was baptized. The list can be traced down to the year 1812, and signed Thomas Archer, Vicar.

Then follows the account of Westcar’s charity—(there being a few vacant leaves here, before we reach the burial list, someone thought well to occupy them by an account as follows—it is dated May 24th, 1840). “Whitchurch 4 miles N. of Aylesbury. The Rev. Alfred Turner, Vicar, M.A., upon being appointed Vicar, he set about the re-building the Vicarage House, and otherwise improving the Glebe Land, and was assisted by Queen Ann’s Bounty,



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to the extent of about £300. All this entailed a personal expense of about £2,500, during the thirty years he held the Vicarage.” (We note that under this statement is wrote very properly “query”). Also we find entered the following—“In or about 1850, the interior of the chancel was restored, to wit: sundry appropriated high pews were removed, the stalls were restored, two handsome poppy heads were new, and likewise the altar rails; the Priests door on the south side, closed for more than 150 years was restored, the floor relaid. The N., E. and S. sides of the Church-yard levelled, all done at a considerable expense to the Vicar and his relatives. Mr. Thos. Dell, Gent., of Aylesbury, being at the time Lay Rector. In 1860 and 1865, Mr. Turner collected about £1,400, with which he erected a National School. In 1863, the Vicar put up a scarlet hanging at the east end of the chancel, and gave a pair of brass candlesticks and vases for the altar. In 1861, he removed an unsightly gallery at the west end of the nave, and opened the fine arch to the tower. In 1870, the Vicar effected an exchange advantageous to the living of land at Bushmead, for adjoining land to the Home Close, drained and improved the same, erected new Farm Buildings, &c. (We notice under this is written, “this entailing a charge of £54 a year in the living till 1901, G. Tate Medd.”) During the spring of the present year he re-built about 12 yards of stone wall at N.E. side of Church-yard. In 1844, he let out 25 acres of land at Bushmead, into allotments to labourers. In 1875, Rev. George Turner, B.A., gave a handsome cross and 4 choir rails. In 1865, Miss Archer, a daughter of a former Vicar, refixed the pulpit and gave the new oak steps thereto.

The Burial lists contain nothing remarkable worthy of note—In 1776, Thomas Hinton, 6 years old, accidentally killed by a stone cast at him, was buried. Ap. 12, William Bonnicks, blacksmith, killed by a wagon running over him, was buried. Jun. 17, John Flower, killed by lightning, was buried. 1780, Mary wife of John Westcar, of Crislow, buried. The names before mentioned in the baptism lists appeared arid the following—Rickard, bricklayer, Wingrave, carrier, Kennings, collar maker, Kibble, farmer, Gower, parish clerk, Webb, farmer, Flowers, miller, Bolower, wheelwright, and other names, whose families we represent to-day. The book finishes with the year 1812,—signed, Thomas Archer, Vicar.

Like leaves of trees, the race of man is found,  
Once green in youth, now withering on the ground ;  
Another race the following spring supplies ;  
They fall successive, and successive rise ;  
So generations in their course decay ;  
So nourished these, but like these, we pass away.

POPE

### END OF FIRST PART

## PART 2

### BOLEBEC CASTLE

On the west side of the Village is Castle Hill, commonly called "Moat Hill," and here is the site of the ancient stronghold or fortress of the De Bolebecs and De Veres. There are no vestiges of walls or buildings now left, but a high rampart of rock and earth with the remains of four or five large mounds, or barrows, and a part of the moat on the west side now called "Weir Pond." Close to this pond or moat, formerly stood the old drawbridge, which was remembered by aged persons, to have been standing at the close of the last century. 'On the east side of the hill is a fine fast running spring, called "Fair Alice," and there is no reason to doubt that the waters of this spring and the water on the west side at one time united, and thus formed a complete watering or moat all round the hill or castle.

If tradition or supposition is to be relied on, there is said to have been two or three ways or entrances to the castle, one from the main road down, "Castle Lane" over the bridge and up the hill, another from the Oving road, down the "Mill Lane" and over the drawbridge. Another road and that different to these altogether, an underground or subterranean passage or tunnel, is said to run from the Castle to an old house at the north east end of the village, which house is to-day remarkable for its extensive vaults and cellars. But nothing appears to be known respecting this underground passage that can be relied upon. The site of the Castle, with its surroundings, is looked upon as one of the most ancient and interesting relics in Bucks. The fields near the Castle by their names speak of their antiquity and importance; there is the "Lord's Gardens," "The Great Park," "Durley's Park." "The Little Park," "Lower Park," "Park Hole" "Parrott's Park." In the Inclosure Act, these parks are referred to, and it appears they had been inclosed a long time, and are reckoned among the old inclosures of the parish, and they were then occupied by Jane Mayne, widow, and they were called "The Great Park" and "The Little Park"; and the inhabitants, from time immemorial, had a right to turn cattle into these parks at certain times of the year, on payment of five-pence for each cow, and fourpence for each heifer and steer. It was at the time of the Inclosure that these parks were divided, and a portion of Mrs. Jane Mayne's allotment was cut off, and set aside as a compensation to those who had a claim for pasture; that portion consisted of a field now called Mr. Holt's Great Gutters.

Previous to the introduction of the new Poor Law, every parish kept its own poor, and in order to reap some compensation, all who were capable were set to work, and thus within the remembrance of some to-day, a large party was set to work cutting down a hill in the road called "Castle Road," between what is now called "Moat Hill" and the "Market Hill Close," thus making a greater separation between these properties than before; this work was superintended over by Mr. Robert Holloway. The stones and rock were drawn away to repair the Bush Mead Road. During the process of lowering the road several warlike articles and spears were found, and two or three lime kilns were discovered, which probably were associated with the building of the Castle.

The Castle was built at the end of the tenth or beginning of the eleventh century. It was one of those Castles erected during the reign of Stephen. He encouraged the Barons to build castles on their estates, and gave them help, the result was 126 new castles sprung up—Bolebec Castle being one. The Barony and Manor of Whitchurch being held by Hugh De Bolebec, he founded the Castle and made it his home. The building was of hewn stone dug in the vicinity, it consisted of a large high outward wall with turrets, forming a parapet

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and outer bailey—all which was surrounded by a moat, and was only accessible by the tower called the Barbican; to reach this was a drawbridge leading to the tower or keep. Within were the Baron's apartments, the upper rooms for the family, the lower ones for dungeons and stores, *and* for the servants and slaves, also prisoners. The whole building was in the Norman style, and at a distance looked like bidding defiance to any intruders or even the King. From the top of the towers and keep, a magnificent view of the surrounding country was to be seen, and signals given and answered to and from many miles distant.

One very old writer on the subject of Castles, says "the great chief resided here, in his country seat, which he was allowed to fortify. His vassals, boraders, servants, and all the people of the Manor, received from him all military exercises and equipments. His hospitality was extensive and great so that they lived and enjoyed society in his great hall; their leisure was great, all sorts of sports and pastimes were carried on to a high degree. To gain the favour of the chief and to keep it was honour. His displeasure—misery, the dungeon, perhaps death. All felt the necessity of his protection, both his own circle and that of neighbouring Barons and Lords. Their Lord to them was all and everything, and all else and everybody else was nothing." There is nothing I can find in history to remind us or tell us any truth respecting the Castle and its times. But if that old hill could speak it would reveal a history astonishing and confounding to us. It stood its ground for several centuries, and looked up the town of Quarrendon, with its noted family of Lees, when Harry the 8th came there to visit, and held grand reviews and holidays there. Also on the town of Burston, both of which like Bolebec have passed away.

Kings and heroes here were guests,  
With Knights and Barons at the feasts ;  
"But now" no Castle Hall remains,  
Nor fretted window, gorgeous pane,  
Not even wall, or stone to show,  
Where once the high served banquet rose.

The owners of the Castle it is said were on the King's side in the Civil Wars. Cromwell with his army coming round here, turned it to ruins, and laid it a heap of rubbish. It never revived, but was allowed to be robbed stone by stone till not a vestige is left. A large quantity was given to repair several Churches of the neighbourhood, Wing Church came in for a large share. Several attempts have been made to throw light upon the history of the Castle by excavations, but nothing particular has been found. Some workmen while laying draining pipes came across a very large stone sewer, at the south side of the moat, which by its appearance was the outlet of the water, by a sluice from the moat, it is there still some 4 or 5 feet deep and empties itself in a corner in the lane, from which the water runs to-day. Several skeletons have been found by the side of the hill, some of them apparently persons of extraordinary stature. Most of the oldest houses date back to the time when the castle was demolished, and no doubt shared the spoils—as the old Manor House, which was dated over the doorway 1676. The Church was restored about the same time and over the south door is the date 1657.

The old foundations of some portions of the castle were left till 1824, when Mr. Kingham set men to work to pick over the rubbish, and collect the stones left, which were drawn away to repair the road; during the process of overhauling the foundations they found a quantity of skulls and skeletons; also a large stone fire place was exposed, the ashes and some of the embers were apparently as fresh as ever; also the skeleton of a person of gigantic stature in a upright position was found.

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The hill now called Scott's Hill, Stephen Piece, and Sideling Hill, was named previous to the inclosure, Gun Hill, supposed to be named from the event of Cromwell's visit, and the fall of Bolebec. Several cannon balls have been found on the west side of the Village, I have one here which was dug up, supposed to be a ball from Cromwell's artillery.

We read but little in history of the resident occupiers of the Castle of Bolebec. In the year 1135, during the reign of Stephen, Aubrey De Vere of Bolebec Castle, was made High Sheriff of Bucks. He seems to have filled his office to the credit of the County and satisfaction of the King, for no one else is returned for 19 years, and his residence is still put down as Bolebec Castle. It is said he was slain in Ireland, in a battle during the invasion by Henry II. We read of many families connected with the parish, but whether they lived in the Castle we know not. The family of Waterhouse no doubt made it their home, being wealthy and men of war it suited them. John Waterhouse bought the Manor, and left it to his widow. It appears they had two sons and a daughter, for Thomas, the heir died, and left by his will, his best armour which was given him by his sister Basset, to Johnny his brother; and a daughter of this sister Bassett was married here, with a great pomp and show in 1604, to Thomas, Duke of Essex. I may add that in the Girls Own Paper, the January part, 1885, is a very interesting account of the residents of Bolebec Castle, although fiction, yet I commend it to your notice, it is written by a lady named Louisa Menzies.

## THE MARKET AND FEAST

A weekly market, held on Monday, was granted in 1245, for Whitchurch, with a fair on St. John's Day. We have nothing left that I can find to remind us of the busy market days here, but the name still remains in "The Market Hill," "The Market Hill House," and "The Market Hill Close." A market or fair was usually granted to the Lord of the Manor, and he was Lord of the Market. It was the custom of the Lord to see that fair dealings, just transactions, fair weight, and measure were given, and for this he claimed a certain sum now called "Market Toll." Although the market has long died out, and its glory passed away, yet the fair held its ground even till the present century, and was held on May Day. A Michaelmas hiring fair, said to belong to the proprietors of the "Cock Inn," has likewise died out, other markets and fairs in the neighbouring towns sprung up, and now take the lead.

Whitchurch feast is always held on the first Sunday and Monday following after the 18th May. It undoubtedly is the relic of the days of the processions, which occupied the Monday and Tuesday in Rogation week. Great disputes at one time prevailed here as to the exact date it should be held on, which often led to quarrelling and sad occurrences. About the year 1750, it was finally settled that for the future it should be held on the first Sunday and Monday after the 18th of May. That year one party held it one week and another party a week later, they urging their claims as to its being the proper day by reference to the weather, saying—"look at the weather, anyone could tell that this is our feast morning," the weather being so genial and bright.

Feasts, wakes, and fairs, are in many cases a relic of some of the festivities connected with the Church. At one time great numbers of people collected together, they made booths of boughs of trees outside the Church, in order to partake of food and refreshment, and to be near the Church service, and ceremonies. In many places it was the Churchwardens duty to collect money to buy malt and to brew ale for these occasions, and in time these religious duties and ceremonies, became scenes of less devotion and reverence. The Church became a play-house, the Churchyard a play-ground, pedlars, hawkers, cake and biscuit men, shows, aunt sallys, and such kinds of exhibitions, came up in numbers to the Church

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and pitched in the Churchyard, all this was carried on to a great length. In 1542, the Bishops ordered the Clergy to prohibit all kinds of plays and exhibitions in the Church, and in 1638 an order was passed likewise respecting the Church-yard. Thus the Church authorities rose up against it, and turned it all out, reminding us of our Saviour clearing the temple. So that in the article of enquiries at the visitation, one item was—"Have any plays, feasts, church ales, dancing or any wakes, or fairs been held, in your Church, Chapel, or Churchyard."

### OLD MODES OF PUNISHMENT

During the middle ages, Lords of Manors, Constables, and Parish Officers, had a right of independent legislation within their own Manor or Parish; and they took the liberty of punishing many offences, which the law had not distinctly provided for. Hence many modes of punishment came into use—there was the Pillory, the Stocks, the Whipping Post, the Cage, and the Ducking Stool.

We have in this parish, says "one old writer" "different modes of restraining evil,—we have "Stocks for Men," the "Cage for Women," and the "Pound for Cattle !"

The history of the stocks, as a mode of punishment is very antique, in fact we can trace it to the time of the Apostles and even back to the days of Job. In every Manor or Village, there was at one time a pair of stocks, and these had to be kept in good repair under a penalty of £5 for omission or neglect. The Stocks were a simple arrangement for exposing a person on a bench, and confining the ankles or feet in holes, in a movable plank. The posts which supported the stocks being made sufficiently high, were furnished near the top with iron clasps to fasten round the wrists of the offender, and hold him securely, and were used as a Whipping Post. The Stocks at Whitchurch, stood at the bottom of the Middle Church Lane; they were used at the discretion of the parish constables. An order was passed at the Bucks Quarter Sessions in May, 1698, directing all constables and parish officers to search for vagrants, and all such persons that are found begging, and wandering, and misconducting themselves, or drunk and disorderly, they shall cause them to be put in the stocks, or publicly whipped till the blood appear. On one occasion, the Constable of the pariah had reason to put in the stocks a vagrant who had been misconducting himself in the place, as he sat there safely and securely, old Shepherd came by and turning and looking said—"ah ! ah ! my lad, the boards are well aired, for I was there last night, old boy." Constable Bowler on one occasion, securely fastened with a deal of difficulty old Reeves in the stocks, but no sooner were the constables gone away than he unlaced his shoes and having a small foot he easily escaped, run up to his home on the Market Hill, and fetched an axe and out down the stocks, posts, bench, and all complete, daring the constables to touch him or he would serve them so too; they wisely let him alone and they had of course to erect a new pair of stocks.

There was the Ducking Stool, in which were placed bad women, witches, and scolds, and taken to the town pond and ducked in the water, and this dipping was of long or short duration according to the crime, and often to please the surrounding mob and rabble. Tradition Bays that the pond which once existed at the lower end of the Village, near to Duck Alley, and running out into what is now the centre of the high road and called "Duck Pond," has been the scene of such an affair as described.

The Cage was a small building which stood at the top of the Workhouse yard near the White Horse Inn. It was a strong built building with a heavy oak door, in which was a small opening with iron bars across, thus forming the only means of air or light, this door was securely fastened by iron bar and lock; it was a dirty dismal dungeon or cell. Into this place



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were put men and women whose crimes were too great for the stocks and whipping, to wait for the intervention of a Justice of Peace, or other authority. On one occasion some Irishmen were safely secured in this cage, but while the constables were gone to the authorities for advice, others of their party set to work and pulled down the whole building to the ground, so that when the constables arrived back they found the birds had flown and the cage broken down.

The Pillory was an instrument much like the stocks, except that it held the head and hands of the victim instead of the feet. It was erected in a public market place, and under the control of the Lord of the market or Magistrate. It was used as a punishment for unfair dealers, bakers, butchers, &c, Had the heroes of the pillory only been cheats, thieves, robbers, and the like, it would have ranked no higher than the stocks or ducking stool. But very often the blindness of officials was so intense, that trusty men, honest truthful men, men of eminence, wealth, integrity, and men of God, had to suffer the persecution of the pillory. One noted local man, Benjamin Keach, Minister of Winslow, in 1660, was ordered to suffer the pillory for two hours on a market day at Winslow and Aylesbury, he was also fined £20 and a months imprisonment for writing and publishing good books and preaching the Gospel. Many instances are found in history of the like, and which gave rise to the pillory hymn.

Tell them the men that placed them here,  
Are scandals to the times,  
Are at a loss to find their guilt,  
And can't commit their crimes.

## THE OVERSEERS' ACCOUNTS AND CHARITIES

From time immemorial the experience of communities has been that a certain portion of the persons composing them fall into poverty. This arises from a variety of causes—ill health, indolence, bad habits, or sheer misfortune; but poverty has always been recognised and relieved by the wealthy and rich. At one time a portion of the tithes of the Parish went to the poor. The religious houses during the middle ages charged themselves with the care of the poor to a very large extent, and when these houses were demolished and their revenues taken, the country was overrun by poor and vagrants. This necessitated the passing of an Act in 1536, which provided head officers in every parish to take charge of the poor and collect alms for their support; but this Act and several others did not fully meet the difficulty. In 1572, a compulsory assessment for the support of the poor was resorted to, but it was not till 1601 that an Act was passed which laid the foundation of the present system of poor relief. This Act was designed to set the poor people to work, to relieve the lame, old, impotent and blind, and to put children out as apprentices, to build workhouses and houses of correction, and pest houses in each parish. These Acts in the long run got sadly infringed, and people imposed upon the rates which become very heavy. It was about this time that the work-houses were built in this parish. There were 8 houses built for the poor in Whitchurch; the property still bears the name; they stood on the east side of the main street at the corner of the lane leading to the Church, called White Horse Lane, or School Lane. There are several entries in the Churchwardens account for repairs and quit rent for these houses, in 1710; The poor and destitute were allowed to live in these houses with an allowance from the overseers. About this time the pest house was also built, it stood down the lane on the waste ground leading to North Marston. Few people of to-day can give any idea of the ravages caused by the small pox; whole families sometimes were carried off by it, at times it died out, and then perhaps by some casual visitor, or by some trifling incident, it would be introduced again. It was necessary that a place should be provided for



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those who fell with the disease, so that they could be taken away, isolated from all friends, and receive all due care and treatment at the cost of the parish. It was not kept up as a permanent establishment, but victims were taken there till the attack subsided. The road during that time was blockaded at Oving, and at the turn from Whitchurch, thus preventing any communication with the house or the inmates, which was forbidden. Vaccination, improvements, and sanitary laws, have done a good deal to stay this terrible plague, so much so that it is scarce known, and this pest house is now made into a dwelling house, and belongs to and is occupied by Mr. Edward dark.

In the year 1782, an Act was passed known as the "Gilbert Act," it introduced many changes; not only did every parish keep its own poor, but to every farmer and occupier of land, was allotted according to his acreage so many men, any excess of that number would be called surplus men. Thus if a farmer employed two men over his number allotted, instead of paying them their full wages, he would pay half and the overseer the other half. Roundsmen were at this time first heard of, that is, able-bodied men, whose services their master no longer required, were sent round to the occupiers and farmers to obtain work, if they could obtain none after going all round the parish, they called on the overseer who gave them relief. A tale is told of Dick Thame calling one morning on Mr. Toogood, for work; Mr. Toogood set him on sawing wood, and in a couple of hours time went to see how Dick was getting on—"too bad, can't work sir, can't work, had no victuals for this two days." "Well come on Dick" says Mr. Toogood, and took him to the house, and helped him to plenty of bacon, and ale, and bread and cheese, which Dick enjoyed. Calling on Dick again, says Mr. Toogood, later on, I found Dick asleep, "well, what now," says Mr. Toogood—"I felt so bad sir" says Dick, "I couldn't work before I had some food, now I am too full to work, for you know maister hard work aint easy, and small taiters are no great things.

The following are some of the many accounts found connected with this parish, in the year 1748.—John Strapp was put apprentice to Thomas Collier, of Long Marston, to learn the trade of a tailor. In the year 1751, Laurence Rickard was put apprentice to Christopher Hurst, of Little Horwood, to the trade of a cordwainer. In 1776, William Herbert was apprenticed to John Odcroft, of Aylesbury, to learn the trade of a cooper, for £10, among the conditions are the following, that on his discharge when twenty-one, he will deliver to him a new coat and waistcoat, and a new frock, and two new shirts, anew pair of breeches, two new pairs of stockings and a new pair of shoes. In 1777, Katherine Jennings was placed in the care of Ann Oviatt, shopkeeper of Aylesbury, till twenty-one, to be kept and instructed in the best manner in all housewifery and shopkeeping for the sum of £8 0 0. In 1788, Martha Thame was bound to Matthew Kempton, higgler, Stewkley, to learn the art of sewing, knitting, spinning and good housewifery, till twenty-one years of age, for £3 0 0. In 1794, James Matthews, aged 13 years, was bound to John Matthews, to the trade of a blacksmith, till twenty-one, for £4 4 0.

A long paper, in fact a volume, might be written respecting the poor of this parish, and one is led to think they were used well by the parish authorities. It appears that the poor not only lived in the Poor Houses referred to, but that they were allowed food, clothes, and even furniture thus we find for an example,—the vestry of 1826, ordered the overseer to purchase a quantity of goods sufficient for a family, and a brand also to mark all ye goods belonging to the parish. The parish officers that year, were "William Flowers and William Batson," churchwardens; "Joseph Seabrook and Seph Stone," overseers; chief inhabitants, "John Toogood James Tattam, Wm. Rose, Thos. Stevens, Wm. Foster, Rich. Denchfield, Wm. Durlay, G. Carruthus, John Johnson, Jas. Kingham, Wm. Hirons, Wm. Bowler." Straw was allowed to the poor for beds, so we find accounts like the following,—"March 26th, 1826, James' family to have some straw; old Thame allowed a truss of straw; Rich. Thame

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allowed a truss of straw; and the bed not allowed any more from this time. May 25th, 1825. At the vestry, Nov. 20th, 1822, Will Foster and Thame to have a blanket, and May Battams to go to the poor houses and not be interrupted; also Dec. 6th, 1826, Sarah Thame is to have a blanket if there is one in the chest; Mrs. Gower also a blanket." We find also shoes, stays, stockings, cloaks, jackets, were given to the poor. So we read that in May, 1829, "Old Dame Griffin ia to have a Baldin's cloak; Eliza Batson allowed a smock, stays, and pair of stockings; allowed Wm. Simonds 6s. 6d. to buy the boy a jacket." In 1827, 17th Jan., we read "John Grace is to go to the Pest House; Elizabeth Guess allowed a shift and to lend her a sheet; and old widow Gower to be allowed a petticoat." "Billy Battams to have a truss, but 6d. per week to be stoped till its paid for; allowed Sam Simonds £1 to buy tools, which tools are to be forfeited if he applies for any relief before Christmas; Dimmock's children allowed one blanket and sheet, and two shirts; old Bet Gess allowed a bottle of Godfrey's, and calico for shift; Eliza Shuffield allowed a bottle of wine; the overseers to allow Rich. Thame a bit of meat now and then." These are a few from among the many of the old accounts. Coal was bought by the parish officers and sold out at cost price. The turnpike money and cartage from Thornborough or Buckingham, and even from Stony Stratford, was paid by the parish. We find accounts like the following,—"it was also agreed at this vestry that Joseph Anstee be employed as a watchman, to look after the property of the parish by night or day, and that he be paid for so doing the weekly sum of 12 shillings, and that he be authorized to forbid all persons sporting and trespassing"—that office was left vacant in the year 1834. Also we find entries like this—"it was agreed for the constables to keep the men from the blacksmith's shop on a Sunday, and from all other places in such numbers as they are." In the accounts we find several contracts like as follows—"Vestry, Nov., 1829, agreed by the parish officers for J. Seabrook to find employment and pay for the surplus labour from Nov. 12th to March 25th, 1828, with the exception of Wm. Battams, old Makepeace, Toby Seabrook, old Norman and old Care, with an allowance of .£130 0 0 from the Overseers of the Parish." The impudence of the paupers, says one at this time attained its height, some 40 or 60 went one morning to the Parish Overseer, demanding money or food, they went in the house, sat down, some smoked their pipes, others made up the fire, some went into the cellar, another took down the bacon, the Overseer and family were frightened— sent for Mr. Durley, and after a little persuading they left. In consequence of the poor being kept by the parish, in many places men would not work, which made rates heavy. In 1830, the Overseers at Whitchurch paid their poor not in money but in wheat; the poor rates at this time says Mr. Archer, were 17s 0d. in the £, we expect next year they will be 20s. 0d. in the £. That year a farm at North Marston was to let, it contained 270 acres, and £40 for rates was paid every quarter. At Oving, 9 acres of pasture paid, in one year £13 10 0 for rates, its full annual value. In 1833, 42 farms were to let near Aylesbury, and no one would take them, as the Poor Law had eaten all the farmers up. The result of all this was that in 1832, a commission was appointed to enquire into the working of the Poor Law, and they revealed some startling disclosures, which resulted in the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1834, when Unions were formed. The Pest House was sold, also the Poor Houses were sold in 1840, to Mr. John Gibbs for £170, and a new Union House built at Aylesbury. The annual expense of the poor in the different parishes before the forming of the Aylesbury Union was £25,221, after that £13,234, saving £11,987 per annum. The following formed the vestry at that time, Rich. Denchfield, Benj. Osborne, Edward Flowers, Vere Woodman, William Burton, William Durley, William Bowler, William Rose, senr., William Rose, junr., George Horwood, William Grace, Daniel Kiench, Thomas Mayo, Rich. Durley (Guardian); John Fincher, William Rose (Churchwardens); Robert Holloway, William Holt (Overseers); John Batson, (Surveyor); Henry Tattam (Chairman of Vestry).

## WESTCAR'S CHARITY

“John Westcar, of Creslow, who died 24th April, 1833, by his will dated Oct. 25th, 1832, directed his executors, William Bickford and Robert Dell of Aylesbury, Henry “Westcar, Esq., of Burwood, Surrey, and Thomas Hearn, of Buckingham, to invest and set apart in their names, and in such of the public funds of Great Britain as seem to them preferable— three several sums of £500; and to alter and vary in investment as they see occasion, and to stand possessed of one of the said sums upon trust for the poor & benefit of the parish of Whitchurch, and so that the annual income thereof be given at the proper season in every year, and be distributed in clothes among the most necessitous and deserving poor of the parish, under the direction of the then Minister and Resident Occupier of Creslow jointly; and also one of the said sums in trust and on same conditions, for the parish of Cublington, Bucks, to be distributed by the Minister of the parish and the Resident Occupier of Creslow, jointly; and also one of the said sums for the parish of Souldern, in Oxfordshire, to be distributed by the Resident Minister and Occupier of Hill House, jointly, as before mentioned. And he declared his meaning to be that the poor of these parishes should have the full benefit over and above all other parochial relief, and not be in lieu or reduction in any respect whatever by the above. The said sum of £500 was accordingly invested on the 28th day of August, 1833, less £50 legacy duty, in £506 6 7 in three per cent consols, in the joint names of Thomas Hearn, William Rickford, Robert Dell, Henry Westcar, and produces yearly the sum of £15 3 2. Signed—Thomas Archer, Vicar.”

## THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL

The present Wesleyan Chapel was built in the year 1844. The Chapel previous to this was situate in Oviug Road or Back Lane, and was built in 1808. The Rev. John Wesley, a faithful and earnest Minister of the Church of England, whose labours God blessed in the raising of hundreds and thousands from ignorance, darkness and sin, to lives of holiness and happiness, writes respecting the Vicars and Rectors who lived in places where this great awakening was taking place.—“The Ministers of these places ought with open arms, to take these persons into their peculiar care, watch over them, help them to serve God, lest they should fall into the snare of the devil, but instead of this, they act as though this was the Devil’s work, and not of God, they repel them from the Lord’s Table, stir up the people against them, and even in their public discourse pronounce them heretics traitors not fit to live, they turn them out of all offices, or work, and do their utmost to persuade others to do so too, they watch over them as a leopard does its prey.” “What must we do” says Wesley, he thus selected men to go out to care for these people, and when and where convenient to build and erect suitable places of worship. And thus without any fore- thought or prejudice, but out of a common necessity, a Society was raised up within the Established Church, and had the heads of the Church and all connected with it, co-operated and helped as they should have done, the great body of Methodists would have been retained in strict communion with the Church of England. In the year 1739, the first Methodist Meeting House was built at Kingswood, near Bristol, and the first Meeting House opened in London in Moorfields.

John Wesley died 2nd March, 1791, in his 88th year. The following is the inscription on a marble tablet in City Road Chapel, London.

Sacred to the memory of  
THE REV. JOHN WESLEY, M.A.  
Sometimes fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford, a man in learning and sincere piety,  
scarcely inferior to any, in zeal

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ministerial labours and extensive usefulness,  
superior perhaps to all men, since the days of St. Paul,  
Regardless of fatigue, personal danger and disgrace.

He went out into the highways and hedges,  
calling sinners to repentance, and publishing the Gospel of peace.

He was founder of the Methodist Societies and the chief promoter of the plan of itinerant preaching, which he extended throughout Great Britain and Ireland, the West Indies and America, with unexampled success.

He was born the 17th of June, 1703,  
And died the 2nd day of March, 1791.

In sure and certain hope of eternal life through the merits of a crucified Saviour, he was 66 years in the ministry and 52 an itinerant preacher. He lived to see in these Kingdoms only about three hundred itinerant, and one thousand local preachers raised up from the midst of his own people, and eighty thousand persons in societies under his care.

His name will be ever had in grateful remembrance,  
By all who rejoice in the universal spread of the Gospel of Christ.

Soli DEO GLORIA.

Methodism found its way into our village in the year 1787. That year Wesley stationed two able, persevering, energetic young Ministers at Oxford, the Rev. Rich. Reece, and Rev. Joseph Entwisle. Having purchased what was indispensable in those days, a horse, saddle, bridle, &c, says Mr. Entwisle "I rode round the Oxford circuit, comprising then part of Wilts, Berks, Oxon, and Bucks, and at that time there were only four Methodist Chapels, viz: at Oxford, Witney, Wallingford and Wycombe." I found, says Mr. Entwisle, "the people in this large circuit in a kind of semibarbarous state, deeply sunk in ignorance and vice, and almost lost in dirt and wretchedness, but where religion took root, it grew into order, cleanliness, comfort and vital godliness. Having a leisure day I rode to Bierton, a dark and neglected village near Aylesbury, and there preached the Gospel, and much good was done". The Rev. Rich. Reece, was the first preacher who visited Whitchurch. The Methodist preacher went out in those days and found a congregation and then preached to them, if any wished to hear more or have any private conversation with him they were invited to some house or place near, thus in our own parish in an old house in Castle Lane, late in the occupation of Frank Gower, was the first Methodist meeting held, and where the followers of John Wesley assembled for prayer and worship. It appears success attended the preachers labors and the place soon became too strait for them. A Gentleman Farmer and Landowner of the place, named Mr. Toogood and other respectable inhabitants went to hear these men, partly out of curiosity, and to judge for themselves, they could find no fault, and began to try to do what they could to encourage them in their work. This Mr. Toogood lived at Toogood Lodge, he held a deal of land in this place, also the house and premises, now belonging to & occupied by Mr. Rich. Holt. In this house lived a man named John Cox, foreman to Mr. Toogood, and it was here that the Methodists by his permission met for a number of years to worship God and encourage one another to live holy and good lives. In the year 1808, a Gentleman of the name of Thomas Fowler lived here, and was the owner of certain properties, where Miss Archer's house and premises now stand, at the junction of the back street with the Turnpike Road. He gave a large Dove House with ground near to the Methodists, which gift was gratefully accepted, and this building was made into a neat comfortable place of worship. In an old book belonging to the Chapel Steward is the following item. "Amount of expenses attending the alterations and converting the Dove House, (formerly in the possession of Mr. Thomas Fowler,) into a Chapel for the use of the Methodists, which he voluntarily gave up for that purpose, in the year 1808. The

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deficiency of £88 was advanced by John Toogood and George Thorp, who are to receive lawful interest for the same.—Signed Thomas Goodson—Richard Waddy—Joseph Cole—John Goodson—James Durley.” Thus the old saying, The House of thieves became a House of Prayer. Up till this time, Whitchurch was in the Oxford Circuit, but the Conference of 1810 made Whitchurch a Circuit town, and appointed Mr. Harrison as Minister.

The following items appear as the Quarter’s Expenses:—

Paid Mr. Harrison his Salary .....	£4	4	0
Paid for his food and lodgings.....	9	15	0
Paid for wood and coals .....	3	2	6
Postage &c.....	3	6	

The Quarter’s Account—Total £17 5 0

Signed Thos. Goodson, Whitchurch,  
Circuit Steward.

The Conference of 1822, removed the Ministers from Whitchurch to Aylesbury, and made it the Circuit town.

The Aylesbury News for April 6th, 1844, reads as follows.—“On Monday week one of the corner stones of a New Wesleyan Chapel was laid at Whitchurch by the Rev. M. Wilson, of Oxford. The Chapel is to be six feet larger each way than the one now standing. We understand that the ground has been purchased by the Wesleyan Trustees of Mr. Rich. Durley of this place, who is going to erect the building at his own expense. The cost of the building is estimated at £400.” Thus the present building was erected, the stones were dug on Mr. Durley’s own estate, and in the Autumn of 1844, it was opened as a public place of worship, Dr. Beaumont being the preacher, and conducting the services. It was conveyed over to the following Trustees on Nov. 14, 1844, on the payment of £100 for the Building site, and £50 for Cottages adjoining, on conditions—Rich. Durley, Farmer, Whitchurch; John Durley, Builder, Bierton; Thomas Thorpe, Grazier, Berryfield; Thos. Thorne, Farmer, Bishopstone; John Duntling, Farmer, Waddesdon; William Ward, Builder, Aylesbury; Charles Judkins, Baker, Aylesbury; George Thorne, Farmer, Bierton; Thomas Fowler, Baker, Aston Clinton; Rev. Joseph Wilson, Minister. The property was enfranchised on April 8, 1869, for the sum of £18, when a new Trust Deed was made. The Chapel is a stone and slated building, faced with stucco, 30-ft. 6-in.X40-ft. 6-in. The Sunday School Boom under the Chapel is a famous Room. It is built on sloping ground from the main street, where there is a fall of about a foot in a yard, thus the Chapel being on a level with the road, the School Room is lower and is accessible by a set of stone steps. The Manse adjoining was built about the year 1867. It was said if a resident Minister lived here, the Circuit could be worked better, hence the old house and the cooper’s shop and yard, occupied by Mr. Alderman were cleared out and the present house erected, and occupied in the year 1869, by the Rev. J. H. Skewes. There has been a Sunday School connected with the Wesleyan Chapel for many years, and its rules and regulations which were drawn up in 1821, have given to it honour and renown. In an old book dated 1822, is as follows—”To the benevolent public, and the well wishers of the Whitchurch Sunday School. “Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not.” Our plan is liberal, our object is not to make the children followers of a particular sect or party, but followers of him who said “Learn of Me.” Impressed with these views on a subject so important, we have been led to form a Sunday School and with confidence look to a benevolent public for support.”—Signed Rev. J. Phoenix, President; John Togood, Treasurer; Robert Goodson, Secretary. This appeal was not in vain, for there follows an account of several years expense, in the working of about £5, with an attendance of Scholars



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and Teachers of 120; Mr. Richard Durley was head Superintendent of this School for upwards of 65 years, and it is to day in other hands doing good work, it numbers now about 100 Scholars and Teachers and Officers.

List of Ministers who lived in Whitchurch and Aylesbury Circuit.

1810	William Harrison, jun., Samuel Ward.	1811	William Harrison, jun.
1812-13	William Bredin, John Harris.	1814-15	James Burley, William Hicks.
1816-17	Thomas Fearnley, Robert Mack.	1818-19	Matthew Mallinson, J. Jackson
1820-21	Isaac Phoenix.	1822-23	Elias Thomas.
1824-25	Daniel Osborn.	1826-27	Henry Cheverton.
1828	James Sydserff.	1829	James Sydserff, Jos. Crump.
1830-31	James Baker, Robert Colman.	1832	James Baker, James Ray.
1833	Geo. Warren, Charles Culley.	1834	George Warren, John Killick.
1835	William Homer, John Killick.	1836	W. Homer, Reuben Partridge.
1837	William Homer, Aaron Langley.	1838-39	JohnW. Cotton, W. Hopkins.
1840	James Rathbone, Fred Payne.	1841	Jas. Rathbone, Geo. Clement.
1842	Joseph Wilson, Francis S. Keeling.	1843-44	Joseph Wilson, William S. Bestall.
1845	John B. Whittingham, W. S. Bestall.	1846	John B. Whittingham, John D. Carey.
1847	T. R. Fisher, James Sugden.	1848-49	Geo. F. Driver, Jas. Sugden.
1850	George F. Driver, John Webb.	1851	James Ray, John S. Vickers.
1852	James Ray, Joseph Simpson.	1853-54	J. P. Johnson, Jos. Simpson.
1855-56	SamH.Wardly,John Cooper.	1857	J. F. England, Thos. Clulow.
1858	Jas. Eacott, W. J. Frankland.	1859	James Eacott, Thomas Alien.
1860	Geo. Oyston, Thomas Alien.	1861	Geo. Oyston, Jos. C. Wright.
1862	Geo. Oyston, Fredk. Barber.	1863	Jonathan Cadman, Sam. W. Lawton.
1864	Jonathan Cadman, William Humphries.	1865	Wm. Piggott, J, Lamplough.
1866	William Piggott, William P. Huddleston.	1867	Wm. Piggott, Owen Watkins.
1868	Thomas Vinson, Nelson C. Hesk.	1869	Thos. Vinson, Jos. H, Skewes.
1870	Thos. Vinson, W. O. Aldom.	1871	John Bate, H. J. Brookfield.
1872	John Bate, William G. White.	1873	George Butcher, W.G. White.
1874	George Butcher, W. G. White.	1875	George Butcher, J Marquand.
1876	J. E.Doubleday, J.Marquand.	1877	James Nicholson, Rutland Spooner.
1878-79	James Nicholson, Rutland Spooner.	1880	Robert Keyworth, Arthur Humphries.
1881-82	Robert Keyworth, Arthur Humphries.	1883	William Dunstan, Arthur Pickworth.
1884-85	William Dunstan, Arthur Pickworth.	1886	Edward Abraham, T. C. Edwards.

## THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL

This Chapel was built in the year 1841. The Primitive Denomination is an offshoot of the Wesleyan Methodists, although there is but little difference between the tenets of the Wesleyans and those of the Primitives, except that they hold open-air services and camp

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meetings, and allow women to preach. Hugh Borne and William Clowes, Wesleyan preachers, on the invitation of Lorenzo Dow, an eccentric Methodist preacher, who travelled in America and Ireland, and who visited them in Staffordshire, related what results followed their camp meetings, which proved so convenient in the wilds of America, where few if any places of worship existed. At once they caught the idea, a flag was hoisted on Mow Hill, Staffordshire, and the first camp meeting was held; overpowering influences attended their services and good results followed, as did also opposition, which resulted in the formation of a distinct society calling themselves Primitives, signifying the original or ancient Methodists, this took place in 1810. Whitchurch was visited by their missionaries or preachers, Messrs Price, Jefferies, and Harvey, and also a Miss Godwin was among the first. They suffered a deal of persecution in those days, nevertheless they held on, and purchased the property they now hold, and a new Chapel was erected in 1841, at a cost of £315 11 10, including the cottages adjoining. A debt of £268 was left for years which is now paid off. The property was enfranchised in January last.

There is a Sunday School connected with the denomination which numbers about 60 scholars, teachers, and officers.

### WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOL

In the year 1845, Mr. Richard Durley of this place, in conjunction with several of the leading inhabitants, took counsel together, on the needs of the village respecting the education of the young, and they engaged the services of a Mr. Charles Johnson, of Glasgow College, who came here and opened a day school in the large room under the Wesleyan Chapel, in January, 1846. Great success and good results followed, so much that it became necessary to look for more commodious premises—a site was given, and four years after the present Day School was opened. The following account is taken from the Aylesbury News for April 13th, 1850.—“On Thursday, the 4th April, a respectable and well situated building was opened for a public day school at Whitchurch. A sermon was preached in the afternoon, and a public meeting was held in the evening, Henry Watson, Esq., of Aylesbury, in the chair. The School-room was well filled. The meeting was addressed by the Chairman, and the Reverends Entwistle, Wigley, Davenport, Driver, and Sugden; reference to Government Aid was made by all the speakers. Mr. John Gibbs, of Aylesbury, gave an animated speech in favour of education generally, and went into many particulars, justifying the Government, in the deed of enlightening the people, as the best means of checking crime. He argued that knowledge was a better defence than words. He was prepared to prove from the minutes of the Council, that the Government had no object but simply to educate. He was glad the public mind was now settled down, that he could refer to the matter without danger. He challenged his opponents to open controversy on the subject when and where they pleased.” It was a lively meeting. In the midst of the proceedings a form broke down, which caused some merriment, a voice cried out—that the broken form was better than occupied ones. The collections were good. The building ground was conveyed over by indenture, June 14th, 1849, from the Misses Elizabeth and Catherine Rhodes, to the following trustees, as a freehold ground and premises for the purpose of a Wesleyan Day and Sabbath School.— Trustees: Henry Wilson Chapman, Esq., of Addlestone, Surrey; John Butcher, farmer, Whitchurch; Rich. Durley, farmer, Whitchurch; Rich. Denchfield, farmer, Whitchurch; John Parrott, farmer, Holborn Hill, Whitchurch; John Belgrove, farmer, Hogston; John Durley, builder, Bierton; Thomas Thorne, farmer, Stone; Thos. Fowler, baker and farmer, Aston Clinton; Henry Watson, solicitor, Aylesbury; George Frederick Driver, Wesleyan Minister. The school has been successfully carried on to the present time to the satisfaction of the Government, and to the advantage of scores and

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hundreds of boys and girls, now men and women of honour and trust. Its balance of accounts shows an income for past year of £148 0 0, expenditure of £151 0 0; number of scholars 138.

### THE SILK FACTORY

Silk weaving was introduced in this Village by Mr. Richard Moscrop, of Bolton, Lancashire. In consequence of the breaking up of the Silk Factory of Mr. Joseph Kaye, at Manchester, through his advanced age, Mr. Robert Nixon the manager, and Mr. Richard Moscrop the superintendent, became disengaged, and they set out together to find a locality where labour was cheap, in order to commence business on their own account. This Mr. Joseph Kaye had a brother living at Tring, and the connection induced Nixon and Moscrop to visit Tring. The result of which was, to be as brief as possible, the establishment of a Silk Factory at Tring and Aylesbury, with branches at Waddesdon and Whitchurch. Mr. Richard Moscrop, better known as "Old Mossy," came to reside here, and introduced the art of weaving silk about the year 1838; several places were obtained suitable for setting up the looms and machinery; some cottages near to Mr. W. Parrott's house were engaged, and here a silk ribbon factory was started; a large building was also engaged near what is now known as "Leppers Yard," now belonging to Mr. Hart and held by Mr. H. Parrott, here some 30 females were occupied. A building down at the far end of Little London was likewise fitted up as a factory; but it was not till a new factory was built and fitted up with looms and machinery, warehouses, and employees houses near, known as "Little Bolton," that the business was fairly started, and the work brought to a state of perfection. It would be out of our province to give a detailed account of the work, suffice it to say that the silk was brought in its raw state, and was made up and finished ready for the counter of the silk mercers. Articles found their way from this mill to London, to Paris, to the great Exhibition of 1851, and even to a place in the Queen's wardrobe. The establishment of this factory was a great help to the Village, as some 40 hands were generally employed, earning on average 10s. per week; but the great improvements made in machinery, and the introduction of steam, made a change, which was felt in the Village, so that when Mr. Richard Moscrop died the business fairly died out too. I have here some specimens made at this factory.

### LACE MAKING

A large portion of the poorer classes of this Village were employed at one time in making lace, scarcely a cottage without a pillow and bobbins. As soon as children were old enough, boys or girls, they had their lace pillows before them, there being no education or schools in those days. Some families have been known to earn 25s. and 30s. per week, add to this the 10s. earned by the father. They could sit down and sing away, plying and turning and twisting their bobbins—

Oh let the world jog along at its will,  
We will be free and easy still.

The pillow lace of Buckinghamshire was very valuable, some of the collars and cuffs have been sold at the enormous price of 140s. per lb. At an Exhibition, the writer remembers seeing a glass case containing Bucks lace, made by poor cottagers, and one piece alone was said to be worth 200 guineas. A pillow was shown on which a portion of it was made, containing 27 score of bobbins, in order to make this pattern.

Straw plaiting or the art of weaving prepared straws, was at one time a great help to the poorer classes of this Village; but this too, like lace and silk weaving has had to give way, as the remuneration obtained from it is scant, so that little or nothing can be earned by it.

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MISCELLANEOUS FACTS

In an old farm account for the year 1383, these items appear—Received for letting the Lord’s plough to farmers 6s. 8d. 14 bushels of apples received 1s. 2d. Sold ye wheat 7s. 4d. ye quarter. Sold ye oats at 2s. 0d. ye bushel. Peas 5 pence ye bushel. Tares at 4 pence. Sold cow for 10 shillings. Litter of pigs 6 pence apiece. Paid out for makeing a new plough, my Lord finding wood, 6 pence. To ye men for cutting and binding ye wheat per acre 6d. Mowing two acres for hay 1s. 0d. Rate of wages it appears was, bailiff 6d. per day, herdsmen 6d. Washing sheep 10d. per hundred. Labourer 2d. per day. The price of wheat for the following years:—1043, it was 6 pence per quarter; 1126, it was 20 shillings per quarter; 1317, sold at 44 shillings per quarter; 1657, the highest price before harvest was £2 13 4, after harvest which was a good one, 5 shillings per quarter. Wages of husbandmen in the year 1675, were 8d. per day. In an old valuation account at death of a local farmer in 1608, is as follows—

	£	s	d
Itn.—6 acres of wheat .....	8	10	0
„ 5½ acres of peas and beans .....	3	6	8
„ Old horse and mare .....	5	1	8
„ Two cows and a bull .....	4	0	0
„ 36 sheep and lambs .....	1	3	4

Also “paid my man Edward’s year’s wages £1 10 0, ditto my man Dick £1 10 0.” An old account of stock bought to farm in 1719—10 heifers £1 5 0 each; cows £2 3 6 each; sheep, ewes 6s. 0d. apiece; hired 20 acres of ye common, to pay 4d. per acre, sold ye hay for 2s. 0d. hundred weight.

The average of labourer’s wages during the last century here was 1s. per day. The prices of wheat and bread varied a great deal, as the harvest ruled the market, bread rose every year from 1790, when it was 1s. 3½d. half-peck, till 1801 when a half-peck loaf cost 3s. 1d., wheat then sold at £47 per load; it was a bad harvest and it was visited by severe hailstorms, some of the stones 3 and 4 inches in diameter. In 1810, wheat sold at £5 6 5 per quarter, bread 3s. 0d. In 1817, wheat £4 16 11 per quarter.

An allotment in 1732, of one acre, showing the profit and loss, is interesting—

BARLEY FURLONG				WHEAT ACRE			
	£	s	d		£	s	d
Rent .....	12	0		Rent .....	12	0	
Ploughing &c .....	16	0		Manuring it .....	1	0	0
Manure .....	1	0	0	Ploughing it three times			
4 bus. seed .....	8	0		6/6, 4/-, 4/- .....	14	6	
Rates .....	4	6		2½ bus. seed .....	7	6	
Mowing and Cocking .....	2	0		Reap and carry .....	6	6	
Carrying .....	3	0		Thrashing .....	3	9	
Thrashing .....	5	0			3	4	3
	3	10	6	Sold all wheat for	£2	2	0
Sold 4 qur. of barley				The straw for	11	6	
at 14/-	£2	16	0		2	13	6
Straw and Chaff	11	0					
	3	7	0	Loss .....	0	10	9
Loss .....	0	3	6				

## THE HISTORY OF WHITCHURCH

One of the greatest improvements in the Village of Whitchurch, was the pulling down and taking away of a row of houses, called "Rotten Row." These houses stood opposite the Wesleyan Chapel, in the very centre of the road as it is to-day, so that there was a narrow road at back and front of the same; this was done at the time of the establishing of toll gates and turnpikes, 1760, when the old road or trackway became the Wendover and Buckingham turnpike road. It appears that the Surveyors of the Parish had in those days the management of the turnpike road, and a separate account was kept respecting both the turnpike and bye roads. In the year 1786, the road was greatly widened at Rotten Bow, in the account for that year we find as follows—Disbursed by John Toogood for widening the road where Rotten Bow was taken away from, several items (including 2 large atones and other flat one to cover ye bridge when made longer) £1 15 6. Another improvement the turnpike authorities made was the filling up of the pond at the lower end of the Village, near the Swan Inn, which was a dangerous place, as it abutted out to the centre of the road, as it is to day, it was called "Duck Pond." At that time, sloughs and open gutters, and ditches, skirted the road on either side up the village, these emptied themselves in some low nook or corner, or were allowed to stand and soak away; paths were bad, some part a little piece of pitching, other places an ankle deep in mud in winter. In fact the road itself was but like a three guttered trackway. The turnpike authorities made great improvements. In the year 1778, the turnpike cost £94 5 10, bye roads £39 7 0½; grants from turnpike £68 3 1; a 6d. rate collected £41 8 1½.

Coal is said to abound at Whitchurch at a depth of about 250 yards. In the year 1826, March 10th, boring operations commenced here. Mr. Seph Stone was the owner and occupier of land known as Whittle Brook and Black Yards Furlong, Stones Ground and Middle Piece, now belonging to Mr. Hart and occupied by Mr. H. Parrott, and the place selected was in the corner of the Middle Piece field, near the mill. Mr. Stone began and carried it on for some considerable time, and spent out of his own pocket about £100. A large hole was dug out, a high scaffold erected, boring implements purchased, and a hole of about 4; inches diameter was bored into the earth for a considerable depth. Eventually the matter was taken up by the leading inhabitants, a committee was formed, Mr. James Tattam was treasurer, Mr. Denchfield, Mr. Toogood, Mr. Foster, Mr. Archer, Mr. Stone, Mr. Seabrook, Mr. W. Rose, Mr. William Alderman, foreman. The progress of the work was slow, the apparatus was not. of our modern make, this was against them; a remarkable spring of water and a bed of quick sand caused much delay as the water and sand filled up the hole; at last Mr. Alderman made a long pipe of sheet iron, this was put down in the earth and answered well, they bored on for months through stiff clays, hard rocks, and different strata of soil. Scores of people visited the spot and watched the proceedings, and it was the talk of the neighbourhood. The men at the work numbering about half a dozen, it is said made a deal of noise, and to do—sometimes they said they were boring near Aylesbury and would drain all the wells dry, as a proof look at the copious stream continually running out at the top; other times they said they were near Birmingham; at last it was very near Australia; bread and cheese and a good deal of ale, was called into requisition. Eventually the money that was collected became exhausted; the committee grew discouraged, and got tired of the undertaking, and the operations were abandoned. Other wise, engineers said that they were according to the great depth, and different rocks they had passed, within a very few feet of a famous bed of coal.

About a quarter of a mile from the south side of the Village stood an old mill called "Dunn Mill." Although we find no mention of this mill in Domesday Book, it was no doubt built and associated with the Castle. The mill stream is formed by the union of several springs already referred to, which make one great head of water and now work a powerful



## THE HISTORY OF WHITCHURCH

overshot wheel of iron, 26 feet in diameter. The present mill is built on the same site as the previous mill, which was a wooden structure and worked by a wooden wheel outside the building. At that time a large windmill stood out in front of the present mill on the rising ground, this was found not to answer and it was removed and set up at Wingrave. The late Mr. William Burton, at a great cost erected a steam boiler, engine, shaft, and apparatus, to assist the water wheel in the grinding. In a field at Marston Turn, formerly stood an old post windmill, and it did a good turn in its day. The last owner Mr. Bowler, farmer, miller, and baker, allowed it to fall into decay, and it was pulled down. The field still bears the name "The Mill Piece."

### EMINENT MEN

WALTER GIFFARD DE BOLEBEC.—He was the son of Osborn de Bolebec and came over with the Conqueror. He was a great man amongst the Normans; the Conqueror gave him Whitchurch Manor, which was held under him by Hugh de Bolebec, his relative. Walter was one of the assessors of the Domesday Survey, and for his zeal and attachment he held many manors under the Conqueror, no less than 107 in England, of which 48 were in Bucks. He was created Earl of Longueville in Normandy, and as is found in a charter of • Henry I, was made first Earl of Buckingham about 1070, the ceremony at that period being purely military, consisting in being girt with a sword, and endowed with a payment from the County whence the title was given. He was faithful to the Conqueror and loyal to "William Rufus, for whom he fortified his Castles in Normandy. He was Chief Commander in the forces raised against Robert Curthose and his adherents. He died in 1103, holding Whitchurch, he was buried in the Abbey at Longueville, near Dieppe, which he had founded.

WALTER GIFFARD, called Earl Walter the younger, second Earl of Bucks, son of the before-named. He remained firm to Henry I, and fought nobly at Brenneville, in 1119, against Louis, King of France, and Crispin the famous Norman Knight, when the French were defeated. He founded Notley Abbey,—this Abbey was erected in the demesnes in Crendon Manor, for moults of a reformed branch of Augustine order, who came out from Arras, in France. They were, says MARSH, in *Bucks Records*, page 247, "most rigid, wearing no linen, eating no meat, strictly silent, except at their devotions which filled up nearly their whole time, and they wore a white tunic." It is said that he was assessed at 94 Knight's fees for the marriage of the King's daughter. Dying without issue in 1164, his lands were either escheated to the Crown or distributed amongst his relatives.

HUGH DE BOLEBEC was the son of Sieur Hugh de Bolebec, a follower of the Norman Duke. He succeeded his cousin in the Manor of Whitchurch, was a tenant in capite, was fourth burgher in the County at the Survey. He was baron of Headen, in Northumberland, married a daughter of Lord Mount Fichet, and held according to Domesday book many manors in this County, and Missenden Abbey, which was founded by the D'Oyley's, and endowed by the family of Missenden, upon a vow for escaping shipwreck (see Camden page 279), he also held Whaddon and its chase. He died leaving two sons Hugh and Walter. This Hugh de Bolebec founded Bolebec Castle in the Barony of Whitchurch, he also founded Woburn Abbey in 1145, for Cistercian Monks from Cisteaux, near Chalons, in Burgundy, to which also he assigned the great tithes of this Parish. He built the Abbey as a cell, or as GROSE says, more properly as a daughter to the original foundation of his ancestors at Woburn. In a charter of Walter his brother, it represents the Abbey of Woburn to have been founded for these Monks, and that he also bestowed on it the honour of Medmenham, Bucks, whereof Brock was a hide, and further endowed it till it was worth £20 6 2 per annum.

## THE HISTORY OF WHITCHURCH

EDWARD BACKWELL.—He was an Alderman of the Ward of Bishopsgate, London, to which office he was elected in 1657. His place of business was in Cornhill, and known as the Unicorn. He was a banker of great ability, industry, and very extensive credit; he was also a goldsmith. Shortly after the Reformation a charge was made against him of defrauding or concealing vast sums of money from his Majesty, but the accusation was probably false. Pepys, in his diary, makes reference to Alderman Backwell, and must, have been in frequent communication with him. Backwell was much mixed up with Government loans and money transactions with the King. In 1664, he was a tenant of Creslow, Bucks, and a tolerably successful farmer. His fat stock was sold by weight, and was apparently slain by him before sale, as he accounts for tallow, hides, skins, tongues, offal, &c. In his sale he receives, for five cows, one bull, one coach-horse, two ewes, and four sheep skins, £42 0s. 10d., and he purchases at Banbury 113 oxen for £690, 10 oxen for £60, and seven oxen for £70. He had considerable landed property in Bucks; amongst others “A fair Manor House, at Whitchurch, with two lodges in the forecourt, a malt-house, barns, outhouses, garden, and orchard, with a close, walled, known as Kempson,” also the Royalty and copyhold rents, services, heriots, with other usual profits worth £40 per annum. Backwell, as a banker, had his troubles; in 1667, there was a run on him which caused much annoyance. In 1672, the King, being in great want of money, closed the Exchequer, whereby the goldsmiths or bankers were robbed of their deposits to the amount of £1,328,626. Of this sum Backwell had deposited there as much as £295,994 16s. 6d., which he lost. In lieu of payment some years after (1677), the King granted him an annuity of £17,769 13s. 8d. The original bond for the payment of this money to the goldsmiths, bearing Charles the II. autograph, is in the possession of Charles T. Praed, Esq., banker, a descendant of the Backwells. This loss by the King’s fraud was a great blow to Backwell, and nearly ruined him; indeed it led to embarrassment and to stoppage of payment. He held several appointments under the Crown up to 1676, when he retired to Holland; he died there in 1679, and was buried at Tyringham.

JOHN BONNYCASTLE.—He was a professor of mathematics at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He was born at Whitchurch, and at one time resided at Weedon. He went to London early in life, where he married at the age of 19; his wife dying soon after, he became tutor to the sons of various noblemen, after which he resided at Euston, in Northamptonshire, till he obtained a place at the Woolwich Academy, where he finally became professor. He is stated to have been a good scholar, and much attached to poetry, and particularly to Shakespear’s Works. Bonnycastle is known by a large number of excellent elementary works, his “Guide to Arithmetic” had a large sale; his treatises on Mensuration, Astronomy, Geometry, &c., are good; his “Elementary Algebra” is a very excellent performance, and proves his great knowledge of the science; he was a contributor to “Bees Cyclopaedia.” As a man of science he enjoyed a deserved reputation. He died at Woolwich, May 15th, 1821.

DR. GEORGE LIPSCOMB. —Dr. Lipscomb was a native of Quainton. His father, Dr. James Liscomb, was in early life a medical officer in the Royal Navy. He married Mary George of Grendon Underwood; they resided at one time at Grendon, and at Quainton. James Lipscomb died in 1794, and was buried at Quainton Church, where a memorial is erected to his memory. Dr. George Lipscomb their son, came and resided here, he occupied the villa on the east side of the High Street, known now as “The Sycamores,” and belonging to and occupied by Mr. Hawley; here he followed his profession and was considered the Village Doctor. It was during his residence here that he began to write “the History of Buckinghamshire,” which has made his name so famous to us. In Dr. Lipscomb’s time postage was expensive, paper and wood engravings dear, nevertheless he persevered, his

## THE HISTORY OF WHITCHURCH

work is a grand one, but it exhausted all his means. Eventually he left Whitchurch to live in London, hoping thereby to be able to secure aid to help him in his difficulties, but he ultimately died in Westminster, in abject poverty, and but for the kindness of a Mr. Gyll, of Wraysbury, he would have been laid in a pauper's grave. However all honour to Mr. Gordon Gyll, he saw that he was decently buried and paid all expenses connected therewith. His place of burial is not known; his wife predeceased him and they left no issue. His history was published in 1847.

JOHN WESTCAR.—He was a celebrated grazier, and the occupier of Creslow Pastures, near Whitchurch. He was a leading exhibitor at the Smithfield Club Cattle Show, at the end of the last and beginning of the present century. It is said that he was the first grazier in this district, who introduced a system of conveying fat cattle to the London Market, otherwise than by road, for he made use of the canal and its boats for the purpose; thus we find in Mr. Gibb's Local Occurrences, date Dec. 10th, 1799—"Mr. Westcar of Creslow, sends a fat ox to London for the Christmas Show, it travelled by the Wendover canal, it was two days on the journey and reached there safe, thereby losing no flesh from the easy way it travelled. This was considered quite a novelty at this period." Again we read "Dec. 25th, 1799, —the ox fed and shown in London by Mr. Westcar, was remarkable for its weight and size; it gained the first prize and was sold for £100; it weighed upwards of 241 stone; its height was 6 feet 7 inches; length 9 feet; girt 10 feet 1 inch." Between the year 1789 and 1821, Mr. Westcar received 42 prizes for different animals shown at Smithfield. He was a just and good man, and lived to a good old age. He was found dead in the Great Ground at Creslow, supposed to have fallen from his horse, on the 24th of April, 1833. Two trees were planted to mark the spot. He was in his 84th year when he died, and he left £1,500 in charities, divided between the poor of Whitchurch, Cublington, and Souldern, Oxon.

RICHARD DURLEY, was a native of Bierton, was born January 26th, 1758. His father, James Durley, was a carpenter and builder, as his father was before him. He also held the honourable office of Parish Clerk. Mr. James Durley married on the 3rd Nov. 1791, Mary Toogood of Whitchurch, by whom he had issue two sons and four daughters. Richard and John followed the occupation and business left by their deceased father in 1814. About the year 1827, Mr. Richard Durley purchased the carpentering and building business, which for many years had been carried on by Mr. William Foster at Whitchurch. He came to reside here, and lived in the house known as "The Firs," now occupied by Mr. H. Parrott. In May, 1829, he married his cousin Mary Toogood. The first few years of his business life were not very successful, having lost some £200 which he said he never regretted, having sharpened him up for the future before him. On the death of Mrs. Durley's relatives he became possessed of the house, homestead, and farm, known as "Toogood Lodge" Having taken to the then lucrative business of farming he gave up his building business to his brother John, who transferred it to Bierton. Richard Durley was a staunch Methodist. He built the Wesleyan Chapel in 1844, and gave it to the Connexion. In 1845, he and a few friends opened a Day School in this Parish, and by his energy and influence succeeded in building the present Day School-room, which he saw successfully carried on till his decease. He was a Governor of the County Infirmary, and for upwards of 30 years a member of the Monthly Board. He took a great interest in his poorer neighbours, and when the new Poor Law was established he was elected guardian, which office he filled for many years. He was connected With the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Religious Tract Society. In 1864, he was elected president of the Local Preacher's Mutual Aid Association. He was a man of sound judgment and moral courage, and noted for his candor and outspokenness. He lived to an advanced ripe age dying 16th January, 1888, within ten days of his 90th birthday.

## THE HISTORY OF WHITCHURCH

Lives of great men, all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time.

### CONCLUSION

And now ladies and gentlemen, I have brought my task to a close we have glanced at our Village when the old Britons hunted in Whaddon Chase and Bernwood Forest, and to the time of the Roman invasion, when doubtless the Village rose into existence as a military station. We stayed to consider William the Conqueror's sturdy Lords, and Barons, with their overruling iron hand, taking the lands and pasture into their own control and dealing with it at their pleasure. A brighter and quieter day dawned but with it was superstition, idolatry, and hardship from the papal sway, resulting in the rising up of many worthies in Bucks, who fought and laid down their lives for the liberty, safety, and freedom, we now enjoy. We have noticed the manners and customs of our forefathers, their feasting, fasting, worshipping, and the like. We remembered too, the great changes that have taken place in this last century, the light of to-day is bright indeed, our railways, post offices, and telegraph wires, which have brought light, education, and peace to our homes. In conclusion if I have been the means of preserving any of these old facts and incidents from passing into oblivion, or have awakened a deeper interest in our old Village, I feel I shall not have been spending my time for nought.

JOSEPH HOLLOWAY.





WEIGHTS  
AND MEASURES  
AND OTHER  
HISTORICAL  
INFORMATION

# FACTS AND FIGURES

## MONEY

Before decimal coinage (100 pence = £1 sterling) started on 15th February 1971, the £ sterling was divided into 20 shillings, each shilling being divided into 12 pennies or pence. It is interesting to note that the old Roman money used in Great Britain consisted of 100 pence making 1 pound. (Also see *Old British Coins*, page 55.)

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Readers may well be unfamiliar with many of the weights and measures used in the centuries before much of the metric system came into general use in England. As many of these will be found in the text they are included here for reference, complete with their approximate metric equivalents where relevant – the comma being used as the decimal point as in European usage.

It may surprise readers to know that the Metric System *in trade* has been legal in England since 6th August, 1897, when the *Weights and Measures (Metric System) Act, 1897* was passed by Parliament, and that the standards for the Metre, Kilogram and Litre were approved by an Order in Council on 19th May, 1898.

When reading old articles and records it is useful to remember the following miscellaneous usages:

- 12 articles are called a Dozen
- 13 articles are called a Baker's Dozen
- 12 Dozen (144 articles) were called a Gross
- 12 Gross (144 Dozen) were called a Great Gross
- 20 articles are called a Score
- 5 Score (100 articles) were called a Common Hundred *or* 1 Quintal
- 6 Score (120 articles) were called a Great Hundred

## DRY MEASURE (VOLUME)

The only Imperial standard measure of capacity (volume), from which all other measures of capacity were computed, was the 'Gallon'. It was used to calculate all dry goods not measured by 'heap' measure. The Gallon was 10lbs (Avoirdupois) of distilled water weighed in air at 62° Fahrenheit (16.66° C) with the barometric pressure at 30 inches. 20 Fluid Ounces, or 1¼ lbs, being equal to 1 Pint. The standard 'Bushel' was a cylindrical measure 19½ inches (49.53cm) wide and 8½ inches (21.59cm) deep and contained 2,218.192 Cubic Inches (363.6 Litres).

These measures were used for all kinds of grain such as Barley, Wheat, Oats, and pulses such as Peas all of which had to be '*stricken*<sup>1</sup> *with a stick having an even surface from end to end*' in the measure. The Pint, Peck and Bushel were the amounts most commonly used, although the Coomb was frequently referred to in East Anglia.

Goods such as Apples, Pears, Cherries, Currants etc. which couldn't easily be '*stricken*' were permitted, as a result of an Act of Parliament, to be sold by the '*Heaped Bushel*'.

1 Gill	=		=	142 ml
4 Gills	=	1 Pint (pt.)	=	568 ml
2 Pints	=	1 Quart (qt.)	=	1,136 litre
2 Quarts	=	1 Pottle	=	2,272 litres
4 Quarts	=	1 (Imperial) Gallon (gal.)	=	4.5459631 litres
2 Gallons	=	1 Peck	=	9,092 litres
4 Pecks	=	1 Bushel	=	36,37 litres
8 Bushels	=	1 Quarter (qr.)	=	290,94 litres
		<i>also</i>		
2 Bushels	=	1 Strike	=	72,74 litres
4 Bushels	=	1 Coomb	=	145,48 litres
2 Coombs	=	1 Quarter (qr.)	=	290,96 litres
36 Bushels	=	1 Chaldron	=	1309,32 litres
5 Quarters	=	1 Load <i>or</i> Wey	=	1454,71 litres
2 Weys	=	1 Last	=	2909,42 litres

Note:

- 1) 'Stricken' meant '*made even all over and level with the top sides of the measure.*'
- 2) Although not relevant to this publication, a 'Cran' was a measure for the sale of Fresh Herrings, although it was not made legal until 1889. A Cran contained 37½ Imperial Gallons.
- 3) A Cubic Metre used to be known as a 'Stere' and was equivalent to 35.3148 cu. ft or 1.307954 cu yds.

### (AVOIRDUPOIS) MEASURE OF WEIGHT (MASS)

1 Dram (dr.)	=		=	1,77 g
16 Drams	=	1 Ounce (oz.)	=	28,350 g
16 Ounces	=	1 Pound (lb.)	=	454,59243 g
14 Pounds	=	1 Stone	=	6,35 kg
2 Stones (28 lbs)	=	1 Quarter (qr.)	=	12,70 kg
4 Quarters (112 lbs)	=	1 Hundredweight (cwt.)	=	50,80 kg
20 Hundredweights	=	1 Ton (t.)	=	1,016 Tonnes

Notes:

- 1) By this weight were weighed all goods that were of a 'coarse or drossy nature—as Pitch, Tar, Resin, Tin, Iron etc; all Grocery and Chandlery ware, Silk, Bread, and all metals but Gold and Silver.'
- 2) Some Silks were weighed by the Great Pound of 24 ounces, others by the common pound of 16 ounces.
- 3) One pound Avoirdupois contained 14 ounces 11 pennyweights 16 grains in Troy measure, which was equal to 7,000 grains.
- 4) A Stone of different goods, and at different places, varied from 8lbs to 20lbs (see *Traditional and Local Weights* section).
- 5) 14 lbs is a Stone in the weighing of jockeys for horse-racing.
- 6) Two additional weights were legalised by Order in Council on 4th February, 1879, they were:

100 Pounds	=	1 Cental <i>or</i> New Hundredweight	=	45,46kg
		<i>and</i>		
8 Pounds	=	1 Stone (London Meat Market)	=	3,64 kg

## COAL WEIGHT

1 Pound	=		0,4546 kg
14 Pounds	=	1 Stone	= 6,35 kg
28 Pounds	=	¼ Hundredweight (¼cwt.)	= 12,70 kg
56 Pounds	=	½ Hundredweight (½ cwt.)	= 25,40 kg
112 Pounds	=	1 Sack (1 Hundredweight)(cwt.)	= 50,80 kg
224 Pounds	=	1 Double Sack (2 cwt)	= 101,6 kg
20 Hundredweight	=	1 Ton	= 1.016 tonnes
52 Hundredweight	=	1 Chaldron	= 2,642 tonnes
7 Tons	=	1 Room	= 7,112 tonnes
21 tons 4 cwt	=	1 Barge <i>or</i> Keel	= 21,54 tonnes
20 Keels (424 tons)	=	1 Ship Load	= 430,8 tonnes

Notes:

- 1) By the *Weights and Measures Act* of 1889, all coal had to be sold by avoirdupois weight.
- 2) A ‘Truck’ of coal, on average, weighed approximately 8 tons.

## COKE MEASURE

3 Bushels	=	1 Sack
12 Sacks	=	1 Chaldron

## LONG MEASURE (i)

1 Inch	=		2,54 mm
12 Inches	=	1 Foot	= 0,305 m
3 Feet	=	1 Yard	= 0,914 m
5½ Yards	=	1 Rod, Pole or Perch	= 5,027 m
22 Yards	=	1 Chain	= 20,13 m
40 Poles	=	1 Furlong	= 201,08 m
8 Furlongs	=	1 Mile	= 1,609 km
3 Miles	=	1 League	= 4,826 km

Notes:

- 1) Many of these are still in use in England. The Furlong and Mile are widely used for horse race distances; the Mile is used for distances travelled and is currently (2001) used on maps and all road signs in England.
- 2) In France distance used to be measured by the Mean League which was equivalent to 3,666 Yards (3,35 km).

## LONG MEASURE (ii)

1 Barleycorn	=		0,346mm
3 Barleycorns	=	1 Inch	= 2,54 mm
3 Inches	=	1 Palm	= 7,62 mm
4 Inches	=	1 Hand	= 10.16 mm
7.92 Inches	=	1 Link	= 20,12 mm
9 Inches	=	1 Span	= 22,86 mm
2½ Feet	=	1 Military Pace	= 0,76 m
5 Feet	=	1 Pace	= 1,53 m

6 Feet	=	1 Fathom	=	1,83 m
25 Links	=	1 Pole	=	5,03 m
4 Poles	=	1 Chain (of Land)	=	20,12 m

Notes:

- 1) The Hand is still used for measuring horses.
- 2) The Fathom was used for measuring the depth of water and the depth of mines.
- 3) The Chain was used for measuring land. (The distance between the two sets of stumps on a cricket pitch remains at 22 Yards, i.e. 1 Chain.)
- 5) Until 1878 the Pole varied in length in different counties. In Cheshire and Staffordshire it was equivalent to 8 Yards, in Lancashire it measured 7 Yards while in many other areas it varied between 5 and 6 Yards, but the Weights and Measures Act of that year stated that *'5½ yards = 1 pole and any dealing otherwise is void.'*
- 6) The English Statute Mile = 1,760 Yards = 1,61km
- 7) The English Nautical Mile or Knot = 2,027.3 Yards = 1,853 km
- 8) The Geographical Mile = 2,026.6 Yards = 1,852 km
- 9) The Nautical Mile is 1/60th part of a degree of longitude.

## SQUARE MEASURE

1 Square Inch	=		=	6,4516 cm <sup>2</sup>
144 Square Inches	=	1 Square Foot (sq. ft.)	=	929,03 cm <sup>2</sup>
9 Square Feet	=	1 Square Yard (sq. yd.)	=	0,836 m <sup>2</sup>
30¼ Square Yards	=	1 Square Pole or Perch	=	25,293 m <sup>2</sup>
16 Square Poles	=	1 Square Chain	=	404,688 m <sup>2</sup>
2½ Square Chains	=	1 Rood	=	1011,72 m <sup>2</sup>
4 Roods	=	1 Acre	=	0,4046 hectare
640 Acres	=	1 Square Mile (sq. m.)	=	259,0 hectares

Notes:

- 1) Measurement of land area was frequently calculated in Square Links (2.295684 Square Links = 1 Square Foot). This calculation was used for convenience as the result, divided by 100,000, gave the area in Acres.

## SOLID OR CUBIC MEASURE

1 Cubic Inch (cu. in)	=		=	16,387 cm <sup>3</sup>
1728 Cubic Inches	=	1 Cubic Foot (cu. ft.)	=	0,28317 m <sup>3</sup>
		<i>(this is equal to 12 Inches x 12 Inches x 12 Inches)</i>		
27 Cubic Feet	=	1 Cubic Yard (cu. yd.) or Load	=	0,764553 m <sup>3</sup>
		<i>(this is equal to 3 Yards x 3 Yards x 3 Yards)</i>		

## TIMBER MEASURE

100 Superficial Feet (of Planking)	=	1 Square
120 Deals	=	1 Hundred
108 Cubic Feet	=	1 Stack
720 Cubic Feet	=	1 Cord
50 Cubic Feet of Squared Timber or 40 Cubic Feet of Unhewn Timber or 600 Cubic Feet of 1 Inch thick Planking	} =	1 Load or Ton



## HAY AND STRAW MEASURE

1 Truss of Straw	=	36 Pounds (lbs.)
1 Truss of Old Hay	=	56 Pounds (lbs.)
1 Truss of New Hay	=	60 Pounds (lbs.)
36 Trusses	=	1 Load
1 Load of Old Hay	=	18 Cwt 32 lbs
1 Load of New Hay	=	19 Cwt 32 lbs
1 Load of Straw	=	11 Cwt 64lbs
1 Cubic Yard of Old Hay	=	8 Stone <i>or</i> 1 cwt (cwt.)
1 Cubic Yard of New Hay	=	6 Stone <i>or</i> 84 lbs (lbs.)

## ALE AND BEER MEASURE

1 Pint (20 Fluid Ounces)	=	454,6 ml
2 Pints	=	1 Quart
4 Quarts	=	1 Gallon
6 Bottles	=	1 Gallon
9 Gallons	=	1 Firkin
2 Firkins (18 gallons)	=	1 Kilderkin
2 Kilderkins (36 Gallons)	=	1 Barrel
3 Kilderkins (54 Gallons)	=	1 Hogshead
3 Barrels or 2 Hogsheads	=	1 Butt

Notes:

- 1) The Pint (20 fl. oz.) is still used as a a Beer measure in England.
- 2) The Gallons shown above are Imperial. An Imperial Gallon of Water weighs 10 lbs and is equivalent to [4.54596 litres](#).
- 3) The U.S. Gallon is smaller and is equivalent to 3,785 litres.

## WINE MEASURE

These are also used to measure Spirits, Cider, Honey, Oil, Vinegar etc.

4 Gills <sup>1</sup>	=	1 Pint
2 Pints	=	1 Quart
4 Quarts	=	1 Gallon
10 Gallons <sup>2</sup>	=	1 Anker (Brandy)
18 Gallons	=	1 Runlet
31½ Gallons <sup>2</sup>	=	Half a Hogshead
42 Gallons <sup>2</sup>	=	1 Tierce
63 Gallons <sup>2</sup>	=	1 Hogshead <sup>3</sup>
84 Gallons <sup>2</sup>	=	1 Puncheon
2 Hogsheads	=	1 Pipe <sup>4</sup> <i>or</i> Butt
2 Pipes	=	1 Tun

Notes:

- 1) To make things more confusing, in some parts of the country a Gill was reckoned as being Half a Pint.
- 2) These are the old *Winchester* Wine Gallons that were in common usage, one Wine Gallon being equivalent to .8831 of an Imperial Gallon.
- 3) A Hogshead of wine was equal to 52½ Imperial Gallons.
- 4) A Pipe of wine was nominally 105 Imperial Gallons although Pipes varied in quantity

according to the kind of wine they contained, e.g. a Pipe of Lisbon Wine was 117 Gallons, a Pipe of Port 115 Gallons, a Pipe of Sherry was 108 Gallons, a Pipe of Vidonia was 100 Gallons and a Pipe of Sherry was 92 Gallons – all of these being the old *Winchester* Gallons.

- 5) An Imperial Gallon measures 27.274 Cubic Inches (4.54596 litres).
- 6) 6 Bottles of Spirits equal 1 Imperial Gallon.
- 7) There was also a *Barrique* (a Bordeaux measure of Claret) which was 225 litres (or almost 49½ Gallons).

## CHEESE AND BUTTER WEIGHT

8 Pounds (lbs.)	=	1 Clove or Half Stone
32 Cloves (256 lbs.)	=	1 Wey (Suffolk)
42 Cloves (336 lbs.)	=	1 Wey (Essex)
56 Pounds (Butter)	=	1 Firkin
84 Pounds (Butter)	=	1 Tub
224 Pounds (Butter)	=	1 Barrel

## (WHEATEN) BREAD WEIGHT

A Peck Loaf	=	17 lbs 6 ozs 2 drs
A Half-Peck Loaf	=	8 lbs 11 ozs 1 dr
A Quartern Loaf	=	4 lbs 5 ozs 8½ drs

Note:

- 1) At the end of the 19th century, bread was usually sold in 4 lb and 2 lb loaves which had to be *weighed in front of the purchaser* (except fancy bread). Subsequent legislation demanded that a 'Loaf' of bread should weigh 11lb 14 ozs.

## FLOUR WEIGHT

1 Quartern <i>or</i> Quarter-Peck	=	3lbs 14 oz 0 dr
1 Peck <i>or</i> Stone	=	14 lbs
1 Bushel	=	56 lbs
1 Sack (5 Bushels)	=	280 lbs

## CLOTH MEASURE

2¼ Inches	=	1 Nail
4 Nails (9 Inches)	=	1 Quarter
3 Quarters (27 inches)	=	1 Flemish Ell
4 Quarters (36 Inches)	=	1 Yard
5 Quarters (45 Inches)	=	1 English Ell
6 Quarters (54 inches)	=	1 French Ell

Notes:

- 1) Scotch and Irish Linens, Woollens, Wrought Silks, Muslins, Cloths, Ribbands, Cords, Tapes etc., were measured by the Yard.
- 2) Dutch Linens were bought by the Flemish Ell but sold by the English Ell.
- 3) All Tapestry was sold by the Flemish Ell.
- 4) The Ell (from the Latin *ulna*, the arm) was originally the length of the arm of King Henry I (1100 – 1135).

## (RAW) WOOL WEIGHT

7 Pounds (lbs.)	=	1 Clove
2 Cloves	=	1 Stone
2 Stones	=	1 Tod
6½ Tods	=	1 Wey
2 Weys	=	1 Sack
12 Sacks	=	1 Last
20 Pounds (lbs.)	=	1 Score
12 Score (240 lbs.)	=	1 Pack

Notes:

- 1) The Stone of wool varied different counties but the statutory value was 14lbs.
- 2) Wool was only weighed by Wool Weight.

## TRADITIONAL AND LOCAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Until weights and measures gradually became standardised by Acts of Parliament, amounts differed for various goods and products; i.e. a 'Stone' was normally 14lbs, but a Stone of Cheese was 16lbs, a Stone of Glass was 5lbs and a Stone of Butcher's Meat was 8 lbs etc. Weights and measures also varied from district to district and even village to village. Imported goods suffered from even more variety in quantity under a given measure.

There follows a list of customary weights and measures that would have been commonly expected and traded during the 19th century. A few were legalised in the latter part of the 19th century but many would have remained more-or-less unchanged for many centuries.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Apples	Bushel	minimum 40lbs
Almonds	Seron	1¾ to 2 cwt
	Basket	1¼ to 1½ cwt
	Box (Jordan)	25 lbs
Anchovies	Barrel	30 lbs
Beef (Irish)	Tierce (38 pieces)	304 lbs
Brandy	¼ Cask	20 to 25 Imperial gallons
	Hogshead	45 to 60 Imperial gallons
	Puncheon	100 to 110 Imperial gallons
Bricks	Load	500 bricks
Bullion	Bar	15 to 30 lbs
Butcher's Meat	Stone (London Meat Market)	8 lbs
Butter	Stone	16lbs
Calico	Piece	28 yds
Camphor	Box	approx 1 cwt
Candles	Barrel	120 lbs
Cheese	Stone	16 lbs
Cider	Pipe	100 to 118 Imperial gallons
Cinnamon	Bale	92½ lbs
Cloves	Matt	80 lbs
	Chest	200 lbs
Coal	Ton (10 x 2cwt sacks)	20 cwt
	Newcastle Chaldron	52½ cwt
	Newcastle Chaldron for boats	53 cwt

Cochineal	Seron	140 lbs
(70,000 insects to 1 lb)	Bag	200 lbs
Coffee	Barrel	1 to 1½ cwt
	Bag	1¼ to 1½ cwt
	Bale (Mocha)	2 to 2½ cwt
	Tierce	5 to 7 cwt
Cocoa	Bag	1 cwt
	Cask	1¼ cwt
Cotton	Bale (Egyptian)	180 to 280 lbs
	Bale (Brazilian)	196 to 250 lbs
	Bale (Virginian, Carolinian, Georgian or West Indian)	300 to 310 lbs
	Bale (East Indian)	320 to 360 lbs
	Bale (New orleans, Alabama)	400 to 500 lbs
Currants	Butt	15 to 20 cwt
Figs	Frail Basket (Faro)	32 lbs
	Frail Basket (Malaga)	56 lbs
	Barrel	96 to 360 lbs
Fish	Warp	4 fish
	Long Hundred	132 fish
	Maze	615 fish
	Last	13,200 fish
	Keg (Sturgeon)	4 to 5 gallons
	Barrel (Herrings)	32 gallons
Flour	Peck <i>or</i> Stone	14 lbs
	Boll (10 Pecks)	140 lbs
	Barrel	196 lbs
	Sack (2 Bolls)	280 lbs
Ginger	Bag (Jamaican)	approx 1 cwt
	Bag (East Indian)	approx 1 cwt
	Bag (Barbadian)	approx 1¼ cwt
Glass	Stone	5 lbs
	Seam	120 lbs
Gum Arabic	Chest (Turkish)	4 cwt
	Chest (East Indian)	6 cwt
Gunpowder	Barrell	1 cwt
	Last	2,400 lbs
Hay	Truss (Old)	56 lbs
	Truss (New)	60 lbs
Hemp	Stone	32 lbs
Herrings (Fresh)	Cran	37½ Imperial gallons
Hides	Dicker	10 skins
	Last	200 skins
Hock	Aum	30 gallons
Honey	Gallon	12 lbs
Hops	Pocket	1½ to 2 cwt
	Bag	approx 2½ cwt
Indigo	Maund (East Indian)	7¼ lbs
	Seron (Guatemalan)	250 lbs
Iron	Stone	120 lbs

Lead	Fother	2,400 lbs
Mace	Case	approx 1½ cwt
Molasses	Puncheon	10 to 12 cwt
Muslin	Piece	10 yds
Mustard	Cask	9 to 18 lbs
Nutmegs	Cask	200 lbs
Nuts	Bag (Barcelona)	126 lbs
	Bag (Messina)	1½ to 1¾ cwt
Oil	Tun	252 Winchester gallons
	Tun	210 Imperial gallons
	Ton	1770 lbs
Olive Oil	Chest (60 Flasks)	125 Imperial gallons
	Jar	25 Imperial gallons
Opium	Chest (Turkey)	136 lbs
	Chest (East Indian)	149¼ lbs (2 Maunds)
Pepper	Bags (Free Trade)	28 lbs, 56 lbs and 112 lbs
	Bag (White)	1½ cwt
	Company Bag (Black)	316 lbs
Pilchards	Hogshead (approx 3,000 fish)	40 gallons
Plums	Carton	9 lbs
	¼ Box	approx 20 lbs
Pork (Irish)	Tierce (80 pieces)	320 lbs
Potash	Barrel	120 lbs
Potatoes	Bags	112 lbs and 168 lbs
Quicksilver	Bottle	84 lbs
Raisins	Box (Malaga)	22 lbs
	Drum	24 lbs
	Box (Valencia)	30 to 40 lbs
	Barrel	1 cwt
	Cask (Malaga)	1 cwt
	Cask (Turkey)	2½ cwt
Rice	Bag (East Indian)	approx 1½ cwt
	Cask (American)	6 cwt
Resin	Barrel	approx 2 cwt
Rum	Hogshead	45 to 50 gallons
	Puncheon	90 to 100 gallons
Soap	Firkin	64 lbs
	Barrel	256 lbs
Soda	Cask	3 to 4 cwt
Steel	Faggot	120 lbs
Straw	Truss	36 lbs
	Load	11 cwt 64 lbs
Sugar	Mat <i>or</i> Bag (Mauritius)	1 to 1½ cwt
	Bag (East Indian)	1 to 1¾ cwt
	Tierce	7 to 9 cwt
	Hogshead (West Indian)	13 to 16 cwt
Tallow	Cask	approx 9 cwt
Tapioca	Barrel	approx 1¼ cwt
Tar	Barrel	26½ Imperial gallons



Tea	Chest (Hyson)	60 to 80 lbs
	Chest (Congou)	approx 80 lbs
	Chest (Twankay)	84 lbs
Tiles	Load	1,000 tiles
Tobacco	Hogshead	12 to 18 cwt
Train Oil	Gallon	9 lbs
Turpentine	Barrel	2 to 2½ cwt
Vermilion	Bag	50 lbs
Whisky (Scotch)	Hogshead	55 to 60 Imperial gallons
	Puncheon	112 to 120 Imperial gallons

## OTHER WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

In some early records, reference to Biblical weights and measures are found; the most common of these are as follows (the column on the right shows the English equivalents):

1 Span	=		=	10.92 Inches
2 Spans	=	1 Cubit	=	21.85 Inches
400 Cubits	=	1 Furlong	=	145 paces 4.6 ft
5 Furlongs	=	A Sabbath Day's Journey	=	729 paces 3 ft
10 Furlongs	=	1 Mile	=	1 mile 403 paces 1 ft
24 Miles	=	A Day's Journey	=	33 miles 172 paces 4 ft

## QUARTER DAYS

In England (and Ireland) these were the traditional dates on which rent or interest was paid, agreements and contracts became legal and labour was hired.

Lady Day	=	25th March
Midsummer	=	24th June
Michaelmas	=	29th September
Christmas	=	25th December

Note: The dates on which Quarter Days fell in Scotland were different.

## OLD BRITISH COINS

In *The Chronicles of Whitchurch* 'Marks' are mentioned in a number of entries. The value of the old coinage was as follows:

Gold Joannes	=	36 shillings (£1 16s)	Gold Angel	=	10 shillings
Gold Moidore	=	27 shillings (£1 7s)	Gold Noble	=	6s 8d (1/3 of £1)
Gold Jacobus	=	25 shillings (£1 5s)	Gold Dollar (Taler)	=	4s 6d
Gold Guinea	=	21 shillings (£1 1s)	Silver Tester	=	6d (six pence)
Gold Mark	=	13s 4d (2/3 of £1)	Silver Groat	=	4d (fourpence)
Gold Half-Guinea	=	10s 6d			

# KINGS AND QUEENS OF ENGLAND

## KINGS OF MERCIA AFTER THE ROMAN OCCUPATION

<i>Monarch</i>	<i>Born</i>	<i>Reign Began</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Reigned Until</i>	<i>Reigned (Years)</i>	<i>Buried</i>
Ealdorman, Penda		660		655	5	
Wulfhere		664		666	2	
Aethelred		671		699	28	
Cenred		705		709	4	
Ceolred		710		714	4	
Aethelbald		715		750	35	
Offa		757		796	39	
Ecgrith		796		796	>1	
Cenwulf		797		821	24	
Ceolwulf (I)		822		828	6	
Wiglaf		828		838	10	
Berhtwulf		838		852	14	
Burgred		852		869	17	
Ceowulf (II)		870		?		

## SAXON

<i>Monarch</i>	<i>Born</i>	<i>Reign Began</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Reigned (Years)</i>	<i>Buried</i>
Egbert		827			10	
Ethelwolf		837			20	
Ethelbald		857			3	
Ethelbert		860			6	
Etheldred I		866			5	
Alfred		871		899	30	
Edward ( <i>the Elder</i> )		901			24	
Athelstan		925			15	
Edmund I		940		946	6	
Edred		946			9	
Eadwig, Edwy or Edwin		955			3	
Edgar ( <i>the Peaceful</i> )		959			17	
Edward ( <i>the Martyr</i> )		975		979	3	
Ethelred II ( <i>the Unready</i> )		979			38	
Edmund II ( <i>Ironsides</i> )		1016		1016	-	

## DANISH KINGS

Swegn	1013	3
Canute	1016	19
Harold I	1035	5
Hardicanute	1040	2

## SAXON KINGS RESTORED

Edward ( <i>the Confessor</i> )	1042	24
Harold II	1066	>1

## NORMAN KINGS

<i>Monarch</i>	<i>Born</i>	<i>Reign Began</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Died (Y-M-D)</i>	<i>Reigned</i>	<i>Buried</i>
William ( <i>the Conqueror</i> )	1027	1066	Maud of Flanders	1087	20-8-57	Caen, Normandy
William Rufus	1057	1087	Unmarried	1100	12-10-7	Winchester
Henry	1068	1100	Princess Edith	1135	35-3-27	Reading
Stephen	1105	1135	Matilda of Boulogne	1154	18-10-0	Faversham

## THE ANGEVIN KINGS OR PLANTAGENETS

Henry II	1133	1154	Eleanor of Guienne	1189	34-6-18	Fontévrault
Richard I ( <i>Coeur-de Lion</i> )	1156	1189	Berengaria of Navarre	1199	9-7-3	Fontévrault
John ( <i>"Lackland"</i> )	1165	1199	Avisa of Gloucester and Isabella of France	1216	17-4-23	Worcester
Henry III	1207	1216	Eleanor of Provence	1272	56-0-19	Westminster
Edward I	1239	1272	Eleanor of Castille	1307	34-7-17	Westminster
Edward II	1284	1307	Isabella of France	1327	19-6-12	Gloucester
Edward III	1312	1327	Philippa of Hainault	1377	50-4-27	Westminster
Richard II	1366	1377	Ann of Bohemia and Isabella of France	1399	22-3-7	Westminster

## THE HOUSE OF LANCASTER

Henry IV	1367	1399	Mary Bohnm	1413	13-5-30	Canterbury
Henry V	1389	1413	Catherine of France	1422	9-5-10	Westminster
Henry VI	1421	1422	Margaret of Anjou	1461	38-6-3	Windsor

## THE HOUSE OF YORK

Edward IV	1442	1461	Elizabeth Woodville	1483	22-1-5	Windsor
Edward V	1471	1483	Unmarried	1483	0-2-16	Unknown <sup>1</sup>
Richard III	1443	1483	Anne Neville	1485	2-1-26	Leicester

<sup>1</sup> A body of the stature of a 12 year-old boy was discovered during excavations at the Tower of London in July 1933.

## THE HOUSE OF TUDOR

Henry VII	1455	1485	Elizabeth of York	1509	23-7-30	Westminster
Henry VIII	1492	1509	Catherine of Aragon; Anne Boleyn; Jane Seymour; Anne of Cleves; Catherine Howard; Catherine Parr	1547	37-9-6	Windsor
Edward VI	1537	1547	Unmarried	1553	6-5-9	Westminster
Mary	1516	1553	Philip, King of Spain	1558	5-4-11	Westminster
Elizabeth	1533	1558	Unmarried	1603	44-4-7	Westminster

## THE HOUSE OF STUART

James I	1566	1603	Anne of Denmark	1625	22-0-3	Westminster
Charles I	1600	1625	Henrietta of France	1649	23-10-3	Windsor

## *THE COMMONWEALTH (1649-1660)*

<i>Oliver Cromwell</i> <sup>2</sup>	1599	1653	<i>Elizabeth Bourchier</i>	1658	3-0-0	<i>Westminster</i>
<i>Richard Cromwell</i> <sup>3</sup>	1626	1658	<i>Dorothy Mayor</i>	1658	0-8-0	<i>Unknown</i>

<sup>2</sup> Oliver Cromwell had the title 'Lord Protector'. <sup>3</sup> Richard Cromwell's title was 'Protector'.

## THE HOUSE OF STUART RESTORED

<i>Monarch</i>	<i>Born</i>	<i>Reign Began</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>Reigned (Y-M-D)</i>	<i>Buried</i>
Charles II	1630	1660	Catherine of Portugal	1685	25-0-0	Westminster
James II	1633	1685	Anne Hyde	1688	3-10-5	Paris
William III	1650	1688	Mary II, daughter of James II	1702	13-0-20	Westminster
Mary II	1652	1688	William III	1694		Westminster
Anne	1665	1702	George of Denmark	1714	12-4-24	Westminster

## THE HOUSE OF HANOVER (OR BRUNSWICK)

George I	1660	1714	Sophia of Zell	1727	12-10-10	Hannover
George II	1683	1727	Wilhelmina of Anspach	1760	33-4-14	Westminster
George III	1738	1760	Charlotte of Mecklenburg	1820	59-3-4	Windsor
George IV	1762	1820	Caroline of Brunswick	1830	10-4-28	Windsor
William IV	1765	1830	Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen	1837	6-11-25	Windsor
Victoria	1819	1837	Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha	1901	63-4-28	Windsor

## THE HOUSE OF SAXE-COBURG-GOTHA

Edward VII	1841	1901	Alexandra of Denmark	1910	9-3-16	Windsor
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## THE HOUSE OF WINDSOR

George V	1865	1910	Victoria Mary of Teck	1936	26 years	Windsor
Edward VII	1894	1936	Wallis Simpson	1936	>1 year	Windsor
George VI	1895	1936	Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon	1952	16 years	Windsor
Elizabeth II	1926	1952	Philip of Greece			

## PRINCIPAL BATTLES FOUGHT BY THE ENGLISH 1066 – 1900

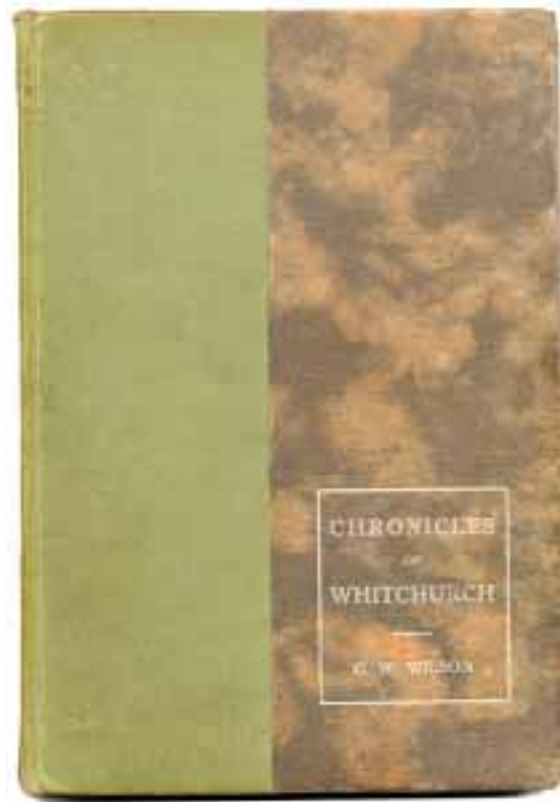
1066	Hastings	1513	Flodden	1800	Marengo
1106	Tenchebrai	1588	Defeat of Spanish Armada	1805	Trafalgar
1191	Capture of Acre	1596	Cadiz	1809	Corunna
1214	Bouvines	1642	Chalgrove Field	1812	Bajadoz
1265	Evesham	1644	Marston Moor	1812	Salamanca
1298	Falkirk	1645	Naseby	1813	Vittoria
1314	Bannockburn	1648	Preston	1815	Waterloo
1322	Boroughbridge	1651	Worcester	1827	Navarino
1333	Halidon Hill	1690	The Boyne	1854	Inkerman
1346	Crécy	1704	Blenheim	1855	Sebastopol
1356	Poitiers	1706	Ramilles	1857	Delhi
1372	Rochelle	1707	Oudenarde	1874	Cumasi
1402	Homildon Hill	1709	Malplaquet	1879	Isandula
1403	Shrewsbury	1715	Sheriffmuir	1879	Rorke's Drift
1415	Agincourt	1745	Prestonpans	1880	Kandahar
1455	St Albans (1st)	1746	Culloden Moor	1881	Majuba Hill
1461	Mortimer's Cross	1757	Plassy	1882	Tel-el-Kebir
1461	St Albans (2nd)	1759	Quebec	1885	Abu Klea
1461	Hedgeley Moor	1775	Bunker Hill	1899	Colenso
1461	Hexham	1779	Siege of Gibraltar	1900	Paardeberg
1471	Tewksbury	1797	St Vincent	1900	Relief of Ladysmith
1485	Bosworth	1798	Camperdown		

## GLOSSARY

<b>Advowson</b>	The area providing the income for a church; also known as a <i>benefice</i> .
<b>Attainted</b>	Convicted, or deprived of rights by conviction for treason.
<b>Borader</b>	Alternative spelling of Bordar.
<b>Bordar</b>	A villein who was allowed to live in a cottage owned by his feudal lord.
<b>Desmesne</b>	The area under the control of a feudal lord; an antique form of <i>domain</i> .
<b>Fine</b>	A contrived lawsuit used as a means of conveying property.
<b>Heriot</b>	A fine paid to a feudal lord on the death of a tenant or landholder.
<b>Hide</b>	Early references to 'hides', such as in the Domesday Book, relate to areas of land. A hide of land was a variable amount, generally reckoned to be sufficient to sustain one household.
<b>Higgler</b>	A dealer in, and door-to-door seller of, provisions.
<b>O.G.</b>	A pointed arch or window, or an 'S'-shaped curved moulding or section; nowadays spelled <i>ogee</i> .
<b>Palfrey</b>	A (lady's) saddle horse.
<b>Pightle</b>	A small enclosure or field.
<b>Riddy</b>	Large field or pasture.
<b>Sieur</b>	A title of respect used by the French.
<b>Terrier</b>	An old form of inventory of landed estate; a land survey or rent roll.
<b>Thane</b>	The companion of a king, or one given land for service to the crown.
<b>Villane</b>	Alternative spelling of Villein.
<b>Villein</b>	A villager only answerable to the feudal lord; also known as a <i>serf</i> .
<b>Yelming</b>	Straightening straw for use by a thatcher.





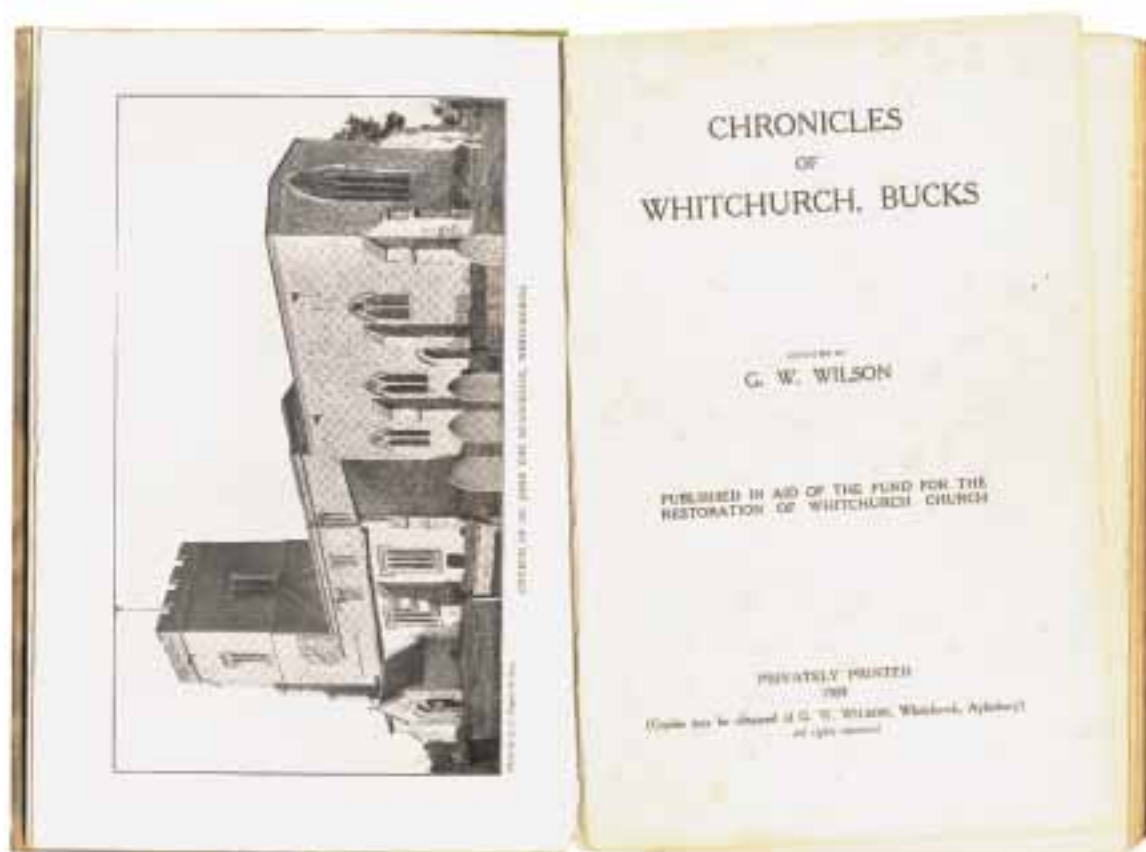


# CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

BY G. W. WILSON

1909





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## PREFACE

THE village of Whitchurch abounds with historic associations. The Castle of the De Bolebecs has long since disappeared, but its site, the Castle Hill, still remains, with the spring, Fair Alice, and the Lords' Gardens and Parks in close proximity. The Church of St. John the Evangelist, situate in the centre of the village, is a handsome structure and of great antiquity. It consists of a nave, two aisles, with a fine chancel and square embattled tower, from which one of the finest views of the county may be obtained. The lofty arches in the nave, the fourteenth-century doors and seats, a portion of an old confessional, a very ancient alms-box, and the piscina and sedilia are all objects of interest.

In offering this little work to the public, on behalf of the funds for the restoration of this church, I beg to acknowledge with many thanks the kindness and courtesy of friends who have assisted me in various ways to obtain information, and I trust that a few facts placed on record concerning the village may be found acceptable. Though I cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracy that may occur therein, no pains have been spared to make the contents correct, and a list of the principal works which have been consulted for this purpose is here appended.

G. W. W.

## PRINCIPAL WORKS CONSULTED

- Additions to Camden (Gough).
- Baronage of England (Dugdale).
- Britannia (Camden).
- Calendar of Charter Rolls.
- Calendar of Close Rolls.
- Calendar of Inquisitions.
- Calendar of Papal Registers.
- Calendar of Patent Rolls.
- Calendar of State Papers (Domestic Series).
- Complete Peerage of England (G. E. C.).
- Doomsday Book.
- Dormant and Extinct Baronetage (Banks).
- Gentleman's Magazine.
- Good and Joyful Newes out of Buckinghamshire.
- Historical Charts (Foster).
- Historic Peerage (Nicolas).
- History of Buckinghamshire (Lipscombe).
- History of Bucks (Sheahan).
- History of the Commoners (Burke).
- Landed Gentry (Burke).
- Letters and Papers of the Reign of Henry VIII.
- Local Occurrences (Gibbs).
- Magna Britannica (Lysons).
- Records of Bucks.
- The Topographer.
- Whitchurch Churchwardens' and Overseers' Accounts.
- Whitchurch Parish Award.
- Whitchurch Parish Registers.
- Worthies of Buckinghamshire (Gibbs).

NOTE  
EXTRACT FROM “THE EDWARDIAN INVENTORIES FOR  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE,” BY F. C. EELES.

*(By Permission.)*

ON 3rd March 1551 it was ordered by the Privy Council “that for as muche as the Kinge’s Majestie had neede presently of a masse of mooney therefore commissions shulde be addressed into all shires of Englande to take into the Kinge’s handes suche church plate as remaineth to be employed unto his highness use.”

Thys inventorye . . . made (23 July 1552) of all the goodes perteyning to the parysche church of Whytt Church between (the King’s commissioners) and Thomas Redwood and Rauffe Harryes.

Imprimis—a sute of turke sylke—Items, a vestement of blacke satyn, a vestement of whyte damaske, a vestement of tawny chamlett, a vestement of rede tafaty, iiij vestementes of tnrke satyn, an olde vestement of blewe and rede, a vestement of damackes, a cope of blewe sylke, viij” olde vestementes without albes, yj corperas casses on clothe, iij surpys, yj other clothes, ij chalyses of sylver with patentes, a pyxe of coper, iij candell styckes of latyn, a holye [waters] toke of leade, vj towelles, iij copes of turke sylke, an olde payer of sensers of laytyn, a crysmatorie of tyne, a vestement of scarlett clothe, iiij gret belles and a sans bell, a hand bell. . . . This inventory is discharged for a hannbell. Sold for ijs.

[Signed]

WALWEYN.

# Chronicles of Whitchurch, Bucks

**B.C. 59**—King Cassibelan or Cassivelaunus began to reign over the district in which Whitchurch is situated, comprising the counties of Bucks, Beds, and Herts, and which was called Cattieuciani.

**55**—First Roman invasion of Britain; but it did not reach this district.

**54**—Second Roman invasion of Britain under Julius Caesar, which was opposed by King Cassibelan.

**A.D. 43**—Another invasion of Britain by the Romans, when they succeeded in establishing themselves in the country.

**275**—Beginning of the reign of Tacitus Marcus Claudius, Emperor of Rome, one of whose coins was discovered at Whitchurch in 1891.

**410**—End of the Roman occupation of England.

**571**—The West Saxons overran this district and stormed Aylesbury. This ended the occupation of this part by the Ancient Britons, and was the commencement of the Saxon rule.

**584**—The Kingdom of Mercia, in which Whitchurch was situated, was founded by Crudda.

**655**—King Penda of Mercia was defeated at Winwidfield, which resulted in the conversion of Mercia to the Christian faith.

**827**—After several changes in the occupation of this part between Mercia and Wessex, Egbert, King of Wessex, subdued the country and became the overlord of the rest of England as far as the Forth.

**854**—Tithes granted to clergy by King Ethelwulf.

**870**—Mercia ravaged by the Danes.

**878**—Treaty of Wedmore between King Alfred and the Danes, by which the Danes were to have occupation of a part of the country in the east, called the Danelagh, which extended as far as Bedford and the river Ouse.

**970**—Under a law of King Edgar, ecclesiastical districts, called Parishes, were formed, and it is most probable that the parish of Whitchurch was formed about this date.

**1000**—During the last century a Saxon church was erected at Whitchurch, consisting of nave, chancel, and circular tower. As this was the only church in the district built of stone, the neighbouring churches being of timber, it is supposed by some authorities to have given the name to the parish, White Church or Whitchurch, although there are other versions of its derivation.

**1012**—About this year Buckinghamshire was subdued by the Danes.

**1065**—King Edward the Confessor died. In his time Whitchurch was in the possession of two brothers, thanes of King Edward, who held Whitchurch as two manors, and might sell, and which was worth ten pounds.

**1066**—Hugh de Bolebec was one of the barons who invaded England with William of Normandy.

**1066**—Conquest of England by William, Duke of Normandy, who reigned over England as King William I.

**1070**—William the Conqueror bestowed Whitchurch on Walter Giffard, whom he made Earl of Buckingham.

**1081**—Compilation of Domesday Book begun, which took six years, and in which Whitchurch is described as “Land of Walter Gifard.—In Coteslai Hundred.—Manor. Hugh de Bolebec holds Wicherce of Walter. It answered for eight hides. There is land to twelve



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ploughs. There are three in the demesne, and two may be made. Fourteen villanes with two bordars have there seven ploughs. There are eight bondmen. Meadow for six ploughs. In the whole it is and was worth £8. In King Edward's time £10."

**1103**—Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, died seized of Whitchurch Manor, which descended to his son Walter Giffard, second Earl of Buckingham.

**1105**—A paper written in 1885 supposes Bolebec Castle to be erected about this date.

**1115**—Date of Charter of Henry I., granting to Aubrey de Vere, and his heirs, the Chief Chamberlainship of England.

**1135**—Aubrey de Vere of Bolebec Castle was Sheriff of Bucks.

**1137**—Alberic de Vere created Earl of Oxford by Empress Maud.

**1144**—On the death of Pope Innocent II. England was placed under an interdict, and all churches were closed. This interdict was shortly removed.

**1145**—Hugh de Bolebec founded Woburn Abbey to the honour of the Virgin Mary, for Cistercian Monks.

Date on Woburn Church of Memorial to Hugo de Bolebec. Arms : A lion rampant.

Hugh de Bolebec (the second) died about this date, leaving two sons, Hugh and Walter.

**1154**—Aubrey de Vere and Richard Basset were High Sheriffs of Bucks.

**1155**—The title of Earl of Oxford confirmed by Henry II.

**1162**—Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, and Ermengarde, his wife, founded Notley Abbey, and Hugh de Bolebec, his cousin, was attesting witness of the charter of endowment.

**1164**—Walter, second Earl of Buckingham, died, and was buried at Notley Abbey. Dying without issue, his lands, which included forty-eight manors in Bucks, were divided amongst his relatives, and Whitchurch became the property of his cousin and sub-feudatory, Hugh de Bolebec.

Hugh de Bolebec (the third) died about this time.

**1165**—Walter de Bolebec gave 100 marks to the King for the wardship of his nephew Hugh, the son of the late Hugh de Bolebec.

**1166**—Walter de Bolebec, who appears to have succeeded to his brother's lands upon the assessment of the aid for the marriage of the King's daughter, certified that he held of the King 8 Knight's fees, and for the lands belonging to Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, 20 Knight's fees.

Hugh de Bolebec of Northumberland died on or before this date. He was a baron of Northumberland, and was doubtless a relative of the Bolebecs of Buckinghamshire.

Earl of Oxford (ancestor of the lords of Whitchurch) certified his Knight's fees to be 28.

**1170**—In this year was born Robert, who afterwards became third Earl of Oxford and husband of Isabel de Bolebec.

**1176**—Isabel, daughter of Walter de Bolebec, born about this year.

**1185**—Walter de Bolebec died on or about this date. He left a daughter, Isabel, nine years of age, and probably another daughter, Constance, who became the wife of Elias de Beauchamp. An article in the *Topographer* of November 1790 supposes him to be buried in Whitchurch church, on the south side of the chancel, under one of the two arches, his brother Hugh being buried under the other.

**1189**—Name of the first Rector of Whitchurch occurs, Peter —.

**1190**—A Benedictine Nunnery founded at Swaffham Bolebec, in Cambridgeshire, by Halewyse de Glanville, or one of the Bolebecs.

**1191**—Alberic de Vere, Earl of Oxford, paid a fine of 500 marks to the King for the guardianship of Isabel de Bolebec, and that his son might take her to wife.

**1194**—Alberic, or Aubrey, first Earl of Oxford, died, and his son Aubrey succeeded to the title.

**1195**—After the death of his father, Aubrey de Vere gave £100 for his relief, as also \$00

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marks upon collecting aid for the King's redemption, or, according to one account, £30 2s. 6d. for the Knight's fees he held towards the sum raised for the ransom of King Richard I, who was imprisoned on the Continent.

**1204**—About this year the Abbey was built at Medmenham, as a cell appendant to the Abbey of Woburn; Walter de Bolebec (or his brother Hugh, according to a Digby MS. at Oxford) having previously, during the reign of King Stephen, bestowed upon that house the Honour of Medmenham, "whereof Brock was a hide."

**1205**—Greatest frost ever known in England, from St. Hilary's (January 11) till March 22.

**1207**—Robert de Vere gave to the King 200 marks and 3 palfreys for license to marry Isabel de Bolebec.

**1207** or **1208** (9 John)—Isabel de Bolebec procured the King's Letters Patent that she might receive moneys from all her freehold tenants to raise a sum of 300 marks and 3 palfreys, that she might not be compelled to marry, and if she did, that it might be with the King's consent; and that she might enjoy what was in arrear of her own and her sister's inheritance, viz. Constance, the wife of Elias de Beauchamp.

**1208**—England placed under an interdict. No service was allowed in the churches, no marriage could take place, the bells were not rung, nor tolled for the dead, who were committed to the grave without any burial service.

**1213**—Interdict was removed.

**1214**—Alberic, second Earl of Oxford, died, and his brother Robert, third Earl, succeeded to the title. He married Isabel de Bolebec, and thus the possessions of the De Bolebecs, including Whitchurch, came to the De Veres, Earls of Oxford. He gave 1000 marks to the King for livery of the lands of his inheritance, with the Castles of Hemingham and Camenem, together with the wardship of the heir of William Fitzoats, to marry to his niece. (Dugdale.)

**1215**—Earl of Oxford was one of the twenty-five barons appointed to enforce observance of Magna Charta.

**1216**—Earl of Oxford joined the barons who took up arms against the King, and was excommunicated by Pope Innocent; but on the death of King John there was a peaceable composure made between King Henry III. and them.

**1218**—Jocelin de Ametiana was instituted Rector of Whitchurch on presentation of William de Marescal, who was in possession of the Earl of Oxford's lands, who then stood excommunicated;

**1220**—About this year the Earl of Oxford gave a small manor in Wavendon to the Convent of Woburn.

**1221**—Robert, third Earl of Oxford, died, and was buried at Hatfield, Broadoak, Essex; and his son Hugh succeeded to the title.

Dominican friars first appeared in England, and went to Oxford, where Isabel, Countess of Oxford, built a convent for them.

**1222**—Isabel, Countess of Oxford, gave a fine to the King of £2,228 2s. 9½d. for the wardship of her son and heir, which fine was over and above a debt of £1,780 11s., owing by Earl Robert, her husband; and also had committed to her charge the Castles of Cavanelles and Hengeham.

**1231**—Hugh, Earl of Oxford, had livery of the lands of the late Earl Robert, his father.

**1233**—Isabel, Countess of Oxford, presented William de Lysures to Calverton Church. Hugh, Earl of Oxford, was knighted at Gloucester, where the King was solemnising the feast of Pentecost.

**1236**—Hugh de Vere, Earl of Oxford, officiated as Great Chamberlain at the coronation of Queen Eleanor, wife of Henry III.; and received as his right the basons and towels wherewith he served.

**1239**—Isabel, Countess of Oxford, presented to the living of Whitchurch Peter de Mara.

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Supposed date of the erection of the tower of Whitchurch church.

**1245**—February 3. Isabel, Countess of Oxford, daughter of Walter de Bolebec, “died upon the morrow after the Purification of Our Lady.” After the death of her husband, Robert, Earl of Oxford, she had married Henry de Nuvant. She was the last of the Whitchurch Bolebecs, and at her death most of her possessions, including Whitchurch, passed to her eldest son, Hugh, fourth Earl of Oxford.

Reginald de Valletort, “a great man in the West,” gave 600 marks to the King for livery of the manors of Clifton, Claughton, and Bukesham, which Isabel, Countess of Oxford, held in dower from her second husband, Henry de Nuvant.

Hugh, Earl of Oxford, called Lord Bolebec, upon giving security for payment of his relief, viz. the sum of £100, and doing homage, had livery of the lands of his mother’s inheritance.

September 7. A grant was made to Hugh de Vere, Earl of Oxford, and his heirs, of a weekly market at his manor of Whitchurch, on Mondays, and of a yearly fair there on the vigil, the feast, and the morrow of St. John the Evangelist in May. The market was held on the place which is still called the Market Hill, and it is stated that a market cross formerly stood on the plot of ground at the junction of Castle Lane and the Market Hill, now occupied as a garden.

**1246**—The Earl of Oxford was one of the subscribing barons to a letter to the Pope, complaining of the exactions of His Holiness upon this realm.

**1248**—The Earl of Oxford sat in Parliament, wherein the King was upbraided with his prodigal expenditure, and that his Treasurer and “Chancelour” were not persons of their approbation.

**1248** or **1249**—Earl of Oxford paid 1000 marks to the King for the wardship and marriage of Alice, daughter and heiress of Gilbert de Saunford, who was soon after that married to Robert his son; and for the health of the souls of himself, his wife, children, and ancestors, founded the Hospital at Castle Hedingham in Essex.

**1255**—Before this year Isabel, daughter of the Earl of Oxford (most probably of Hugh the fourth Earl), married Sir John Courtenay, ancestor of the Earls of Devon, and her father gave her the manors of Wavendon and Hillesden.

**1256**—November 3 (*Papal Registers*) “Indult to Thomas, called ‘Spin,’ rector of Witechirche in the diocese of Lincoln, to hold an additional benefice with cure of souls.”

**1258**—Lands in Whitchurch and Oving were passed by a fine between Ralph de la Mare and Peter de la Mare, which Ralph granted to Peter for life.

**1261** or **1262**—Hugh de Bolebec of Northumberland, fourth Baron, died, leaving four daughters his heirs: Philippa, married to Roger de Lancaster; Margery, married first to Nicholas Corbet, and afterwards to Ralph, the son of William, Lord Grimethorp; Alice, married to Walter de Huntercombe; and Maud (then but twelve years of age, and residing at Angerton with Theophania her mother), who afterward married Hugh de la Val. This was the last of the Bolebecs of Northumberland.

**1263**—Hugh, fourth Earl of Oxford, died. He first bore the title of Lord Bolebec. He was buried at Earl’s Colne, and his son Robert, the fifth Earl, succeeded to the title.

**1264**—(*Calendar of Inquisitions*) 48 Henry III. “Hugh de Veer, Earl of Oxford, writ missing. Robert his son, is his heir. . . . Whychurche Manor and advowson (extent given) with 40 shillings rent of the borough, held of the honour of Gyffard, pertaining to the Marshallsea, and it is the head of 18 fees which the earl held of the heirs of the Marshall. The villeins can be taxed at the will of the lord.”

Earl of Oxford knighted by Simon de Montfort.

**1265**—King Henry III. gave the Comitatum honorem of Oxford, and all the lands of

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Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford (an adherent of Simon de Montfort), to Roger de Mortimer, who does not appear, however, to have used the title.

Earl of Oxford, having arrayed himself under the banner of Simon de Montfort, was surprised and taken prisoner at Kenilworth, but made his peace with the King soon after, under the decree called the Dictum de Kenilworth.

**1289**—*Close Rolls*. Mention is made of bail being granted for four persons who were imprisoned at “Eyiesbury” for a “renewed disseisin that they have made upon William le Gardiner and Maud his wife, of 3½ acres of land in Whitchurche.”

**1296**—Robert, fifth Earl of Oxford, died and was buried at Colne, and Robert, the sixth Earl, succeeded to the title.

**1298**—*Patent Rolls*. Stirling, August 7: “Pardon at the instance of Robert de Veer, Earl of Oxford, to Robert de Colville of Whytcherche for the death of Robert atte Streme of Kyrselowe” (at stream of Creslow?).

**1300**—During the last century the present church at Whitchurch was built, of which, tower, nave, and south aisle remain.

**1312**—Nicholas — died, Rector of Whitchurch.

John Waryn instituted Rector on presentation of the Earl of Oxford.

**1324**—Thomas de Tochewyk acquired lands in Oving, North Marston, and Whitchurch, by fines passed with William de Churchwavre, and later, further lands of Richard Giffard.

**1325**—Hugo de Osewyl presented to the Rectory of Whitchurch by the Earl of Oxford.

*Close Rolls*, March 22. Order to deliver to Elizabeth Comyn, kinswoman and co-heiress of Aymer de Valentia, late Earl of Pembroke, certain Knight’s fees, including five and a half in Whitchirche, which the Earl of Oxford holds.

**1331**—Robert, sixth Earl of Oxford, called Robert the Good, died and was buried at Colne. He was regarded as a saint.

John de Vere, seventh Earl of Oxford, succeeded to the title. He was the son of Sir Alphonsus de Vere, son of Robert, the fifth Earl. From this year till 1350 the Manor of Whitchurch was in the hands of trustees.

**1336**—John, Earl of Oxford, married Maud, widow of Robert FitzPayne, and sister of Giles, Lord Badlesmere.

**1338**—The title of Barony of Badlesmere, one of the titles assumed by the Earls of Oxford, became in abeyance.

**1343**—Earl of Oxford served in wars of France, and took 40 men-at-arms, 1 banneret, 9 knights, 29 squires, and 30 archers on horseback.

**1345**—John de Pelham instituted Rector of Whitchurch, on the presentation of the feoffees of the Earl of Oxford, who was then in remote parts. He was afterwards, in 1346, presented to the rectory of East Wickham, Cambs, by the attorneys of the Earl of Oxford. In April following he was ordained a priest by the Bishop of Ely, so that he held the living of Whitchurch when only in deacon’s orders.

**1346**—Battle of Crecy, where the Earl of Oxford held a command under the Black Prince.

**1347**—Hugh de Audeley, Earl of Gloucester, died, seized of Cublington, etc., with Knight’s fees in Whitchurch.

**1348**—Plague in Great Britain, called the Black Death; above half the population died.

**1350**—The Manor of Whitchurch was in the hands of trustees from 1331 till this year.

**1359**—John, seventh Earl of Oxford, died, aged forty-seven, and was buried at Colne. He was of great military renown, and lost his life from fatigue while serving in the English army, encamped before the walls of Rheims. His son Thomas succeeded to the title and estates, and married Maud, daughter of Sir Ralph de Ufford.

**1360**—Courthouse at Whitchurch said to be built; (now called the “Priory”). Outside the house formerly stood the parish stocks.

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**1371**—Thomas, eighth Earl of Oxford, died. He bequeathed his body to be buried within the priory of Colne, on the north side of the Chapel of St. Peter. He gave to his wife Maud all his religious reliques, then in his proper custody, with a certain cross made of the very wood of Christ's cross, as also the furniture of his chapel. He bequeathed to his brother, Sir Alberic, a coat of mail, a new helmet, and pair of gauntlets.

Hugh Courtenay, Earl of Devon, died, seized of the advowson of the Rectory of Whitchurch, being part of the Barony of Bolebec.

Robert, ninth Earl of Oxford, the only son and heir of Thomas, eighth Earl, succeeded to the title.

**1373**—July 9. John de Tolthorp is said to be instituted Rector of Whitchurch, but this is probably an error, and should be John Tourney, who exchanged for Burwardescote in 1379, as John de Tolthorp came later, and left in 1382.

**1377**—Poll tax made of 24,672 persons in Bucks, excluding clergy, children, and paupers.

**1378**—Earl of Oxford married Philippa, daughter of Sir Ingelrande Courci.

**1370**—*Patent Rolls*, May 10. "Presentation of John de Walton, parson of the church of Burwardescote, in the diocese of Salisbury, to the church of Whytechurche, in the diocese of Lincoln, on an exchange of benefices with John Tourney."

**1380**—*Patent Rolls*. "Presentation of Thomas de Swyndon, parson of the church of Portland, in the diocese of Salisbury, to the church of Whitchurch, in the diocese of Lincoln, on an exchange of benefices with John de Walton."

**1382**—*Patent Rolls*, January 10. "Inspection and confirmation in favour of Robert, son and heir of Thomas de Veer, late Earl of Oxford, of a charter of Henry I., dated Ferneham, in tranfretacione Regis (*circa* 1115) granting to Aubrey de Ver and his heirs, the chief chamberlainship of England, as fully as Robert de Malet held the same."

**1385**—Earl of Oxford created Marquess of Dublin.

**1386**—Earl of Oxford and Marquess of Dublin created Duke of Ireland.

**1387**—Battle of Radford Bridge, Berks. King Richard's troops, with whom was the Duke of Ireland, were defeated by Thomas of Woodstock and Henry, Earl of Derby (afterwards King of England). The Duke of Ireland was compelled to quit the kingdom. He escaped to Ireland, thence to Holland, and died about four years after.

**1388**—Earl of Oxford (Duke of Ireland) banished and attainted.

*Patent Rolls*, August 20. "Presentation of Hugh Bockenhall, King's Clerk, to the church of Whitchirche, in the diocese of Lincoln."

*Patent Rolls*, September 23. "Ratification of the estate of Thomas Fulford as parson of Whitchirche."

*Patent Rolls*, September 24. "Revocation of the presentation of Hugh Bockenhall to the church of Whitchirche."

**1392**—Duke of Ireland killed by a wild boar, as he was hunting in France. He was a great favourite of Richard II., who loaded him with honours, to the great dislike of the rest of the nobles. He was buried with great ceremony at Colne, the King himself attending the funeral.

Aubrey de Vere, uncle of the Duke of Ireland, succeeded to the Earldom of Oxford as tenth Earl, the dignity of the Earldom being restored, but not to the Great Chamberlainship.

**1398**—*Patent Rolls*. "Grant to the Abbot and Convent of Woburn of the advowson of the church of Whitchurch." From this time Whitchyrch became a Vicarage.

*Papal Registers*, 2 non. April, St. Peter's, Rome. "Appropriation to the Cistercian Abbot and Convent of St. Mary's Woburne, of the parish church of Whitchurch, in the diocese of Lincoln, of their patronage, value not exceeding 80 marks."

**1399**—*Papal Registers*, 5 Kal. May, St. Peter's, Rome. The Pope now declares respecting Whitchurch: "Upon the resignation or death of the Rector, they may have the church



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served by a secular priest, appointed and removed at the pleasure of the Abbot.”

John Somercotes and Alice his wife lived at Whitchurch, and received grant of 6 acres of land in Oving from Edward Stretle of Wheatfield, Co. Oxon.

**1400**—During the last century the north aisle of the church and the chancel were erected. First Vicar of Whitchurch appointed, Walter Dobbs, Capellanus, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Woburn.

Aubrey, tenth Earl of Oxford, died, and Richard, eleventh Earl, succeeded (under charter of 1392 only).

**1402**—Third letter from the Pope concerning Whitchurch church. *Papal Registers*. In this year the Pope made further reference to the letters of 1398 and 1399, as the authorities at Woburn had petitioned him concerning the church. He therefore now declares that “the second letters should not prejudice the first, and that his will was and is that the said appropriation should take effect under the first, and not under the second letters, and that the church should be served by a secular perpetual Vicar, to be presented as above to the ordinary in accordance with the first letters. He further annuls the second letters, and confirms the ordination of a Vicarage, assignment of a portion, and institution of a Vicar.”

**1415**—*Papal Registers*. Confirmation of the appropriation made by Pope Boniface IX. to the Abbot and Convent of Woburn of the parish church of “Whytchurche.”

**1417**—Richard, eleventh Earl of Oxford, died seized; of the Manor of Whitchurch, and his son John, twelfth Earl, succeeded.

**1429**—John, twelfth Earl of Oxford, married Elizabeth, Baroness Plaiz, while he was still a ward, and had to pay a fine of £2,000.

**1433**—The names of Morton, Wallynger, and Waterhouse appear as gentry of Whitchurch.

**1462**—John, Earl of Oxford, and his son Aubrey beheaded for corresponding with Queen Margaret.

*Patent Rolls*. Ratification to Anna, late the wife of Aubrey de Veer, who died without issue, of her estate in certain manors, including Whitchirche.

Lord Bolebec was now styled Viscount Bolebec. This was the courtesy title of the eldest son of the Earls of Oxford.

**1464**—John, thirteenth Earl of Oxford, son of John, the twelfth Earl, obtained reversal of proceedings of Parliament of 1 Henry IV., by which he was restored to the original Earldom of Oxford.

**1470**—Earl of Oxford took leading part in the restoration of Henry VI. to the throne. Attainder of Earl of Oxford reversed by Earl of Warwick, who had reinstalled Henry VI.

**1471**—Battle of Barnet, where the Earl of Oxford commanded part of the Lancastrian army, and whose badge was a blazing star, which, being mistaken in the mist for the badge (a sun) of Edward IV., caused the Lancastrian troops to fire upon each other, and led to the complete victory of the Yorkists. The Earl of Oxford escaped from the battle. It is probable that the section of coloured glass in one of the windows in the north aisle of Whitchurch church represents the blazing star of the Earl of Oxford.

**1472**—Earl of Oxford’s estates (including Whitchurch) declared forfeited, and given to Richard, Duke of Gloucester.

**1474**—Earl of Oxford attainted and imprisoned at Hammes.

**1475**—John, twelfth Earl of Oxford, who was attainted, was found to have been seized of the Manor of Whitchurch. One account says that the statement as to the attainder is unsupported by the rolls of Parliament.

**1485**—Battle of Bosworth Field. Earl of Oxford and his son fought on the side of Henry of Richmond.

**1496**—New Rood erected at church.



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“John Power, citizen of London, willed to be buried in St. John the Evangelist’s church, at Whitchurch, Co. Bucks, and gave £10 to the works of the body of the church, and £10 to the making of a new rood loft; to the reparation of the steeple £10, and for a new treble to agree with the old bells.” (Lipscombe.)

**1500**—During the last century the walls of the chancel and nave of the church were raised, and clerestory added.

**1509**—Earl of Oxford obtained confirmation of the title of Great Chamberlain (see 1392 and 1464).

**1512**—John, thirteenth Earl of Oxford, died, and John, fourteenth Earl, succeeded. He was son of Sir George Vere, brother of the late Earl, and was known as Little John of stature and the place of his residence.

**1521**—Anthony Careswall, Vicar of Whitchurch, died. He willed to be buried in the middle of the choir, before the image of St. John the Evangelist, and gave 20 shillings to the repair of the steeple, St. John the Evangelist, the Rood, St. John the Baptist, St. Katharine, and St. Nicholas’ lights.

**1526**—John, fourteenth Earl of Oxford, died, and John, fifteenth Earl, succeeded to the title.

**1528**—*Letters and papers of the reign of Henry VIII.* “John Olyver, Clk., Presentation to the Church of Whitchurch, Lincoln diocese, void by death.”

**1534**—Orders were received that the Pope’s name should be erased from the Mass books.

**1535**—On the interruptions in the religious life in the monasteries, Robert Hobbs, Abbot of Woburn, gave instructions that Psalm Ixxix., “O God, the heathen are come into Thine inheritance,” etc., should be said every Friday.

**1537**—Robert Hobbs, Abbot of Woburn, with the Prior of the same house, and the parson of Pudingtone, were executed for their complicity in the rising in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire against the King’s supremacy, called “The Pilgrimage of Grace.” The Abbot’s initials R. H. appear seven times on shields on the terminations of the stalls in Whitchurch chancel, together with a crozier and a star of five points.

**1538**—Parish Registers introduced into England.

**1539**—King Henry VIII. leased to Ralph Harris, for a fine of £4, the Rectory of Whitchurch, with tithes, etc., belonging to the late monastery of Woburn, now in the King’s hands by the attainder of Robert Hobbs, the late Abbot, of high treason. Advowson of the Vicarage reserved. Term 21 years. Rent £14 13. 4d. payable at the usual feasts.

**1540**—John, fifteenth Earl of Oxford, died, and John, sixteenth Earl, succeeded.

*Letters and Papers of the Reign of Henry VIII.* “Letter of Ralph Lane the younger to Cromwell: Perceiving by your letters of the 21st inst. your command to me addressed for a due deliberation in perusing certain books of one Sir Thomas Cantwell’s, parson of Hardwyke, suspiciously brought to a poor man’s house in Whitchurche, and by me committed to the keeping of the constable there (that if I found such books as were not meet for him to keep, I should advertise your lordship thereof, or otherwise permit the parson to keep them), I have used my best dexterity, and have sent you five books of the said parson, Three entitled Homelium Johannis Eckii, and dated A.D. 1538; the life of Sir (*sic*) Thomas Beckett; and a missal wherein the word ‘Papa’ is uncorrected throughout. As these seem most suspicious, I have sent them in a bag, sealed, by this bearer. Hogshawe, 23rd March.”

**1544**—The Litany first read in English.

**1547**—Book of Homilies introduced into each parish.

**1549**—June 9. New English Liturgy first read in all churches.

**1551**—The King, by Letters Patent, demised to Ralph Harris the Rectory of Whitchurch for twenty-one years, at the rent of £14 13. 4d; the reversion remaining to the Crown.

**1552**—Churchwardens in each parish were ordered to collect contributions for the

## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

support of the poor.

**1553**—Earl of Oxford was one of the twenty-six peers who signed the Letters Patent of June 16, settling the crown on Lady Jane Grey.

**1554**—Thomas Davis was presented to the living of Creslow by King Philip and Queen Mary; he voided it at the accession of Queen Elizabeth, who took the spiritualities of this parish in her own hands, and they were annexed to and merged in the temporalities. From this date the inhabitants of Creslow worshipped at Whitchurch church.

**1559**—Tournament held at Quarrendon.

**1562**—John, sixteenth Earl of Oxford, died, and Edward, seventeenth Earl, succeeded to the title. He was the last Earl of Oxford who was in possession of Whitchurch.

**1568**—Queen Elizabeth granted the Rectorial estate of Whitchurch, after the expiration of Harris' lease (see 1551), to Ralph Stafferton for a term of twenty-one years at the annual rent of £13 18s. 10¾d.

**1570**—Date on a small cup with a cover, in the plate belonging to Whitchurch church, weighing 12 ounces, called silver chalice, and silver cover. By whom given is uncertain.

Great storm; 3,000 sheep lost at Quarrendon.

**1575**—It was about this time that the Earl of Oxford's estate in Whitchurch, with the Manor, was sold to John Waterhouse, having been in the possession of the De Veres for over three hundred years.

October 16. Baptism of Joan Lee at Hartwell (afterwards wife of Thomas Buncombe of Bolebec Castle). She was one of the twenty-four children of Sir Thomas Lee.

**1582**—Death of John Waterhouse, lord of the manor of Whitchurch. The Manor House was bequeathed to Ann, his wife. Swanbourne Manor was granted to Sir John Fortescue, Knt., of Salden, together with the enclosures of Swanbourne, Whitchurch, and Winslow, formerly parcels of the Monastery of Woburn and St. Albans.

**1587**—Year of great scarcity. Wheat £5 4s. per qr.; sheep 14s 6d.; stone of beef 2s.

**1593**—Henry, afterwards eighteenth Earl of Oxford, baptised at Stoke Newington as Viscount Bulbeck.

**1596**—The Queen, by Letters Patent, assigned the Mansion House at Creslow, and certain closes and pastures known as Creslow pastures, lying in the parishes of Whitchurch, Cublington, and Dunton, to Bennett Mayne, for the benefit of the Queen's household.

**1597**—At this time Bolebec Castle was occupied by Thomas Buncombe, Esq.

**1598**—Parish Register begun by Rev. William Coventry (which is now lost).

**1604**—Grace, daughter of John Waterhouse, Lord of the Manor, married Thomas Tuke of Essex, Gent., at Whitchurch.

Edward, seventeenth Earl of Oxford, died, and Henry, eighteenth Earl, succeeded to the title.

**1606**—King James I. granted to Sir John Fortescue and Richard Tomlyne, inter al, the Rectory and Church of Whitchurch, late belonging to Woburn Abbey.

**1610**—Date of Camden's *Britannia*, in which he states that Bolebec Castle is in ruins.

**1616**—Four and half acres of land on farm now called "Beechmoor" held as leasehold for 2,000 years from this date.

**1618**—Ralf Matts willed to be buried in Whitchurch church.

**1619**—Whitchurch was settled by deed on Elizabeth, wife of John Waterhouse the younger.

**1625**—Henry, eighteenth Earl of Oxford, died, and Robert, nineteenth Earl, succeeded to the title.

**1626**—The claims of Robert, nineteenth Earl of Oxford, to the baronies of Bolebec, Sandford, and Badlesmere came before the House of Lords, and it was resolved "that the Baronies of Bolebec, Sandford, and Badlesmere were in abeyance between the heirs-general of John, fourteenth Earl of Oxford"; but it must be noted that this resolution was

## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

made “without having enquired into the origin or nature of those Baronies, or even of their existence in the person of the said Earl.” Five Earls of Oxford had since assumed the title nominally in all their leases and conveyances, and the eldest son was still called Lord Bolebec, but modern research has further shown that Bolebec and Sandford had never existed as Peerage Baronies, while Badlesmere was in abeyance since 1338.

Money raised on privy seal; George Cheshire, Whitchurch, yeoman, £10. (discharged).

**1630**—Roof of nave of church repaired.

**1632**—Death of John Waterhouse, brother of Thomas, and leaving no issue, the Manor of Whitchurch descended to the Watsons. He was uncle of Ann, who married Philip Watson.

**1635**—Creslow pastures were granted to Cornelius Holland, afterwards one of the regicides.

**1636**—In a “*Catalogue of Tavernes in tenne shires about London*” mention is made of one at Whitchurch kept by William Theed. This would probably be the Cock Inn.

**1637**—Bishop Williams of Lincoln directed visitation to be made of the state of the Bucks churches.

Manuscript discovered among domestic papers of Charles I. states: “July 16: Whitchurch church visited. Whitchurch 5 Bells. The buttresses are out of repair of church and chancel. The windowes of the church out of reaire. . . . The two windowes on the north side in decay in the stone work. The stalls want boarding in the bottomes. . . . The addition to the south seat in the chancell to be taken away, and to be as formerly, the backs of the seats in the chancell in decay. Mrs. Watson’s seat . . . with the bannisterre (?), at ye east end of the middle alley, to be taken and cut down to the mark below the bannisterre (?). The Bible to be new bound. . . . Ye highseats at the upper end of the church at the south side to be made equall to Mrs. Watson’s seat. A new ‘surplace.’ The mounde an alder hedge. A door opening into the churchyard. The west window decayed in the stone.” The door opening into the churchyard mentioned above doubtless refers to one in the house now called “Salem,” situate on the north side of the churchyard, as until its renovation, in 1906, a blocked doorway was plainly visible.

**1642**—Forty horses belonging to the Parliamentary troops were stabled in Whitchurch church; marks are said still to remain on the steps of the tower door.

Battle of Aylesbury between Prince Rupert and Sir William Balfore. The Parliamentarians were victorious. According to one account about 600 Royalists were slain, and about 90 Parliamentarians. Many years afterwards a number of bodies were discovered buried near Holman’s Bridge; they were removed and re-interred in Hard wick churchyard.

**1644**—Drove of cattle driven off from Dunton by Colonel Smythe of the King’s troops from Hillesden. They belonged to Mr. Burton, a tenant of Mr. Hampden.

**1645**—An ordinance was passed forbidding the use of the Book of Common Prayer in churches.

The Parliamentary forces held Aylesbury, Hartwell, Eythrope, Wing, Bierton, Waddesdon, Leighton, Stoke, and Wendover. The King’s forces held Buckingham, Winslow, Bicester, Thame, Brill, Haddenham, etc. Thus, Whitchurch appears to have been between the opposing forces.

King Charles marched from Wing to Boarstall (probably through Whitchurch), thence to Oxford, where he arrived August 28.

**1649**—King Charles I. beheaded.

**1650**—Date of brass in floor of nave in church, with initials E. C.

A return was made stating that Christopher Coats was Vicar, and that the vicarage was worth twenty pounds.

About this year Philip Watson, heir of his great-uncle, John Waterhouse, came of age,

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and the manorial estate of Whitchurch was sold (presumably to the family of Pauley, as it was in their possession in 1654).

**1653**—Act of Parliament passed, providing for the better registration of births, deaths, and marriages. Marriages by a civil magistrate were made valid and requisite. Marriage by a clergyman was still left optional. This enactment was abolished at the Restoration.

Whitchurch Parish Register begins. (An older one, begun in 1598, is now lost.)

John Steward was appointed to have the lodging of the Register books, and to be Parish Registrar.

October 2. First Baptism in Register—Robert Greene, son of William and Bridgett. Second Baptism—Mary Sharp, daughter of Robert and Mary. Third Baptism—John Rickard, son of Thomas and Alice.

January 4, 1653-4. First Burial in Register— Thomas Mitchell.

**1654**—April 4. First Marriage in Register— Thomas Ronnoll of Soulbury married Lydia Moores of Whitchurch, by William Theed, Esq., one of the Justices of the Peace.

Burial of Dame Ursula Pauley, widow. Lady of the Manor. This shows that the Manor was in possession of that family soon after it had passed from the Watsons (see 1650).

**1656**—Burial of Martha Gaudrey in the chancel. She was the wife of Bennett Gaudrey.

**1657**—South porch of church rebuilt, bearing this date. Edward Backwell, Esq., was elected Alderman of the Ward of Bishopsgate, London.

According to tradition, Bolebec Castle was laid in ruins by Cromwell about this date, and the place whence it was bombarded was called Gun Hill, which is now part of Stevens' Piece.

**1660**—Restoration of Monarchy. King Charles II. began to reign.

Liturgy restored to the churches.

Bennett Gaudrey died, and was buried in the chancel.

**1661**—Present font placed in church, bearing this date, and names of William Olliffe and Joseph Collett, churchwardens; also initials T. R.

**1662**—Creslow having become Royal property by attainder of Cornelius Holland, the custody of the pastures was granted by the King to Edward Backwell, Esq., for twenty-one years. He was also in possession of "A fair Manor House at Whitchurch, with two lodges in the forecourt; a maulthouse, barns, outhouses, gardens, and orchard, with a close, walled, known as Kempson." Also the Royalty and Copyhold rents, services, heriots, with other usual profits, worth £40 per annum. He would therefore appear to have been Lord of the Manor after the family of Pauley.

**1665**—Sir Edward Smyth (afterwards of Whitchurch), Chief Justice of the Common Pleas of Ireland, resigned that office, June 13.

Baptism of Barnabie Backwell, son of Edward and Mary.

Mary, daughter of — Pauley, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Whitchurch, married Alexander Duncombe, Esq., of Drayton Parslow.

**1669**—Ann Gaudrey died. (The Ann "Gaderen" who is buried in the chancel, a tablet to whose memory is in the east wall.) Name of Durley appears in Parish Register.

**1670**—Dr. Edward Waterhouse, of the Waterhouse family of Whitchurch, author of literary and antiquarian works, died at Mile End.

Name of Gower appears in Register.

**1671**—Creslow pastures granted to Sir Thomas Clifford from 1669 for sixty years.

**1672**—The King closed the Exchequer, whereby the goldsmiths and bankers lost their deposits. Edward Backwell lost £295,994 16s. 6d.

**1675**—Edward Smythe married Mary Matts, descendant of a family long possessed of property at Whitchurch.

## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

1676—Date over doorway of Manor House.

Name of Cooper appears in Register.

1677—Edward Backwell was granted annuity of £17,759 13s 8d. in lieu of payment (see 1672).

1678—About this time the Manor appears to have passed from the family of Backwell to Sir Edward Smythe.

Peter Leach buried, the first person entered in the Register as “buried in woollen,” according to a recent Act of Parliament which required persons to be so buried. An affidavit to this effect had to be made to the minister. Any failing to comply with this regulation were subject to a fine of £5.

John Steward died, Parish Registrar.

1679—Christopher Cootte died. He was Vicar of the parish fifty-three years.

Edward Backwell died in Holland, and was buried at Tyringham.

In this year began the collections by brief, or Letters Patent, which were read in church, and entered in the Register. From now until 1705, collections were made in the parish for sufferers by fire, which occurred at eighty-nine different places, including Winchlow (Winslow) £5 14s 4½d. from seventy-eight subscribers, Leighton Beaudesert £3 13s 11d. from sixty-eight subscribers, and Hadnam, Bucks, (Haddenham) £1 13s 9d. Also for rebuilding and repairing twelve cathedrals and parish churches, including Ely and Chester Cathedrals, and West Halton Church, Co. Lincoln, “which fell down after a tempest”; for the relief of French and Irish Protestant refugees; for redemption of Englishmen from captivity in Morocco and Algiers; also for persons on the sea-coast whose houses were burnt by French privateers, and for other charitable objects.

1681—Roof of south aisle of church repaired. Initial of T. W., with date, is carved on hammerbeam; also names of Thomas Witmell and Francis Kibel, churchwardens.

February 20, 1681-2. Sir Edward Smythe, formerly Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, died. Buried in church, not buried in woollen. He is mentioned as one of the “worthy pious benefactors” of the church. His gifts were two chalices of silver, with silver covers, two large silver plates, a large new oak table for the Holy Communion, with fine purple broadcloth covering, and also fine purple covering for pulpit, and £15 towards a new treble bell. At the east end of the north aisle (now hidden by pews) is a marble with the arms and inscription following: Arms, Party per chev. three smith’s hammers semee of cross crosslets, three lucies hauriant. Crest, An ostrich’s head erased, holding a horseshoe in its beak, issuing out of a mural crown. (And a long inscription in Latin.)

1682—Edward Smythe, Esq., Lord of the Manor, son of Sir Edward Smythe, “gave flagon of perfect silver to the church for ye communion, which containeth about two quarts or something more.”

1683—Zachariah Whitmell, of Aylesbury, sold the White Horse Inn, Whitchurch, to Paul George, gardener, who occupied it.

1686—Thomas Rickett, jun., married Elizabeth Chapman of Stewkley. Banns published on April 4, 5, and 6, being Easter Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.

1690—Edward Smythe, Esq., Lord of the Manor, died, and his widow, Mrs. Mary Smythe, became Lady of the Manor.

1694—Lucius Smythe, Esq., died, and was buried in church. Inscription on slab in floor near reading-desk to Lucii Smythe, with arms and crest.

1695—The Manor of Whitchurch was sold by the family of Sir Edward Smythe to Mr. J. Reynolds.

1699—Thomas Scott of Creslow died, aged 65; also Hannah his daughter, aged 20: both buried in church.

Francis Kibble, farmer, died, whose name appears on a beam in the church.



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**1700**—Charles Buncombe, Esq., a banker in London, and grandson of — Pauley, of Bolebec Castle, was sheriff.

Frances Bruloe buried in church in the north aisle, relict of Augustin Joseph Bruloe, chirurgeon, and daughter of Thomas and Susanna Topping, aged 26.

**1701**—Date on pillar which supports base of pulpit in church.

**1702**—Aubrey, twentieth Earl of Oxford, died, and the title became extinct.

**1703**—November 27. Terrible storm in south and west counties of England. A tempest with thunder and lightning. Eddystone lighthouse swept away. The greatest storm ever experienced in England.

**1704**—Burial in the church of Mr. John Scott of Creslow.

**1707**—Rev. John Roe, Vicar of Whitchurch, married Elizabeth Gaudrey, daughter of Benedict and Frances, at Pitchcott.

Avis, widow of Thomas Scott of Creslow, died, aged 74. She was buried in the church, and three brasses to the memory of Thomas, Avis, and Hannah Scott still remain in the floor of the south aisle.

**1708**—April 15. Joseph Bishop, of Hulcott, and Frances Purcell, of Upper Winchendon, married at “Quarrington Chapel” (entered in Whitchurch Register).

**1709**—Charles Duncombe, Esq., grandson of — Pauley of Bolebec Castle, was Lord Mayor of London.

**1710**—Leads on roof of church repaired.

Earliest existing churchwardens’ accounts. “Paid Robert Toogood 6s. for Ale for Gunpowder Treason Day and Thanksgiving Day. Paid John Russell, plumber, for casting of ye leads, and adding of new lead to it, £5 17s 1d.

**1711**—Churchwardens paid 1s. for killing a fox.

February 11, 1711-2. Burial in church of George Cheshire of Weedon. The date 1712 appears on brass in floor of nave, with initials G. C.

**1712**—Windows of church re-glazed.

**1715**—Paid Mr. Bradford for repairing the church clock, £6.

John Reynolds, Lord of Whitchurch Manor, died, and his son transferred the manor to Governor John Russell of Chequers.

Eight church houses were inhabited by the poor free of rent.

**1716**—Rev. John Nicholson instituted Vicar. “He laid out for repairs about a whole year’s income the first year.” He was previously curate of Nether Winchendon.

Roof of nave of church repaired.

Churchwardens paid 5s. for ale for the ringers on the return of the King.

**1717**—Benedictus Gaudrey died, aged 33, and buried in church within the altar rails.

**1718**—Joseph Green buried. The last person entered in the Register as “buried in woollen.”

**1719**—Leonard Sharp, miller, died, who occupied Dunn Mill, Whitchurch.

**1720**—The Manor of Whitchurch was purchased by Dr. George Rowland of Aylesbury.

**1722**—Election at Aylesbury. Candidates, Drake, Lee, and Dormer. Voters for Whitchurch were Rev. John Nicholson, Thomas Cooper, Joseph Rickard, Edward Thorp, Joseph Ray, Robert Sharpe, William Bennett, George Stone, and Thomas Scott of Creslow. Henry Dimmock and John Billington of Whitchurch voted for Stewkley, Bernard Hall, Gent., of Whitchurch, voted for Aylesbury, John Cheshire of Whitchurch voted for Padbury.

**1723**—Act of Parliament passed authorising churchwardens and overseers to establish a workhouse in each parish.

**1724**—*Burials.* Francis Gower, Parish Clerk; Bernard Hall, Gent.; Mrs. Green, buried in church; Susanna Topping, widow (Hoggeston), buried in church.

**1725**—Churchwardens paid Jonathan Rickard (White Horse) “for bred and chise and



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ale at the posecion" (procession), 13s. 5d. This was at the annual custom of "beating the bounds" which took place on Ascension Day, when men and boys marched round the parish carrying willow sticks, with which they beat the boundary lines, thus preserving the ancient landmarks of the parish.

**1728**—Robert Toogood buried. His is the oldest tombstone in the churchyard, near the chancel door (now broken).

Burial of George Rowland, Esq., of Aylesbury, Bachelor of Physick, Lord of Whitchurch Manor. His son, Rev. Thomas Harding Rowland, inherited the Manor.

**1729**—Date of Ancient Roll of Quit Rent from which Messrs. Green and Toogood compiled list in 1785.

**1730**—Mary Cheshire, daughter of John and Elizabeth of Whitchurch, baptised at "Quarrington" by Rev. John Nicholson, Whitchurch.

**1732**—John Gaudrey died, and was buried in the chancel.

**1733**—Thomas Ingram, of Market Hill House, bequeathed £5 to the poor of Whitchurch.

**1734**—Churchwardens paid Paul George, for eleven days' thatching at Church Houses, 1s. 2d. per day, and women "yelming", 7d. per day.

**1734**—*Burials*. Thomas Durley the elder, yeoman; Jonathan Rickard, victualler, White Horse; Phillis Nicholson, widow (mother of the Vicar), aged 94.

**1735**—Churchwardens paid for "A pound of Fusen seed to go at Blindpitts, 1s. 6d." (A piece of land at Bushmead under the control of the parish.)

**1741**—Rev. Thomas H. Rowland, Lord of Whitchurch Manor, died at Aylesbury. The Manor now descended to his daughter Rebecca, who afterwards married David Williams, Esq., of Goldington, Sarratt, Herts.

**1742**—The churchwardens paid W. Grace for "Cappettel" at church porch, 17s.

**1745**—Churchwardens paid for three locks for the chest in the church, 1s. 8d. Also paid for ale to Thomas Rickard (Crown and Thistle), Widow Toogood, Thomas Statham, William Martin, Thomas Cupper, Thomas Steward, and Lawrence Rickard.

**1746**—Churchwardens paid for "prayer for ye fast," 1s. 6d.; and paid for 60 cows' commons, £15.

**1747**—Anthony Duncombe, Esq., son of Charles, and great-grandson of — Pauley, of Bolebec Castle, was created Lord Feversham, Baron of Downton, Co. Wilts.

Elizabeth, widow of Benedict Gaudrey, died, aged 66, and buried in church.

**1748**—Thomas Cupper succeeded to the ownership of Rotten Row, which previously belonged to Thomas Price. (See 1786.)

Barnabas Backwell, a native of Whitchurch (or Creslow), purchased the Manor of Broughton, near Newport Pagnell, for £21,000.

**1749**—*State of Creslow Church*. Willis visited Creslow and gives the following account of the church. "It has on the north side a door and two windows, which are walled up, as is also an upper window on the south side. The chancel is down, and the walls made up anew at both the east and west ends. . . . What is standing is 15 yards in length" (*Records of Bucks*).

*Burial*. Rebecca Evans, wife of Rice Evans, Rector of Hulcott (see 1755).

**1750**—Turnpikes established.

Richard Wright, schoolmaster, paid window tax for the Old House, £1 6s.

**1752**—Churchwardens "paid Mr. Harris for painting the King's coat of arms, £2 los." (now in belfry). Also paid for killing three polecats, fourteen hedgehogs, and forty-four dozen sparrows, 13s.

May 27. Church furniture exhibited at Parochial Visitation before Luke Heslop, Archdeacon. 1 large chalice, silver; 2 large cups, silver, with cover; 1 small cup with a cover, 1570; 2 silver plates; a linen table-cloth and napkins; a surplice; pulpit cloth and cushions; a purple communion cloth; 1 Bible; 2 Prayer Books; 1 brass chandelier; a pall and bier; 4

## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

Registers. John Taylor, Curate.

Calendar reformed this year. Eleven days omitted from September 2 till September 14, and legal year to begin on January 1 instead of March 25.

**1753**—*Burial*. Robert Holton. (Tombstone in churchyard near middle gate.)

**1754**—Barnabas Backwell died, and his son William inherited Broughton Manor. He was afterwards succeeded by his son Tyringham Backwell, who died a bachelor, and the estate came to Elizabeth his sister, who married William Praed, Esq., banker.

**1755**—**Date** on brass chandelier presented to the church by Mrs. Rebekah Evans. (This must have been presented earlier, as Mrs. Evans died in 1749, and the chandelier was exhibited at the Parochial Visitation in 1752.)

Rev. John Nicholson, Vicar, died, and was buried here, aged 76. Tombstone in churchyard near chancel door, which was restored in 1876 at the expense of the family of the late Rev. A. Turner.

Rev. Rice Evans, Rector of Hulcott and husband of Mrs. Rebekah Evans, was buried here.

Burial of Anne Topping, widow of John. Tombstone is on south side of church, but name nearly defaced.

**1756**—Churchwardens paid for “bred and beer for ye pepel when ye went to be confirmed 15s.,” and paid John Russell for new leads at the church and work £7 1s. 10d.

**1758**—A portion of the castle taken down. The remains then stood till the latter end of the century, overgrown with ivy.

**1759**—Mrs. Mercy Wallis, wife of Nicholas, buried in church, aged 69. Near the pulpit is a slab with inscription to her memory.

*Burial*. Joseph Ray, “Pauper.” The first one of a long list so called in Register. This is doubtless due to the fact that a tax of 3d. was charged on burials, paupers being exempt.

**1762**—Rebecca, daughter of Rev. Thomas Harding Rowland, of Aylesbury, married David Williams, Esq. (see 1741).

William, son of Nicholas and Mary Wallis of Creslow, aged 7, buried in church.

**1763**—A terrier was made on May 20 which states: “Imprimis—A Vicarage house part built with stone and part with brick or wood. . . . The Homestall contains something more than a rood of ground. It is bounded by the churchyard close on the east, and the Hemp Plat on the west part thereof, fenced with a stone wall, part with pales, and part with a hedge and ditch, and two Cows Commons and one Horse Common belonging thereunto. Item, There are no glebe lands. . . . The parish is charged with the repairs of the church and churchyard fence in all parts lying next to the street, and against the ground that formerly belonged to Richard Shelton, the rest of the said fence repaired by the persons whose ground lies next to it. The Chancel is repaired at the charge of the Impropiator.” It also states that there are certain church houses inhabited rent free by poor widowers and widows belonging to the parish (see 1840). Signed by Thomas Atkinson, Vicar; William Cupper, Thomas Fowler, Churchwardens; Thomas Green, Joseph Symonds, George Stone, William Fincher, chief inhabitants.

**1765**—*Burial*. John Edgeley, yeoman, who lived at the house now called Bolbec. His tombstone, with that of his wife and other members of the family, are near the church porch.

**1765** or **1766**—Thomas Green, Esq., of Whitchurch was granted lease of the whole estate of the Earl of Chesterfield at Hoggaston for twenty-one years.

**1770**—A new Bible purchased for the church, costing £3 3s, now in chancel.

**1771**—The Inclosure Act for Whitchurch passed

May 25. A “Quality” or register made of the lands at Whitchurch, also of the Old Inclosures. The open fields consisted of three large divisions, called Dunmill Field, The Upper Field, and Bushmead Field, with commonable land in each division. Dunmill Field comprised all

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the land below the hill reaching to Hardwick. The name is still retained in Dunn Mill, and the field called Dunmill Leys (commonly called Dumberleys). The Upper Field comprised all the high ground above the valley, reaching to Oving, and to the Winslow Road. Bushmead Field included all the land lying east of the present turnpike road, reaching from Whitsunhook to Aston Abbots parish.

**1772**—The Parish Award was made under the Inclosure Act, when the open fields and commonable lands of Whitchurch were enclosed. It specifies each person's property, states by whom the boundary fences were to be made, and defines the roads and footpaths. The Vicar was awarded certain lands in lieu of tithes, and Thomas Green, Esq., Lay Rector, was awarded certain lands for great tithes and glebe lands. Also land was allotted to Mrs. Jane Mayne in lieu of payments made by persons for pasturage in the Great and Little Parks. The cost was £1,218 12s.11d., and an additional schedule of expenses for making public roads amounted to £145 19s 5½d. The commissioners were Rev. John Lord of Drayton Parslow, clerk; Francis Burton of Aynho, Co. Northampton, Esq.; John Plomer of Aylesbury; Thomas Taylor of Swanbourne; and John Watts of Sulgrave, Co. Northampton, Gentlemen.

*Burial.* George Cheshire, senior, yeoman.

**1776**—Joseph Symonds, baker, died. He was owner of various properties, including part of Beechmoor farm, house and bakehouse now next to Wesleyan Chapel, Mill Piece, where the windmill stood, houses at Whitwell Hole, houses at Church gate, etc.

**1777**—Thomas Webb, farmer, died. He was occupier of Cold Farm. His tombstone, with that of his wife, is on the south side of church, with inscription on back (now nearly defaced.)

William Bonnick, blacksmith, killed accidentally by a waggon.

**1778**—John Flowers, miller, was killed by lightning at the windmill.

**1779**—John Cheshire, yeoman, died; owner of Stevens' Piece and Park Hole.

**1780**—Richard Spencer, yeoman, died; owner of Spencer's Piece.

**1781**—Mary, wife of John Westcar, Esq., of Creslow, aged 23, died, and was buried in church.

**1782**—Birth of John Care (or Cair), who went as soldier in the place of William Bowler, who was impressed for service.

William Gower died, having been clerk of the parish fifty-three years.

*Burial.* Robert Statham, carpenter. His tombstone is near the church porch.

Loss of the *Royal George*. William Hamp, of Whitchurch, was one of the sailors who were drowned.

**1785**—A list made of the rental of the Quit Rents, by Messrs. Thomas Green and John Toogood, from earlier lists of 1729, 1739, and 1746.

An Act of Parliament passed requiring dealers in hats to hold a license, and display the words "Dealer in hats" in a conspicuous place outside their premises. One of these licenses, dated May 9, was this year issued to Charles Bowler of Whitchurch, and is still in existence.

At this time the inn called the Queen's Head, with close, was occupied by Thomas Cheshire, and the sign was now or soon afterwards altered, and named "The Swan."

**1786**—Four houses in Rotten Row (which stood opposite to where the present Wesleyan Chapel stands) were taken down to widen the road, and with the old materials a tenement was built in the Church House Yard, and two tenements in Marston Way, which latter was afterwards used as a Pest House. It has since been altered, and is the property of Mr. E. Clarke.

**1787**—Wesleyan Methodism introduced here. The services were held in a cottage in Castle Lane.

*Burial.* William Fincher. He was owner of a part of what is now Beechmoor Farm, including part of Home Ground and Foxmoor, which had previously belonged to the Gaudrey family,

## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

and he appears afterwards to have bought the remainder of the farm, which had belonged to the late Mr. Symonds.

Cottages erected in Church House Yard.

**1788**—This year 59 persons were confirmed.

Messrs. Green and Fincher were overseers, and Claudius Eversley was constable.

Name of Cosier appears in Register, from whom Cosier's Corner, situate at the junction of High Street and Market Hill, takes its name.

**1789**—Holborn Hill, a portion of the Rectorial estate, was sold by Mr. Green to Richard Hopkins, Esq., of Oving House.

**1791**—*Burials*. Lawrence Rickard, sen. He was owner of property near the Swan. Job Bull, who at the time of the Inclosure was owner of Greenhill.

**1792**—*Burial*. William Hedges, yeoman, aged 69. He lived at Creslow, and also occupied Kempsons, and was buried in the church.

**1793**—*Burials*. Grace Griffin, owner of Griffin's Piece. John Toogood. He was the owner of Toogood Lodge, now called "Bolbec."

**1794**—Repeal of the tax of 3d. on each entry in Register. After this date none are described as paupers.

**1795**—Thomas Green, Esq., of Whitchurch House, died, aged 63. He was until recently owner of Rectorial estate and Lay Impropiator. At the time of the Inclosure he was also owner of land at Normead and Smithsmoor; also the Hemp Plat, which he exchanged with Jonathan Rickard for other land at Normead, and the Hemp Plat was annexed to the White Horse property. There is a tablet with inscription to his memory in the chancel.

**1796**—*Burial*. John Stone. He was owner of Riddy's and Hardwick Hill.

An article appears in the *Gentleman's Magazine* respecting the church, which mentions that on the east face of the partition of the chancel, or bottom of the old screen, at the back of a seat, is an imperfect inscription in Latin, referring to Roberti Fowl or Powt (Lipscombe supposes this to be Robert Power, who held under the Earls of Oxford). It also states that in a pillar of the south arch of the nave is a small niche, and in an angle of the opposite arch the ascent to the rood-loft.

**1798**—Twice weekly, a waggon for conveyance of luggage leaves Oxford Arms, Warwick Lane, London, for Whitchurch, on Mondays at 10, and on Thursdays at 6 o'clock.

**1799**—John Westcar, Esq., of Creslow, sent ox to London by canal. It gained the prize, and was sold for £100. Its weight was 241 stone 3 lbs.

Burial of John Fincher, whose name appears on the 5th bell. He was owner of Long Leys.

Martha, wife of William Minshull, Esq., died. She was daughter of Rev. Thomas Harding Rowland, and sister of Lady Rebecca Williams, Lady of Whitchurch Manor. There is a tablet to her memory in Aston Clinton church.

**1801**—J. Westcar, Esq., of Creslow, took prize for ox at Smithfield, weighing 171 stone 3 lbs., and during the following twenty years was awarded many other valuable prizes.

Population of Whitchurch 646. There are 97 houses.

**1804**—*Burial*. Thomas Fowler. His name is on the 5th bell as churchwarden in 1794. He was owner of Normead.

**1806**—*Burial*. William Durley, aged 61. He was owner of land at Little London.

**1807**—*Burial*. Jonathan Rickard, owner and occupier of White Horse Inn.

**1808**—First Wesleyan Chapel built in Back Lane, on property now owned by Miss Welch, where formerly stood a dovehouse belonging to Mr. Fowler.

*Burial*. John Johnson. He was occupier of the windmill, which stood on Mill Piece, situate at the junction of Oving and Marston roads.

**1809**—On the roof of the north aisle of church, with this date, are the initials I. I. S. and R. D., churchwardens. They refer to Joseph Ingram Stevens and Richard Denchfield.

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Extinction of the Dukedom of Ancaster and the Barony of Willoughby, when the Great Chamberlainship (formerly held by the Earls of Oxford) devolved jointly upon the last Duke of Ancaster's sisters and heirs.

**1810**—Death of Thomas Bull, aged 32. He served in the Navy under Captain Berry, and was in the Battle of Trafalgar with Nelson. A stone pitcher, with portraits of Captain Berry and Admiral Nelson, was given by him to a friend, and is in good preservation. (A duplicate is in the Pavilion Museum, Brighton.)

Whitchurch was made a circuit town of Wesleyan Methodism; Mr. Harrison, Minister.

*Burial.* Thomas Sheffield, whose name is on the 6th bell, and spelt Shufield. He occupied farm adjoining Marston Lane, called Cold Farm.

Death of Rev. Richard King, M.A., Vicar of Steeple Morden, Cambs. He was formerly Vicar of Whitchurch. The *Gentleman's Magazine* of this date, in an obituary notice, states: "He was a sound scholar, and frequently employed his pen in the respectable periodicals of the day in the defence of the religion and good order of his country."

**1811**—Population of Whitchurch 714.

An association named "The Whitchurch Association" was formed for the protection of persons and property in this and neighbouring parishes situated not less than five miles' distance from the Cock Inn, Whitchurch. The association offered substantial rewards to any persons discovering offenders. Mr. John Toogood was treasurer, Mr. Arthur C. Stone secretary.

Thomas Sirett, aged 60, was killed by a cow at Creslow. J. Westcar, Esq., placed a tablet on the exterior of the south wall of the church to his memory. His grave is marked by a flat stone a short distance from the tablet.

**1812**—Rev. Thomas Archer, formerly Curate here, was instituted Vicar on the resignation of Rev. Samuel Watson.

**1813**—From this time the ages of all persons buried are entered in the Register.

Iron chest purchased for the church, with inside case and brass-plate, costing £6 10s. 6d.

**1814**—Great frost in 1813-14. A frost fair held on the Thames.

**1815**—The annual value of real property at Whitchurch is £3,107.

Rejoicings on receipt of news of the victory at the Battle of Waterloo. Barrels of beer were placed in the street.

**1816**—A "Brotherly Society," or benefit club, was started at the White Horse Inn. William Thorn, landlord.

A coach runs from or through Whitchurch to King's Arms, Holborn Bridge, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at eight o'clock, and a waggon to The George, Snow Hill, Monday and Friday afternoons at four o'clock.

Elizabeth, wife of Mr. William Hedges of Creslow, died, aged 95, and was buried in church.

**1817**—*Burials.* Joseph Stone, aged 76. He was owner of Great Ground and land at Bushmead called Doddimoor, and Parson's Plot. Thomas Denchfield, aged 79. His grave is on the west side of the church, where is a wooden slab to his memory. He was owner of Park Hole after the death of his uncle, John Cheshire.

**1819**—January 3. Rebecca, Lady Williams, Lady of Whitchurch Manor, died at Aston Clinton, and was buried at Sarratt, Co. Herts. The Manor was bequeathed to William Minshull, Esq., and Rev. William Stockins in trust to the use of Sophia Charlotte, only daughter of the late Sir David Williams, and granddaughter of Lady Rebecca Williams.

July 26. Marriage of Thomas Tyringham Bernard, Esq., of Nether Winchendon, to Miss Sophia Charlotte Williams.

**1820**—First entry in an old Vestry book states—March 25. Present: Mr. Toogood, chairman, Messrs. Denchfield, Goodson, George Carruthers, Rose, Stevens, John Stone, Johnson, Seph Stone, Smith, Butcher, Irons, Tattam, Durley. It was agreed that coal should be



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purchased by the parish, and sold by them to the poor of Whitchurch parish only, at the advance of 2d. per cwt. on the cost price (from Aylesbury), 3d. per cwt. to be allowed by the parish for carriage (exclusive of the turnpike).

Joseph Willis and John Cheshire appointed night constables at 2s. per night, independent of the rewards offered by the association for the apprehension of thieves.

*Burial.* Miss Ann Hedges of Kempsons (formerly of Creslow), aged 64. A tablet to her memory is placed in the church over the pulpit, where formerly stood the Kempsons pew.

**1821**—Population 845. Number of houses 122.

Wesleyan Sunday School founded.

John Bonnycastle, native of Whitchurch, died. He was Professor of Mathematics at the Royal Military College, Woolwich.

**1822**—Another terrier made respecting the Vicarage property, similar to that of 1763.

The Wesleyan minister removed from Whitchurch, and Aylesbury became the circuit town.

**1824**—The foundations of the castle were removed about this time.

**1825**—*Burial.* William Foster, aged 47. His grave is marked by a wooden rail with the inscription,

“Praises on tombs are trifles vainly spent,  
A man’s own name’s his truest monument.”

**1826**—Boring operations for coal were commenced in Mr. Stone’s field, near the mill. Several of the leading parishioners undertook to finance the scheme, James Tattam, Esq., of Whitchurch House, being treasurer. Mr. W. Alderman was foreman, and the work continued for some considerable time. The men bored through a bed of quicksand, and reached a very hard rock. This obstacle, and the lack of funds, caused the scheme to be eventually abandoned. Water issued from the boring hole for many years after.

Great drought; driest and hottest summer on record.

**1827**—September 12. Parish Vestry. It was agreed that a vestry room shall be made out of the north end of the belfry, by a brick wall 7 feet high, and the top part to be enclosed by boards. The partition on the east side to be enclosed as the front, and to have a new door with lock.

*Burial.* William Flowers, aged 56. A tablet to his memory, and that of his wife, is placed on the south wall of the chancel.

**1828**—The exterior of the church tower was stuccoed, and sun-dial placed there by Mr. Josiah Wilson.

About this year Castle Lane was lowered, part of it having previously been level with Market Hill Close, and the stones were used to repair Bushmead Road.

**1829**—George Guess and John Turner employed as beadles for the parish.

It was resolved at a Vestry that the present Parish Houses be repaired if necessary, but not converted into a workhouse.

**1830**—Until this date, or somewhat later, a Bible and another devotional book were chained to the pulpit in the church for the use of parishioners.

Two men were chosen, called patrols, “to pass vagrants and all other nuisances through the village,” and each was to be provided with a coat and staff.

**1831**—Population 928.

A permanent overseer was appointed at a salary of £20 per year to collect rates and superintend labour.

**1832**—Whitchurch Manor settled upon Sophia Charlotte, wife of Thomas Tyringham Bernard, Esq.

Reform rejoicings. At 9 o’clock in the morning the inhabitants met opposite the Cock Inn, where meat, bread, and beer were distributed to all parishioners who wished for it.



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There were 633 recipients. The proceedings were enlivened by the ringing of the church bells and a band of music. Most of the principal inhabitants partook of dinner together at the Cock Inn. Sports were held in the afternoon, and a large party was entertained to tea in a booth at the rear of the White Horse. In the evening a ball was held in the same place.

*Burials.* Joseph Rickard, parish clerk, aged 81, and George Guess, aged 72. These died of cholera.

General fast on account of the cholera.

**1833**—Joseph Anstee employed as watchman.

April 24. John Westcar, Esq., of Creslow, was found dead in Creslow Great Ground, having fallen from his horse. He was the last person buried in the church. Above the Creslow pew is a handsome mural tablet of marble, inscribed as follows: “ This monument is erected to the memory of John Westcar, Esq., late of Creslow, in the County of Bucks, who died on the 24th April, 1833, aged 84 years, and also Mary Westcar, his wife, who departed this life on the 14th of March, 1781, aged 23 years.

“Unblemished let me live or die unknown,  
Oh! grant an honest fame or grant me none.”

Mr. Westcar left by will £500 to be invested upon trust for the benefit of the poor of Whitchurch, the annual income to be distributed under the direction of the minister and the occupier of Creslow.

**1834**—At a Vestry it was decided to subscribe four guineas to Aylesbury Infirmary.

*Burial.* Ann Griffin, aged 100. She lived in a cottage at Whitwell Hole.

**1835**—July 7. The Vestry now ceased to meet fortnightly.

**1836**—April 10. The first service held by Primitive Methodists in the village.

**1837**—Queen Victoria began to reign.

**1838**—Coronation of Queen Victoria. The day was here observed as a holiday. Meat was distributed to poor parishioners, and the sports were held on a plot of ground opposite the Cock Inn, where a row of houses has since been built.

November 30. Parish officers were appointed to meet Rev. T. Archer, and agree for sale of Parish property and Church Houses.

Death of Mrs. T. T. Bernard, Lady of Whitchurch Manor.

Guardian—Mr. William Fincher. He was the first guardian of the poor appointed for the parish.

Agreed for the Guardians of the Union to sell the Parish Houses.

Messrs. Richard Moscrop and Robert Nixon introduced silk weaving. A few looms were first placed in cottages in White Hill. Other looms were afterwards set up in a building at the south end of village, and a factory erected at Little Bolton. Later, another factory was built at Little London. Numbers of young girls were employed in this occupation, which proved more remunerative than straw plaiting. Both of these industries are now here extinct.

**1839**—Survey and valuation of the parish made by Mr. John King. Acreage, 1,688.3.1. Gross estimated rental, £3,692 6s. 8d. Rateable value, £3,416.

**1840**—The Church Houses and Poor Houses were sold to Mr. John Gibbs, of Aylesbury. The former were the stone-built houses and premises situate in the Church Lane opposite the White Horse Inn. The Parish or Poor Houses were next adjoining these, and in the yard at the rear of the premises, called the Workhouse Yard, formerly stood the “ Cage,” a building used for the safe custody of persons who were arrested by the watchman in the night until they could be brought to justice.

**1841**—Population 930. Males 440; females 490. Inhabited houses 199; uninhabited 6; building 1.

First Primitive Methodist Chapel built; now used as a schoolroom.

## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

**1842**—Houses built where present Post Office stands, on ground which was previously a ploughed field called Stevens' Pightle.

**1843**—**Rev.** T. Archer, Vicar, died, aged 63. A tablet to his memory is erected above the reading-desk, where formerly stood the Vicarage pew.

**1844**—**Rev.** A. Turner let 25 acres of land at Bushmead on the Glebe Farm in allotments to labourers.

Present Wesleyan Chapel built, where previously stood cottages belonging to Mr. R. Durley.

**1845**—The County of Bucks was now comprised in the Oxford diocese, having before been in the diocese of Lincoln.

Present Vicarage built by **Rev.** A. Turner.

A ploughing match held here. After the men's match, there was another for boys, when the first prize was won by a boy with one hand, named T. Dickens.

Two cottages, which stood in Griffin's Lane, now called Keinch's Lane, were totally destroyed by fire.

**1846**—January 1. Day School established, mainly by effort of Mr. R. Durley, and opened in room under Wesleyan Chapel. Master, Mr. C. Johnson.

**1847**—**Dr.** Lipscombe's *History of Buckinghamshire* published. He was the resident doctor here, and lived at the house now called "The Sycamores."

**1848**—A sermon was preached in the church by **Rev.** H. Tattam, in aid of an organ fund. Collection amounted to £14 16s.

**1849**—January 11. Vestry meeting. "This Vestry refuses that any sum of money be raised for sending any paupers to Australia."

June 14. Date of conveyance of ground given by Misses Rhodes for erection of Wesleyan Day School. This site was formerly the Upper Yard, or upper farmyard of the Bolebec Farm, the entrance being through a pair of gates in the High Street. It was so named to distinguish it from the Lower Yard, situate on the west of the High Street exactly opposite, and from which a large barn was removed about the year 1838, thus opening to the village street a fine view of the Castle Hill.

**1850**—The Parish Register states: "In or about this year the interior of the chancel was restored, sundry appropriated high pews were removed, the stalls restored, two handsome poppy heads were new at this time, and likewise the altar rails. The Priest's door on the south side, which is supposed to have been closed some 150 years, was reopened, the floor laid with Minton tiles, and the north-east and south sides of the churchyard were levelled. . . ." **Mr.** Thomas Dell, **Gent.**, Aylesbury, was Lay Impropiator. The pews referred to were four in number, and projected so far across the chancel that bridal processions were compelled to pass from the nave to the altar in single file. The front pews on the north side of the nave were also altered, as before this time they faced south. The pulpit, with sounding board, was above the reading-desk on the south side of the nave, with the clerk's seat at the side. The rood-screen was removed about this date, and the path was made from the Vicarage to the chancel door.

Wesleyan Day School opened. It was well attended by the village children, and for about twenty years many came from Hardwick, Weedon, Cublington, Oving, Pitchcott, and North Marston to be educated here. The first schoolmaster in the new school was **Mr.** Osborne.

**1851**—Population 915.

About this year the Back Lane was altered. The footpath at this time was narrow and dangerous, being some feet higher than the road. Messrs. Tattam and Stone, who owned property on the Market Hill, each gave a strip of garden for the alteration. The lower part of the road was raised, and a great improvement effected by making the road wider and the ascent gradual, as previously there had been a steep hill at the upper end.

**1853**—*Burial.* Seph Stone, aged 69. He was named Seph, it being the latter half of his

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father's name, Joseph.

**1854**—A stained glass window was placed in the church to the memory of John Tattam, Esq., of Whitchurch House, and Mary Ann Tattam, his wife. He left by will a sum of money to be invested, the interest to be devoted to the repair of the window, also the grave, and the surplus distributed to the poor in coal.

**1855**—A mural stone shield, hitherto covered by plaster, presumably hidden during the Civil Wars, was discovered in the room of a dwelling-house. At its base, carved in relief, are three mullets, with an arrow barbed and tufted, over which is the Tudor Rose, surmounted by an Imperial Crown, probably of the period of Henry VII., although some have judged the crown to be ecclesiastical. In the nave of the church, on the spandril of a beam, is a shield with three mullets in chief, referred to by Lipscombe, which are similar to the mullets mentioned above.

**1857**—A purple altar cloth was presented to the church by Mrs. Snow.

Mr. John Guy, of Chearsley, purchased the Manorial estate of Whitchurch from T. T. Bernard, Esq.

**1858**—It was resolved by the Vestry to have an assistant overseer, and Mr. Benjamin Burton was appointed.

**1859**—Mr. G. Osborne came a second time as schoolmaster.

**1860**—Mr. Joseph Rickard was appointed assistant overseer.

**1861**—Population 884.

Schoolmaster, Mr. Moses Cranmore.

**1863**—Marriage of Prince of Wales to Princess Alexandra of Denmark. The festivities here took place in the grounds of Whitchurch House. Meat was distributed to poor families, and sports were held.

A scarlet dossal, pair of brass candlesticks, and vases for the altar were presented by the Vicar.

*Burials.* Richard Rowland, Esq., of Creslow. Mary Louisa Turner, aged 18, daughter of the Vicar.

**1864**—Rev. A. Turner, from the year 1860, collected about £1,400, with which he acquired property and erected a National School, which was opened about this time.

**1865**—The pulpit at church was removed from the south side of the nave to the north side, Miss Archer giving the new oak steps.

*Burial.* Harriet Archer Turner, aged 48, wife of the Vicar.

In this year the mortality was very great, thirty deaths occurring in the parish.

A serious outbreak of cattle plague, called the rinderpest, occurred in the country; many cattle died, and numbers had to be slaughtered. There was only a slight outbreak at Whitchurch, but all the markets in the district were closed.

**1866**—New valuation of the parish made by Mr. Jonas Paxton. Acreage 1,659.0.27, gross estimated rental £4,545 16s. 7d. Rateable value .£3,768 9s 5d.

Mr. Butcher's farm, now called Beechmoor, sold, and purchased by Mr. E. H. Roads.

*Burial.* Mary Archer, aged 78, widow of late Vicar.

**1867**—Mr. James Epsley came as schoolmaster.

Whitchurch Manor was sold to Joseph Parrott, Esq., Aylesbury.

The gallery at the west end of the church was taken down, opening to view the tower arch. The choir had occupied the gallery for many years, and now removed to the chancel.

**1868**—Very hot and dry summer, and early harvest.

**1869**—Mr. Robert Rickard appointed Postmaster.

Wesleyan Chapel House built. Rev. J. H. Skewes came as resident minister. He edited a paper entitled *Aylesbury Monthly Friend*.

May 25. Large balloon escaped from near London. It passed directly over Whitchurch,

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and fell at Botolph Claydon.

Mr. Thomas Tattam died, aged 82, and was buried at North Marston. He was for some years church-warden of Whitchurch.

**1870**—Rev. W. O. Aldom now resided here, as Wesleyan minister.

Interchange of land was made between the Vicar and Baron Lionel de Rothschild. The former exchanged part of the glebe land at Bushmead for Church Headland Farm.

Sale of property belonging to the late Mr. J. Fincher, including the Riddy's, Hardwick Hill, and Market Hill House.

**1871**—Population, 799.

Mr. Vasey came as schoolmaster.

Institution of "Whitchurch Band of Hope and Temperance Society."

**1872**—Rev. H. J. Brookfield left Whitchurch, having occupied the Chapel House one year. He was the last resident Wesleyan minister.

Commencement of relaying the footpaths with blue paving bricks, in place of the old stones.

**1873**—An epidemic of small pox occurred in the village.

**1874**—From this year until 1890 there was no paid assistant overseer. Messrs George Wilson and Thomas Hawley were the first overseers under the new arrangement.

Burial of Mr. Joseph Rickard, aged 70. For many years he was organist at the church.

**1875**—Rev. George Passand Turner, son of the Vicar, presented to the church a jewelled altar cross; also four choir rails and lectern.

Kempsons sold; purchased by Mr. J. H. Guy.

Wesleyan Chapel licensed for solemnisation of marriages.

*Burial.* Mrs. Mary Durley, of Little London, aged 98.

**1876**—September 26. Rev. A. Turner died at Torquay. He was Vicar of this parish for thirty-three years.

Rev. George Tate Medd instituted Vicar. He had previously been lieutenant in H.M. Navy, and served with distinction in the Crimean and China wars, receiving three medals and two clasps.

April 14. Good Friday. Heavy fall of snow; Oving, Cublington, and Dunton roads blocked.

Sale of Bolebec Farm; purchased by Mr. J. H. Guy.

Election for Bucks, on Right Hon. B. Disraeli being created Earl of Beaconsfield. Polling at Whitchurch for first time. Fremantle and Carington candidates; Hon. T. F. Fremantle returned.

**1877**—A marble font from Italy was presented to the Wesleyan Chapel by Mr. Thomas Durley.

**1878**—Wesleyan Sunday School renovated and gallery removed.

The toll gates were removed on the road from Aylesbury to Winslow. The gate between Whitchurch and Winslow was situate near the Swanbourne turn, and the other between Whitchurch and Aylesbury, close to Dunsham Lane. After this date each parish maintained its own roads.

**1879**—Mr. J. T. Titchener appointed schoolmaster at Day School.

Two frescoes were discovered on the north wall of the church near the Manor pew. Their signification is unknown, and they were shortly afterwards re-covered.

Church renovated; pillars and walls re-coloured and roof repaired. Rev. G. T. Medd and three subscribers gave a new dossal.

This year was remarkable for the very wet summer, which caused the low-lying lands to be continually flooded. A disastrous effect was that many sheep became diseased and wasted away, thus greatly deteriorating their value, many being nearly worthless, and great numbers

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died.

August 2. Heavy thunderstorm lasting all night, great floods, much hay washed away.

September 23. A three days' bazaar opened at Church School in aid of Church Restoration Fund.

**1880**—A wooden partition was erected in the church between the nave and belfry.

Sale of Johnson's Piece in allotments. This was afterwards named "Victoria."

Bucks County Election. Polling at Whitchurch. Candidates: Fremantle, Harvey, Carington, and Charsley; the former three returned.

*Burial.* Mary, widow of Richard Rowland, Esq., of Creslow, aged 74.

**1881**—Population 725.

January 18. Very severe snowstorm, with sharp frost and strong east wind. Bushmead road blocked in afternoon.

January 19. Marriage of Leopold de Rothschild, Esq., and Mile Marie Perugia, at the Synagogue, Great Portland Street, London. The tenant farmers were invited to witness the ceremony, and to luncheon at the Langham Hotel. In consequence of the heavy snowdrifts, persons going from Whitchurch could not drive farther than Marsh Gutter; some walked to Aylesbury, others went horseback through Mr. Bell's fields. Later in the day, carts could be driven through Mr. Clift's fields. It was several weeks before the roads were cleared.

New organ placed in the church, when a special service was conducted, the preacher being the Archdeacon of Buckingham (the Ven. J. L. Randall). Mr. S. Hales of Aylesbury presided at the organ. A public tea was held after the service, and an entertainment in the evening in a tent in the Vicarage Close. A handsome altar cloth and pulpit cover were presented to the church by Miss Langdon.

*Burial.* James Foulger, Esq., of Whitchurch House, aged 82.

There were thirty deaths during the year, thirteen occurring in the month of March.

**1884**—Death of Joseph Parrott, Esq., of Aylesbury, Lord of Whitchurch Manor, which now became the property of Mrs. Parrott.

Charles Spencer, Esq., M.R.C.S., died. He was resident doctor in this parish for many years.

Telegraph poles placed along the village street, carrying six wires.

**1885**—Mr. Griffin's oratorio "Samuel" performed in Day School, conducted by the composer.

May 27. Telegraph Office opened at Whitchurch Post Office.

Bucks Archaeological Society visited Whitchurch and Creslow.

Revising Barrister's Court first held here at the Cock Inn.

Election for Mid Bucks. Polling at Day School.

Candidates: Rothschild, Charsley, and Clarke. Baron F. de Rothschild returned.

**1886**—Another election for Mid Bucks. Candidates: Rothschild and Hodgson. Baron F. de Rothschild again returned.

A short story appeared in the *Girls' Own Paper*, entitled "Sybil," a tale of Bolebec Castle.

**1887**—Fourteen new lamps placed in church. Until this time the church had been lighted by candles.

Jubilee of Queen Victoria. At 6 a.m., a peal was rung on the Church bells. Later, a service was conducted in the church, when the Rev. G. T. Medd officiated, at the close of which the National Anthem was sung. Sports were held in the afternoon in the Vicarage Close, and a free tea was provided for all parishioners, of which 550 partook. A brass band played at intervals. After tea, sports were resumed, and the festivities closed with a dance. The next evening a large bonfire was lighted on Castle Hill. The women of Whitchurch joined in the general offering to Her Majesty, by the women of Great Britain and Ireland, for the erection of a statue of the late Prince Consort. As a memento of the Jubilee, a minute hand was



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placed on the church clock, which previously had only the hour hand.

An Oddfellows' Lodge formed for Whitchurch and district, called the "Jubilee Lodge."

**1888**—Brass pulpit desk for church presented by a lady parishioner.

January. Burial of Mr. Richard Duriey, aged 89.

A memorial service was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, and the Vicar conducted the service in the church, the lesson being read by the Rev. T. C. Edwards, Wesleyan Minister. For many years Mr. Durley was Guardian for the parish, and also one of the Governors of the Bucks Infirmary; and the present Wesleyan Chapel, the Sunday and Day Schools owe their existence to his energy and generosity.

The treasurership of the Day School, which became vacant on the death of Mr. Durley, was filled by Mr. Joseph Parrott, Park House, who died the same year.

**1889**—South porch of church restored. Church re-decorated. Altar Service Book presented by the Rev. G. T. Medd, Vicar, and Alfred Turner, Esq.

First County Council election at Whitchurch for Aston Abbots division; Mr. Hart returned.

August 5. Foundation stone laid of the new Primitive Methodist Chapel on the site of three cottages which were taken down. The chapel was completed and opened for public worship on December 17. In one of the cottages, in the floor of the cellar, a remarkable stone was discovered, generally supposed to be a Saxon bread stone. This is still in good preservation in the village.

*History of Whitchurch* published by Mr. Joseph Holloway.

*Burials.* John Norman, aged 97. Sarah Bull, aged 93.

**1900**—An assistant overseer for the parish was chosen, there having been no assistant since 1874.

Mr. R. Rickard was appointed to the office.

May 14. Queen Victoria visited Aylesbury and Waddesdon Manor.

September. A two days' bazaar held at church school in aid of Church Restoration Fund. Sir Harry Verney, Bart., opened the bazaar on the first day.

The Hon. Mrs. Caulfield Pratt, of Oving House, furnished a stall, and there were numerous other stalls by parishioners. The amount realised was £145.

A man (afterwards called the "Telephone man") obtained money on false pretences from various persons by representing that he was instructed by the English Telephone Company to place a telephone at Whitchurch. He took measurements, engaged labour, and called a parish meeting at the Cock Inn, which some of the parishioners attended; but before the time of meeting the man had departed, and was eventually discovered perpetrating a similar hoax in a neighbouring village.

December 7. A disastrous fire occurred at Whitchurch Mill. It was discovered in the night by P.C. Austin. He promptly gave the alarm and succeeded in arousing the inmates, who escaped without injury, but the house and mill were nearly destroyed before the arrival of the Fire Brigade from Aylesbury.

*Burial.* Miss Maria Archer Archer, aged 79, daughter of a former Vicar.

**1891**—Population 709.

September 1. Very late harvest. No corn yet harvested in the neighbourhood.

December 17. Steam roller at work on the road in the village for the first time.

**1892**—A series of evening classes were held at the Day School in connection with Technical Education. The subjects taken were wood-carving, nursing, cooking, and agriculture.

Election for Mid Bucks. Candidates: Rothschild and Dolbey; Baron F. de Rothschild returned.

September 1. Metropolitan Railway extension to Aylesbury opened this day.

**1893**—Technical Education classes for laundry work, dressmaking, and ambulance were held in the Day School.



## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

Telegraph extended from Whitchurch to North Marston.

August 2, An omnibus started from Whitchurch to Aylesbury, running twice daily in connection with the Metropolitan Railway.

**1894**—Whitchurch Feast. For the first time no stalls or booths were allowed in the village street, thus abolishing an ancient custom, as from time immemorial they had occupied a position in the centre of the village, near the White Horse.

Jubilee of the Wesleyan Chapel. Services were held, and two stained-glass windows unveiled, one in commemoration of the Jubilee, and the other to the memory of the late Mr. Richard Durley.

November 15. Heaviest floods known in the district. Three bridges washed away at Thame.

December 4. First Parish Meeting under the new Act. Sixteen persons were nominated for councillors. A poll was demanded.

December 18. Parish Council election. Seven councillors elected.

*Burial.* Mr. Thomas Hawley, of The Sycamores aged 94.

**1895**—First Parish Council meeting held at Day School. Mr. J. H. Guy appointed chairman, Mr. T. J. N. Cannon, vice-chairman.

February. Coal was distributed to persons in the village from a fund raised by subscriptions, in consequence of the very severe winter, a sharp frost having commenced in December, which continued until February 27, but ice did not finally disappear till March 19.

March 30. Omnibus in connection with the Metropolitan Railway discontinued.

**1896**—October 31. First motor-car came through village (with circus).

**1897**—Discovery of coins, in the roof of the old Court House, of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I. The oldest date was 1563. These were probably hidden at the time of the Civil War

June. Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The celebrations here included a service in the church, conducted by Rev. G. T. Medd; an address to Her Majesty (prepared by Mr. Titchener at the request of the Committee), which was read by the Vicar to the assembled villagers on King Corken Hill, and duly forwarded; sports in Kempsons; and a free tea to all residents. Peals from the church bells and music by the village band enlivened the proceedings, which concluded with a bonfire on Castle Hill. From the top of the church tower twenty-eight bonfires were visible. As a permanent memorial a stone encircled cross was placed on the church porch, replacing a stone ball which had recently fallen; also a tree was planted in the village street near The Firs, and three seats fixed in different parts of the village.

The old house called "The Firs" was taken down, and the present house erected.

*Burial.* W. R. Rowland, Esq., of Creslow, aged 52.

**1898**—Mr. George Medd, eldest son of the Vicar, was appointed Captain of the Amyan Irrawaddy Flotilla Co., Rangoon.

Parish Reading Room at "The Villas" opened by C. Gray, Esq., the president and treasurer. Games and papers were provided, and the room was well patronised.

Whitchurch and Oving Cricket Club won the final match in the Bucks Rural League against Lane End, and secured the cup.

Baron F. de Rothschild, M.P., died at Waddesdon Manor.

**1899**—January. The Hon. W. Rothschild elected for Mid-Bucks.

May 1. Great Central Railway opened *via* Aylesbury to London.

Rummage sale at Church School for Reading Room funds. An Egyptian donkey given by C. Gray, Esq.

The Parish Council appointed a committee to collect subscriptions for the Transvaal War Fund. £11 0. 2d. was received from 152 subscribers.

Mr. E. H. Roads, of Beechmoor Farm, died, aged 76.

## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

For some years he was Guardian for the parish.

Miss Emma Archer Archer died, aged 79, daughter of a former Vicar.

**1900**—Mr. John Wilson, District Councillor, aged 66, died at the Bucks Hospital from the result of a gun accident.

C. Gray, Esq., of The Firs, volunteered for active service in South Africa.

R. Rowland, Esq., of Creslow, elected District Councillor.

**1901**—January 22. Death of Queen Victoria. Her Majesty died at Osborne at 6.30 p.m. The news reached here at 8 o'clock. The next morning a knell was tolled from 8 till 9. On the following Sunday suitable services were held in the various places of worship.

January 30. Edward VII. proclaimed King at the County Hall, Aylesbury.

February 2. This day was appointed by the King as a day of national mourning, and was here observed as such. At 12 o'clock a memorial service for the late Queen was held in the church.

Population 619. Inhabited houses 151.

June 17. C. Gray, Esq., returned from the South African war. The village was decorated, and the inhabitants met him at the foot of Whitchurch Hill, where they unhitched the horses and drew the carriage up the village street. A halt was made at The Firs, where the parishioners presented him with a silver salver, and later in the evening a huge bonfire was lighted in the Butts.

September 19, 20. A bazaar was held in the Day School in aid of funds for the new classroom. On the first day it was opened by Hon. Walter Rothschild, and on the second day by C. Gray, Esq. The proceeds amounted to £166 9s 4d.

**1902**—Yeomanry manoeuvres here; sham fight at north end of village.

Dr. McFarland succeeded C. Gray, Esq., as treasurer of the Reading Room.

June 1. Proclamation of Peace. The village was decorated, and church bells were rung. On the following Sunday thanksgiving services were held.

June 24. News received of the King's illness, and consequent postponement of the coronation.

June 26. As arrangements had far advanced, and the King was progressing satisfactorily, the celebrations took place as intended, and included an intercessory service at church, the National Anthem sung on King Corken Hill, free dinner, tea, and sports at Kempsons for the inhabitants; also medals for the children. The village was gay with flags and banners.

The office of Lord Great Chamberlain was claimed by the Duke of Athol, Marquis of Cholmondeley, Earl of Ancaster, and Earl Carrington, all of them descendants of the Earls of Oxford and the Bolebecs of Bolebec Castle, Whitchurch. The office was performed at the King's coronation by the Marquis of Cholmondeley.

August 26. C. Gray, Esq., of The Firs, died at Maidenhead, and was interred at Whitchurch.

Watches and chains, suitably inscribed, were presented at the White Horse to seven Whitchurch soldiers who served in the South African war. Funds for this purpose were obtained by subscription, and the presentation was made by Rev. G. T. Medd, the recipients being Gerald Adams, Ernest Calloway, Ernest Cheshire, George Cheshire, Henry Cheshire, Thomas Cheshire, and William Cheshire.

**1904**—April 22. Reading Room closed.

Mrs. Parrott, Lady of Whitchurch Manor, died, and Francis Hayward Parrott, Esq., of Aylesbury, became lord of the Manor.

**1905**—February 6. King Edward VII., who was staying at Mentmore, visited Whitchurch on the occasion of the meet of Lord Rothschild's staghounds at Beechmoor. The King was in an open carriage, accompanied by Earl Rosebery, and on their arrival at Beechmoor, Mr. Joseph Roads and his sister Miss Roads were presented to His Majesty by Mr. Leopold de Rothschild. After a few minutes' halt, the Royal party proceeded to Creslow,

## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

where Mr. Rowland was also presented to His Majesty by Mr. L. de Rothschild. In Creslow Great Ground the deer was uncarted, and after watching the first stage of the chase, the King returned through Whitchurch to Mentmore by motor.

May 8. Rev. T. Archer Turner, Rector of Ickford, son of a former Vicar of Whitchurch, was killed by fall from bicycle.

**1906**—Election for Mid Bucks. Candidates : Hon. Walter Rothschild and Mr. Silas Hocking; Hon. W. Rothschild returned.

May 28. Death of John Green. He was the last representative of a family whose name is the earliest in the Baptismal Register (see 1633), and his burial was the last public service conducted by Rev. G. T. Medd.

October 10. Harry Dwight accidentally killed by fall from horse near Weedon turn.

October 31. Public Telephone Call Office opened at Post Office.

**1907**—February 19. Large meet of the Whaddon Chase hounds at The Firs, when W. Selby Lowndes, Esq., on his retirement from the Mastership of the Hunt, was presented by the members with a handsome cup standing over two feet in height. The presentation was made by Lord Orkney and L. de Rothschild, Esq.

County Council Election. Mr. George Terry elected.

September 14. Autumnal Army Manoeuvres. The Red, or defending force, marched from Aylesbury through Whitchurch to camp at Addington Park. The Blue, or invading force, was stationed at Aylesbury.

September 16. Monday. Whitchurch was occupied by Reds, who made King Corken Hill their headquarters, and there fixed telegraphic and telephonic apparatus. Guns were placed at Little London, Home Ground, and various other points. Signallers operated from the tower of the Whitchurch church, and a captive balloon was located at Oving. Skirmishing took place in the Aylesbury road, and Hardwick was seized by Blues, and occasional firing between Blues at Hardwick and Reds at Whitchurch occurred in the afternoon. In the evening Reds removed their guns from Little London, Home Ground, and Bushmead to different points.

September 17. In the early morning Reds' headquarters were removed, and at 5.30 a.m. Whitchurch was attacked by Blues, who after a sharp engagement in the High Street succeeded in taking it. Meanwhile the Irish Guards, pushing their way through fields and up Weir Lane, were opposed by a heavy gun stationed in Mill Furlong, but advancing in overwhelming numbers seized the north-west of village and caused Reds to retreat with their artillery toward North Marston. In Mill Furlong and Johnson's Piece the Blues bivouacked awhile, the commissariat arrived, and after rations had been served, a detachment of Blues was left in possession of the village; the other troops marched towards Pitchcott, which was occupied by Reds, and which they held for some considerable time, but eventually retreated towards Claydon.

September 18. The troops and transports again passed through Whitchurch on their way to Waddesdon, and the manoeuvres closed the following day.

Formation of the Whitchurch, Oving, and Pitchcott District Nursing Association. President, Hon. Mrs. Anstruther, of Whitchurch House.

October 16. Presentation of an illuminated address and silver rose bowl to the Rev. G. T. Medd, by the parishioners, on the occasion of his resignation of the Vicariate after thirty-one years' residence. He left for Wendover on October 17, and died there on November 2, and was interred at Whitchurch.

**1908**—February 10. Institution of Rev. Hugh Wood, M.A., as Vicar.

April 22. Public tea and meeting in Church School to welcome the new Vicar.

April 29. Mrs. Medd, widow of the late Vicar, died at Wendover, and was buried here.

## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

October 19. Reading Room opened at Church School for the winter months.

Three houses built during this and the preceding year at the south end of village, near the site of the old silk factory.

**1909**—January 1. According to Act of Parliament, (Old Age Pensions were first given today.

January 4. Meeting held at Church School to devise means of raising funds for the restoration of the church. A Committee and Executive Committee were formed.

March. A schoolboy, named William Tomlin, aged ten years, was accidentally killed in the village street by a motor car.

April. Population 622. Inhabited houses 156. (Informally ascertained.)

June 3, 4. Dates fixed for bazaar in aid of Church Restoration Fund.

LIST OF VICARS

- 1400—Walter Dobbs, Capellanus, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Woburn.
- 1418—Thomas Burwald.
- 1453—John Rogers.
- 1456—John Clyvelode.
- 1458—William Wright.
- 1461—Robert Stacy.
- 1462—John Gerbray.
- 1468—George Parland.
- 1479—Richard Chernock.
- 1479—Peter Vavasour.
- 1482—John Mansel.
- 1504—Thomas Jakeman, LL.B. He left for Aston Clinton, and died there.
- 1509—Anthony Careswall.
- 1521—Richard Muston.
- 1528—John Olyver (*Letters and Papers of the Reign of Henry VIII.*).
- 1532—Robert Palmer. (The date is given as 1522, which is probably an error.) He is mentioned as Vicar in 1536, and was the last presented by the Convent of Woburn.
- 1545—Richard Rodworth, presented by the King, on the death of the last Vicar.
- 1556—Robert Norwood, who left for Slapton.
- 1560—William Alle.
- 1574—Richard Fynny.
- 1576—Alexander Sheppard, who left for Buckingham.
- 1580—William Coventry, who began the Parish Register in 1598. He died and was buried at Whitchurch.
- 1621—John Guilliams, who resigned.
- 1624—John Brooks.
- 1626—Christopher Cootte or Coats. He was Vicar fifty-three years, and was buried here.
- 1679—Thomas Roe, S.T.B. On his death he was succeeded by his nephew.
- 1703—John Roe, A.B. He was schoolmaster at Leighton Buzzard, and was buried there.
- 1716—John Nicholson, A.B. He was previously Perpetual Curate of Nether Winchendon. He died and was buried here.
- 1755—Thomas Atkinson, A.B., who was Vicar at the time of the Inclosure. He died and was buried here.
- 1775—Richard King, A.B., who resigned.

## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

- 1782—John Knight Tayler. He was appointed Chaplain and Private Secretary to the Earl of Chesterfield, and died at Aix la Chapelle.  
1785—William Parsons, LL.B. He left for Cannon's Frome, Herefordshire.  
1810—Samuel Watson, D.D., on the presentation of King George III.  
1812—Thomas Archer, M.A. He died and was buried here.  
1843—Alfred Turner, M.A. He died at Torquay, and was buried here.  
1876—George Tate Medd, A.K.C. He died at Wendover, and was buried here.  
1908—Hugh Wood, M.A.

## CURATES

- 1702—Thomas Audrey.  
1779—John Knight Tayler.  
1784—William J. Woodruffe.  
1795—Thomas Hopkins.  
1807—John Parsons.  
1808—Thomas Archer.  
1906—Herbert Reynolds.

## CHURCHWARDENS

- 1619—Nicholas Topping, Thomas Palmer.  
1661—William Olliffe, Joseph Collett.  
1679-81—Thomas Wittmell, Francis Kibble.  
1683—Bernard Hall, Edward Harris.  
1685-8—Thomas Green, Thomas Wigg.  
1689-90—Benedict Gaudery, William Bennett.  
1691-2—Thomas Green, John Topping.  
1693—Lawrence Rickard.  
1694—Lawrence Rickard, Thomas Whitmell.  
1695—John Billington, Thomas Whitmell.  
1696—7—Thomas Whitmell, James Woster.  
1698—Richard Harris, Francis Kibble.  
1699-1700—Richard Harris, William Kibble.  
1701-3—Ralph Ingram, Edward Kibble.  
1704-5—Thomas Green, Thomas Cheshire.  
1710-11—Joseph Stevens, Joseph Brooks.  
1714—Benjamin Harding, Thomas Steward.  
1715—Benjamin Harding, William Bennett.  
1716—17—John Cheshire, Thomas Green.  
1719—Daniel Birdseye, George Stone.  
1721—Benjamin Harding, Thomas Scott.  
1722—Joseph Stevens, Thomas Green.  
1724—Thomas Wells, John Plater.  
1725—George Stone, John Plater.



## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

- 1726-7—Benjamin Harding, Thomas Durley.  
1728—Benjamin Harding, Thomas Green.  
1729—William Edgley, William Fincher.  
1730—John Edgley, William Fincher.  
1731—Thomas Wells, John Topping.  
1732-3—Daniel Jenkins, Joseph Symonds.  
1734—Paul George, the younger, Robert Toogood.  
1735-6—William Green, Thomas Green.  
1737-8—Joseph Bull, Thomas Cupper.  
1739—Joseph Bull, John Collins.  
1740—William Durley, John Burgon.  
1741—William Durley, Thomas Henley.  
1742—William Durley, John Edgley.  
1743—Joseph Bull, Thomas Fowler.  
1744—Joseph Bull, John Burgon.  
1745—George Cheshire, John Burgon.  
1746-7—George Cheshire, William Cupper.  
1748—George Cheshire, Thomas Fowler.  
1749—John Bowler, Thomas Fowler.  
1750-1—John Bowler, Joseph Symonds.  
1752-3—George Cheshire, Thomas Green.  
1754—George Cheshire, William Cupper.  
1755—George Cheshire, Thomas Durley.  
1756—William Fincher, William Cupper.  
1757—Thomas Seabrook, William Cupper.  
1758—Thomas Seabrook, Thomas Green.  
1759-60—Thomas Ingram, Richard Spencer.  
1761—William Durley, John Edgley.  
1762—George Stone, Thomas Webb.  
1763—Thomas Fowler, William Cupper.  
1764—William Fincher, John Toogood.  
1765—Toby Seabrook, George Cheshire, sen.  
1766—John Cupper, Joseph Symonds.  
1767—George Stone, Richard Spencer.  
1768—George Cheshire, William Fincher.  
1769—Job Bull, John Toogood.  
1770—Thomas Green, Oliver Foster.  
1771—Thomas Shuffill, Richard Spencer.  
1772—George Stone, John Toogord.  
1773—Thomas Fowler, John Cooper.  
1774—Thomas Denchfield, Joseph Seamons.  
1775—Edward Kibble, William Durley.  
1776—William Fincher, George Cheshire.  
1777—Job Bull, John Stone.  
1778—Jonathan Rickard, Toby Seabrook.  
1779—Thomas Spencer, Oliver Foster.  
1780—John Fincher, Jonathan Rickard.  
1781—Robert Bignell, William Durley.  
1782—George Cheshire, William Hughes.

## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

- 1783—John Toogood, Thomas Denchfield.  
1784—Thomas Fowler, Thomas Shuffill.  
1785—William Bull, Grant Hewitt.  
1786—Edward Kibble, Joseph Ingram.  
1787—John Toogood, William Fincher.  
1788—9—Matthew Verney, Inns Cheshire.  
1790—Thomas Green, John Fincher.  
1794—Thomas Fowler, John Bowler.  
1797—Matthew Verney, William Fincher.  
1797—Thomas Shufield, William Bull.  
1807—John Toogood, Matthew Verney.  
1808—Thomas Goodson, George Carruthers.  
1809—12—Joseph Ingram Stevens, Richard Denchfield.  
1813—William Rose, John Sheffield.  
1814—William Rose, Thomas Stevens.  
1815—John Toogood, Thomas Durley.  
1816—John Toogood, Daniel How.  
1817-18—John Toogood, James Tattam.  
1819-20—Thomas Stevens, Seph Stone.  
1821—Thomas Stevens, John Johnson.  
1822-3—Thomas Stevens, James Tattam.  
1824—William Flowers. James Tattam.  
1825-7—William Flowers, William Batson.  
1828—James Tattam, William Batson.  
1829—Joseph Seabrook, Thomas Stevens.  
1830—Joseph Seabrook, William Bowler.  
1831-3—James Tattam, William Bowler.  
1835—William Bowler.  
1836—Elijah Durley, William Bowler.  
1837—John Rose, William Bowler.  
1838—Richard Durley, William Bowler.  
1839-41—William Rose, William Bowler.  
1842-3—George Horwood, John Fincher.  
1844—Thomas Flowers, John Rose.  
1845-8—Thomas Mayo, Joseph Kingham.  
1849—William Rose, Joseph Kingham.  
1850-2—Richard Holt. Joseph Kingham.  
1853-4—Thomas Mayo, Thamas Tattam.  
1855—Richard Denchfield, jun., Joseph Rickard.  
1856—Richard Denchfield, jun., Robert Baylis.  
1857—Joseph Tattam, Robert Baylis.  
1858—James Foulger, Robert Baylis.  
1859-65—Thomas Tattam.  
1867—Edward H. Roads, Henry Parrott.  
1870—Augustus H. Guy.  
1871—Augustus H. Guy, Thomas Hawley.  
1873-4—H. C. Turney Roberts.  
1875—Henry Parrott.  
1876-84—Edward H. Roads, John Henry Guy.

## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

1885-93—John William Parrott, John Wilson.  
1894-9—John Wilson, George Beasley.  
1900-9—Robert Rickard, George Beasley.

### PARISH CLERKS

1661— Thomas Rickard.  
1692—George Wingrave.  
1715—Francis Gower.  
1724—William Tims.  
1729—William Gower.  
1782—Thomas Baldwin.  
1798—Joseph Rickard (i).  
1832—Joseph Rickard (2).  
1872—William Fincher.  
1899—George Moxom.

### GUARDIANS

1838—John Fincher.  
1839—William Rose.  
1840-42—Richard Duriey.  
1843-5— Veere Woodman.  
1846-8—John Butcher.  
1849-50—Joseph Parrott.  
1851-3—Joseph Kingham.  
1854-64—Richard Duriey.  
1865-70—Francis Roberts.  
1871-3—John Henry Guy.  
1874-9—Edward H. Roads.  
1880—Henry Parrott.  
1881-91—Edward H. Roads.  
1892—Richard Holt.  
1893-99—John Wilson.  
1900—Richard Rowland.  
1901-9—Thomas E. Biggs.

### DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

1894—John Wilson.  
1900—Richard Rowland.  
1901—Thomas E. Biggs.

### PARISH COUNCILLORS

1894—John Henry Guy (resigned 1901), John Wilson (died 1900), William Taylor (resigned 1902), Albert Dormer (resigned 1896), Walter J. Shuffill (resigned 1897), Charles Foster (resigned 1897) Thomas J. N. Cannon.

## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

1896—William Durley (resigned 1904).

1897—George William Wilson.

1897—Joseph Rickard.

1900—William Alderman.

1001—Thomas E. Biggs.

1903—John Blowfield.

1004—George Beasley.

### FACTS AND TRADITIONS TO WHICH NO DATE CAN BE ASSIGNED

Bolebec Castle.—There is no positive evidence as to the time when the Castle was built. Tradition supposes it to have been built by Hugh de Bolebec, and added to by his brother Walter; but it is more likely to have been built by their father, Hugh de Bolebec, while he was still a sub-feudatory of his cousin, Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, who also bore the surname of Bolebec, as an old list of the Sheriffs of Bucks mentions Aubrey de Vere, of Bolebec Castle, as Sheriff in 1135, and again in 1154. This also intimates that the De Veres must have been in some way connected with the De Bolebecs before the marriage of Isabel, daughter of Walter de Bolebec, to Robert de Vere, afterwards Earl of Oxford, which took place about 1208. The accounts of the Bolebecs differ greatly, and are rendered still more confusing by there being another family in Northumberland with the same names, Hugh and Walter; but it is fairly certain that they were both descendants of the first Hugh de Bolebec who came over with the Conqueror. Whether or not the Earls of Oxford ever resided at the Castle is not known, but as they had more important castles in Essex and other places, it is unlikely that they spent much time here, and it is far more probable that they placed the Castle in the hands of their dependants. Camden, writing in 1610, speaks of its ruins, but in 1597 it was occupied by the family of Duncombe, and later by that of Pauley, who seem to have been the last occupants before it was finally demolished. Later still, the site, together with the surrounding parks, called the Great and Little Parks, belonged to Mrs. Jane Mayne, but certain persons possessed a right of pasturage on payment of a specified sum to the owner.

There must have been two entrances to the Castle, one in Castle Lane, and another near Weir Pond, the way to which is still plainly discernible. Here the drawbridge stood, the posts of which were remembered to have been standing by persons living at the end of the eighteenth century. The keep is supposed to have stood against the moat, near the south-west corner of Market Hill Close. In removing the old stones of the Castle, the workmen discovered a fireplace with the ashes in good preservation, also a skeleton of a man buried with his spear before the fireplace. At the east side of the Castle Hill is a spring of water, known as "Fair Alice". It is supposed to possess certain medicinal properties, being considered especially good for ophthalmia. It is also noted as a wishing well. The origin of the name is not known. It has been suggested that it was named after Alice de Bolebec; but she belonged to the Northumberland family, and it is unlikely that she ever came to Whitchurch. The name is most probably of later date.

**Subterranean Passage.**—Tradition says that a subterranean passage exists between the Castle Hill and the old house on the hill formerly known as The Priory. It has been said that at certain times a hollow sound can be detected at a particular place on the high road by persons driving over it. In the old house is a deep cellar known as the dungeon, the roof of which is covered with shells; and a few years ago another small underground room was

discovered outside the house on the hill, but it was filled in without further investigation.

**Rev. James Hervey.**—It is commonly reported that at one time the Rev. James Hervey, A.M., author of *Meditations among the Tombs*, lived at the old Priory House, but there seems to be no evidence of this. The only connection of the name with the place is the fact that, in 1718, John Harvey, son of John Hill, late of Wendover, Gent., was baptised here. The old house belonged to this family a short time after, but at this time James Hervey was four years old, and his residences seem to be fully accounted for in his biography, so that if he were ever at Whitchurch, it was probably as a visitor.

**Whitchurch Feast**—Feast Sunday is the first Sunday after May 18. The festivities begin on the next day, and formerly continued for about three days. The various clubs have kept their annual feast on this day for many years, but the original one is of much greater antiquity, and probably had a religious origin. Feast Monday used to be a favourite day for marriages.

**Statute Fair.**—This was formerly held on October 13, but is now almost obsolete. It is supposed to have been originated by the High Constable, who lived at Whitchurch, and possessed the right of establishing such a fair in the place where he resided. The occupier of the Cock Inn had a certain amount of interest in it, and always engaged the town crier at Aylesbury Michaelmas fair to proclaim the fair here on the next day. It was customary for young men and women to be publicly hired as servants on this occasion. The stalls stood in the street near the Cock Inn, but in later years near the White Horse.

**The Pound.**—It formerly stood just outside the gates of Kempsons, and was used for impounding cattle when found straying on the highway, which were only liberated on payment of a fine by their owners. It was disused for several years, and having fallen into decay, was eventually removed.

At one time a yearly fair was held near the Pound on the first Monday in May, but it gradually died out. The cattle, which were brought from Hereford and other distant places for purchase by the farmers, stood in the High Street. The origin of the fair is unknown; it is possible it may have been a survival of the ancient fair granted in 1245, but no record of it can be found.

The posts and chains which stood outside the house now called Greenbank may have been placed there as a protection against the cattle, as the road at this point was considerably higher than the path. These chains were removed about 1873, and the path and road made more uniform.

**The Butts.**—The Butts is a long narrow strip of pasture ground which was formerly occupied as gardens, but in ancient times it was used for archery practice, and from this fact it derived its name.

**Ancient Road.**—From the appearance of the turn-pike road between Kempsons and the Manor farm-yard, it would seem that the road has been excavated, and was not the original one. In olden times, many years before the Inclosure, a road passed from near Mount Pleasant, along the Butts, through Church Headland and the farmyard, along Stone's Piece, and out at the corner into Home Close; then through what is now Backslide Pond, and down How's or Hawley's Lane into the village street. The main street of the village was evidently up the Market Hill, and thence to Oving, the Back Lane being only a narrow way, and the connection with the present turnpike road was by way of White Hill.

**Saxo-Roman Burial Ground.**—A Saxo-Roman burial ground existed here. The site is supposed to be in the field called Chattle or Chatwell Stream. This received its name from the fact that before the Inclosure it was the custom to drive cattle to the stream to water, as there is a very fine spring of water on the top of the hill, therefore it was called Cattle Well or Chatwell Spring.

**Clock Land.**—The name once given to one acre of ground in Long Piece on Church

## CHRONICLES OF WHITCHURCH

Headland Farm, and the tradition respecting it is that a lady, in coming through the fields on a dark or foggy night, lost her way in Long Piece, which was then arable land, and wandered about for some time until she heard Whitchurch church clock strike. She then left her hat on the ground to identify the place, and found her way to Whitchurch. She afterwards bought the piece of ground and gave it to the church for the repair of the clock. This arrangement was said to have been altered through the instrumentality of Mr. Green of Whitchurch House, but by what means does not appear.

**Whitwell Hole.**—This is commonly called Whittle Hole, and takes its name from the celebrated spring of water called the White Well, which has never been known to freeze in the coldest winter or fail in the driest summer. It rises at the foot of the hill, and is the source of the Whittle Brook. The thatched cottages near the spring were formerly four in number; and a remarkable fact is that of the seven last deaths there, six were of persons over seventy years of age, three of them being over ninety, and previously one person lived there to the age of one hundred years.

**Church Bells.**—There are six bells and a Sanctus bell, the inscriptions on which are:

1. Cantate Domino Canticvm Novm. Henricvs Bagley me Fecit 1680.
2. Mat Varney Wm. Fincher C.H.wardens. John Briant Hartford Fecit 1797
3. v<sup>d</sup> solemne voyce. 1619.
4. Nicholas Topping Thomas Palmer Chvrchwardens 1619. Wee sovnd forth ovr breath.
5. Thos. Fowler and John Bowler CHwardens. John Fincher George Cheshire Matthew Vaney Wm Fincher Inhabitants. Wm. Wooderoffe minister. Thos. Mears of London Fecit 1794.
6. Thomas Shufield William Bull Churchwardens Thomas Mears of London Fecit 1797 Warning unto death.

Sanctus bell bears the date 1708.

In 1637 there were five bells, two of which still remain ; the others have since been recast, and a new one added. The words on the bells form part of a stanza, a line or part of a line on each bell; and a writer in the *Records of Bucks*, vol. viii., intimates that before they were recast, the following may be suggested as a restoration of the whole.

With loud  
and solemne voyce  
Wee sound forth our breath  
Them that in life rejoyce  
Warning unto death.



## PHOTO SCRAPBOOK



(MAY 1964) *This area, on the south side of Weir Lane, and to the east of Bolebec Castle was known as 'The Butts' and was used for archery practice in the middle ages.*



(FEBRUARY 1963) *The big freeze. It started to snow on Boxing Day 1962 and the last of the snow did not disappear until almost four months later.*



(JUNE 1963) *At the foot of the large tree on the right is the spring known as 'Fair Alice'. The position of the spring at Whittle Hole is shown by the top arrow. Both streams run down to the corner of the field known as 'Lord's Garden' to form Whittle Brook. The large white house (Tudor House) seen through the branches of the tree was the home of G. W. Wilson, the author of *Chronicles of Whitchurch*. Top left can be seen The Old Court House.*

# Re: 'Whitchurch In Camera'

The following are a few observations gleaned from my father shortly before he died (in 1996) to add to the collection:

- 1 – Page 9: *Maxon* should be spelled *Moxon*.
- 2 – Page 18: The house is *Quenington* (sometimes *Quenington House*). *Sycamores* was the earlier name for *Mary Monks Close* (previously *Mary Monks House*). [\[My mother worked there before she was married — Roy.\]](#)
- 3 – Page 2): The shop, of course, was owned by Tom *Rolls*.
- 4 – Page 22: This photograph was taken in May or June 1908. Owing to the shortness of the shadows it is around mid-summer time. The elder bushes in the left of what became the Fire Station are in flower. On the right hand side of the picture is my father who, at the time about 1 year old, is in the small two-wheeled carriage. The carriage is being pulled by his sister Ethel who would have been almost 6 years old. The carriage was specially made by Frank Sr. for the purpose of exercising the baby and, more importantly, to exercise Ethel! Also, the cycles and motorcycles in the picture are all pre-1908.  
[\[I was secretary of the Chiltern Section of the Vintage Motorcycle Club for a time. You may be interested to know that, in a recent magazine article, I have cited this photograph as a good example of why you should beware of implicitly believing information shown in captions to old photographs — Roy.\]](#)
- 5 – Page 27: The car, which was a taxi, belonged to Ernest Rickard – not Sidney.
- 6 – Page 32: The name of the bus driver was Ted Belgrove.
- 7 – Page 36: The saddler was *Walter* not William Giddings.
- 7) – Page 70: The men are Tom Blowfield, ('J.P. Joe') Evans, John Stopps and Arthur Hogston.