

RECTORS OF DANBURY

Information on the Rectors of Danbury up to 1855 is taken from "DANBURY RECORDS" written by Sir Thomas Pym Bridges Bart, rector from 1855 – 1895 Mrs Elisabeth Sinclair 2013

From around 1100 – 1440 the parish of Danbury was split into two moieties, one administered by the Manor of Heyrons and the other by the Manor of St Cleres. There were two patrons and two rectors.

In ancient times, by reason of the plenty of the fruits, the fertility of the fields, the largeness of the parish and the multitude of the parishioners, it was divided into two moieties and two Rectors were instituted and inducted into them as into two District Benefices

In 1191 the overlord, Earl William de Mandeville, gave the Patronage of the Manor of Heyrons moiety of the church of Danbury to the Priory of St Bartholemew in West Smithfield, London. *One moiety whereof was given by Earl William de Mandeville, who died 2 Ric I (1191) to the Prior and Convent of St Bartholomew in West Smithfield, London*

In 1233 Geoffrey de Heyron had the Manor of Heyrons, but no longer had the Advowson.

RECTORS OF THE MOIETY OF THE MANOR OF ST CLERES

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 07/09/1321 | Simon de Stambourne | |
| 09/03/1326 | Thomas de Clere | resigned 1331 |
| 14/11/1331 | Thomas de Merden | resigned 1334 |
| 07/06/1334 | William Tankard | |
| | Henry Belle | resigned 1362 |
| 12/01/1362 | Henry Person | |
| | John Blokeley | died 1397 |
| 07/06/1397 | John Belle | resigned 1440 |

RECTORS OF THE MOIETY OF THE MANOR OF HEYRONS

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1318 | William de Castleton | exchanged for Hardmead |
| | William de Drayton | exchanged for Stambourne |
| 03/05/1344 | Galfry de Mere | |
| | Nicholas de Hennie | resigned 1363 |
| 02/1363 | William de Coleyne | resigned 1364 |
| 15/03/1364 | Theodore de Colonia | |
| | John de Hesingham | |
| 04/08/1369 | William de Crayke | exchanged for Gt Burstead |
| 04/12/1372 | John Howe | |
| | Thomas Gowthere | resigned 1382 |
| 22/06/1382 | John Newton | resigned 1387 |
| 20/06/1387 | John Canynges | |
| | John Fisher | resigned 1400 |
| 28/10/1400 | Roger Puttenham | |
| | John Betts | died 1428 |
| 03/09/1428 | John Elliott | resigned 1429 |
| 18/02/1429 | Richard Smith | died 1440 |

RECTORS OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST DANBURY FROM 1440

In 1440 the two moieties were rejoined into one parish by the Bishop of London and administered by Lords of the Manor of St Cleres and Heyrons.

Till the year 1440 and then, to wit on the last of May, Robert (Gilbert) Bishop of London, after an Inquisition made and certify'd in the Form of Law of the value of each moiety and of other things requisite on that behalf, and particularly that Robert Darcy Esq was Patron of one of them; out of the other of wh(ich) he paid a pension of XXs yearly to the Priory of St Bartholomew aforesaid and that the moiety wh: did belong to the said Priory was void then by the death of Richard Smith, the late Rector and that the Rector of the other John Bell was consenting, did at the earnest desire of the said Rob: Darcy, unite, consolidate and reintegrate these two moieties into one Rectory and Benefice and ordained the Cure to be served for the future by one Rector only and decreed it to continue so forever, reserving a Pension of iii s to the B: of London and his successors, and xviii d to the Archdeacon of Essex and his successors, to be paid to them respectively for their indemnity, at the Feast of S Michael the Archangel yearly by the Rector here for the time being for ever. (Gilbert 169 Mon Angl vol ii 171 Consolidatio medietatum Psusimes)'

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1440 | Thomas Long | |
| 1452 | John Thurston | |
| 1452 | John Bempbowe | resigned 1453 |
| 1453 | Bartholomew Colett | resigned 1455 |
| 1455 | John Trafford | resigned 1456 |
| 1456 | Robert Chantrey | exchanged for Witham 1456 |
| 1456 | Thomas Waryne | resigned 1460 |
| 1460 | John Hardsych | resigned 1461 |
| 1461 | Nicholas Saxton | resigned 1471 |
| 1471 | John Lindsey | resigned 1487 for Debden. He died 1488, leaving 20 pounds to Danbury church. |
| 1487 | Thomas Johnson | resigned 1499 |
| 1499 | Richard Hawyt | died 1504 (He was related to the patron Elizabeth, widow of Sir Robert d'Arcy, who married (2) Richard Hawte.) |
| 1504 | Richard Clarke | died 1512 |
| 1512 | George Windham | resigned 1514 (He was related to the patron Elizabeth, widow of Sir Roger d'Arcy, who married (2) Vice Admiral Thomas Wyndham.) |
| 1514 | William Clouville | resigned for Widford 1518 |
| 1518 | Robert Clopton | died 1547 |
| 1547 | William Claxton | |
| | | He was deprived during Marian persecution when Mary I came to throne in 1553. |
| 1554 | John Hale | died 1568, He was a Benedictine monk from Norwich. |
| 1568 | Hugo Taylor | died 1572 |
| 1572 | George Wither | died 1605 He was born in 1525 and educated at Cambridge and Heidelberg. He fled to Geneva during Mary's reign. He held violent puritan views. He returned during Elizabeth's reign and became Archdeacon of Colchester and in 1582 he tried to persuade Father John Payne to recant while in Chelmsford prison awaiting execution. (There is a wall tablet in his memory at the base of tower.) |
| 1605 | Edmund Hopkins | died 1622 He was tutor in the Mildmay house before he became Rector. |
| 1622 | Clement Vincent | ejected in 1643 He was not popular with his flock and had disputes about the repair of the churchyard fence and in 1630 the tithe on goslings and cheeses. He was a friend of the Patron Sir Humphrey Mildmay with whom he played cards and 'made merry in the tavern'. He was ejected in 1643 by the Puritans, according to whom ' <i>he is a great practicer of the late illegal innovations (Archbishop Laud's reforms) and doth not only encourage sports and playing on the Sabbath Day before his own doore, but hath also been a practiser himself thereof, giving ill example thereby and neglecting the keeping of the monthly fast, and instead of fasting, suffered on the fast day football playing in his own ground, himself being a spectator thereof; and is a common drunkard and a common swearer; and hath expressed great</i> |

malignity against Parliament.' (The Royalists however thought he was '*a worthy divine*'). He died in 1652 and was buried in the chancel.

1644 **John Chandler** left in 1646

He left for Lt Bromley in 1646 to join the Presbyterian church.

1646 **Richard Man** ejected in 1662

He was ejected 1662 for refusing to use new prayer book. He was a protégé of Sir Henry Mildmay of Graces.

1662 **William Clotterbrooke** died 1665

He was Rector of Woodham Ferrers from 1641 and held both livings until he died possibly of the Great Plague.

1665 **Robert Cory DD** died 1704

He was the son of a Norwich weaver . He also held the living of Margaret Roding from 1674. He became Archdeacon of Middlesex in 1691 and died 02/03/1704 age 66.

There is a monument to him in the South aisle (formerly in chancel). In 1675 he married Mary nee Bancroft, widow of John Mildmay of Danbury Place. They had 3 children, but only the youngest Elizabeth survived. She married William Ffytche and inherited Danbury Place from her mother.

1704 **Thomas Pocock** died 1745 but buried elsewhere.

He was a naval chaplain before he was appointed to Danbury and continued to make voyages while Rector. He was also curate of Thames Ditton, Rector of Latchingdon and chaplain of the Royal Naval Hospital at Greenwich so he was rarely at Danbury. He married Joyce Masters, daughter of James Masters of Kent and his wife Joyce, daughter of Sir Christopher Turnor (see MEMORIALS). His father in law was the cousin of Mary Bancroft, wife of his predecessor. There is a memorial to his mother in law Mrs Joyce Masters in the chancel. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society. His son Sir George Pocock (1706-1792) was an Admiral and has a monument in Westminster Abbey.

1746 **William Petvin** died 1770

His wife Laetitia was buried here in 1766 but he is buried elsewhere.

1770 **Revd John Maximilian De L'Angle** died 1783

Revd Theophilis de l'Angle married on 24 May 1726 Margaret Whitfield at St Benet, Pauls Wharf, London. He was curate at Goodnestone Nr Sandwich Kent. He was buried 6 Jul 1763 at Goodnestone. They had two children: John Maximilian baptised 12 Apr 1727 and Genevova bap 24 May 1728. John Maximilian De l'Angle MA was made Rector at Danbury and Woodham Ferrers Essex 1/10/1770 by the Patron Sir Brook Bridges. His mother came to live with him and moved to Danbury with him in 1770. She died in 1782. He died in 1783. He and his mother are buried in the church and a memorial to them can be seen in the chancel.

Genevova de l'Angle buried at Chartham Kent 6 Nov 1729 (d Oct 30th 1729) aged 99 was the wife of John Maximilian De l'Angle, the famous Huguenot minister also buried at Chartham, who died Nov 14 1724 age 83. They were the parents of Theophilis. There is a monument in the north transept of the church of St Mary the Virgin with the inscription (Transcribed by Rev Bryan Faussett, 1757) :

HIC SITUS EST JOHANNES MAXIMILIANUS DE L'ANGLE, ECCLESIAE METROPOLITICAE CANTUARIENSIS CANONICUS, ET HUIUS ECCLESIAE PAROCHIALIS RECTOR. ORTÛ, QUIDEM, GALLUS; SED, ET EFFECTÛ, ET DISCIPLINÂ, NOSTER. CUJUS PATER, ECCLESIAE REFORMATAE ROTHOMAGI MINISTER, ANGLICANAM QUÀM MAGNI FECERIT ECCLESIAM, TESTIMONIJS SATIS APERTÈ INDICAVIT. CÛM ALIAS, TUM MAXIMÈ, QUOD HUNC SUUM FILIUM EJUSDEM ECCLESIAE ORDINIBUS INSIGNIRI VOLUIT. ALTERUM VERO SAMUELEM ITÀ INSTITUIT UT CARENTONIJ CELEBERRIMAM PROTESTANTIUM ECCLESIAM, PASTOR ACCIPERET; EIQU MULTÂ CUM LAUDE PRAEESSET; DONEC AN. CH. 1682, FLAGRANTE PERSECUTIONIS FURORE, RELIGIONIS REFORMATAE CULTORIBUS NIHIL RESTARET, PRAETER CARCERES ET EXILIA; TUM DEMÈM, CAETERIS REBUS RELICTIS, CUM UXORE ET LIBERIS IN ANGLIAM MIGRAVIT, UBI, PRO MERITIS SUIS, BERINGUÈ ACCEPTUS EST, ET PREBENDÂ ECC. WESTMONASTERIENSIS HONESTATUS. ITA, APUD NOS UTERQUE FRATER, UT RIVETI, MOLINAEI, ET BOCHARTI COGNATOS DECUIT, ET DIGNITATEM, ET EMOLUMENTA SATIS AMPLA CONSECVTI INGENTEM, QUAM EXTERI SAEPE CONFLANT, INDIVIAM NORUM FACILITATE, ANIMI CANDORE, LARGITONE IN PAUPERES, ET CAETERIS, QUAE CHRISTIANUM ORNANT, DOTIBUS, FAELICITÈR EXTINGERUNT. OBIIT JOHANNES NOV. 14 1724, AET. 83. JUXTA DORMIT UXOR EJUS GENEVOVA, QUAE, SENIO CONFECTA, OBIIT OCT. 30 1729. AET 99. UTRISQUE MONUMENTUM HOC PONENDUM CURAVIT NEPOS, OMNIBUS MODIS DEVINCTUS, THEOPHILIS DE L'ANGLE.)

1783 **Revd Brook Bridges** resigned 1793, died 1801

He was a relative of Patron. He became Rector of Danbury and Woodham Ferrers when he was 57. His wife Anne was buried here in 1792. He then married Mrs Sarah Hastings in 1793 and died at Castle Hedingham but was buried at Danbury as was his second wife in 1804. His last curate was his successor as Rector.

1793 **Revd Brook Henry Bridges** died 1855

He was curate at Danbury from 1793 and became Rector of Danbury and Woodham Ferrers in 1801 when his predecessor died. He was born in 1769, the third son of Sir Brook William Bridges 3rd Baronet and Fanny Fowler. On 01/07/1795 he married Jane Hales daughter of Sir Thomas Pym Hales 4th Bt of Woodhill. They had 7 children, Jane

Bridges who died 1862, Mary Bridges who died 1803, Emilia Bridges, Brook Henry Bridges 1799 – 1829, Revd Sir Thomas Pym Bridges 1805 –1895 and two others. He was the founder of Danbury School. He died 20/09/ 1855 at age 86.

1855 Revd Sir Thomas Pym Bridges, 7th Baron Fitzwalter died 1895

He was born in 1805 the 2nd son of Revd Brook Henry Bridges and Jane Hales. He was curate at Danbury 1829 – 1855 (26 years) and Rector for 40 years. As a curate he lived at the Blue Boar at Eves Corner , which he renamed Hill House. He wrote the 'DANBURY RECORDS'. He became the 7th Baron Fitzwalter and died 28/02/1895 age 89. He is buried in the churchyard 1J 36.

He married (1) Sophia Louisa Young daughter of Sir William Lawrence Young Bt and Louisa Tufnell, who died 04/01/1850 and is buried elsewhere.

They had eight children, most of whom died young. Louisa Jane died 23/03/1837 age 4, Adelaide Harriet died 16/01/1844 age 2 and Caroline Harriet Maria died 13/11/1846 age 13. There is a memorial to all three in the chancel of the church. Sophia died age 5 days and the location of burial is unknown. The only surviving child Emily Louisa Bridges died 26/04/1915 and is buried elsewhere.

He married (2) Mary who died 08/07/1893 age 90 and is buried in churchyard 1J 36

Their son William Lawrence Bridges died 30/03/1870 age 33 and is buried in churchyard 1J 36.

1895 John Bridges Plumptre died 1930



He was the eldest son of John Bridges and Eleanor Wright and grandson of Eleanor, wife of Revd Henry Western Plumptre and daughter of Sir Brook William Bridges, 4th Baronet, of Goodnestone, Kent. He was the brother of Henry Fitzwalter Plumptre, who became the 20th Baron FitzWalter. He was curate at Danbury church from 1893 and he became Rector of Danbury in 1895 on the death of Revd Sir Thomas Pym Bridges, 7th Baron Fitzwalter (his third cousin). There is no record that he married.

1930 Revd Richard Evelyn Fanshawe



1936 Revd Frank Hopkirk retired 1960 died 1961

His wife Mary wrote Historical notes and records of the village of Danbury 1945



Former rector dies

RECTOR of Danbury from 1936 to 1960 the Rev. Frank Stuart Hopkirk, of Clearwater House, Whitbrook, Monmouthshire, died at Hastings on Friday. He was 68 years old.

During his quarter of a century at Danbury Frank Hopkirk took a great interest in many village activities, but the Choral Society, of which he was president for many years, had a special place in his affections.

He leaves a widow, one daughter and one son.

On leaving Danbury he became incumbent at Stonegate, Sussex. The funeral took place there on Tuesday.



Farewell presentation 03/05/1966



The Rector's Farewell Gathering

from "I SPY" of "The Essex Weekly News", alias
Peter Andrews

To bid farewell to a dearly beloved and greatly respected friend is never a pleasant task, and so in spite of all the laughter and chatter of the 150 of us who gathered in the Village Hall on May 3rd to say goodbye to the Rector and Mrs. Stuart Smith, the underlying mood was primarily one of regret.

In the six short years he has been with us, the Rector has won the admiration and respect not only of his parishioners but equally of members of other denominations and non-churchgoers and, as Mr. Douglas Holder, the rector's warden, so rightly emphasised, we shall never forget the work he has done among us.

During the evening a set of stoles and a cheque were presented to the Rector and a travelling case and a mirror to Mrs. Stuart Smith by Mr. Holder on behalf of the parish.

Mr. Holder spoke of the uprightness of the Rector's character, the like of which was an extremely rare quality. How much we were going to miss him, and what a gain Leicester was going to have.

Replying, the Rector was full of generous praise for the village, saying that he could not imagine a happier or nicer place for a man to carry on his kind of work.

"We shall not be able to forget these years in Danbury. We do not want to forget you," he assured us, adding that his new parish, Swithland, was situated between the A.6 and the M.1.

He hoped that anyone passing by would look them up, preferably telephoning in advance to make sure they would be there, so that old friendships could be renewed.

How typical of Bishop Stuart Smith's conscientious approach to his vocation that only a few hours before attending his farewell party, he should have gone to visit one of the many new couples who continue to pour into this parish.

As we lined up to say goodbye and shake hands, I overheard one parishioner say to the Rector that she hoped he would have to work less hard in his new parish.

A slight pause followed, and then came this so typical reply: "Oh I don't know. There will be plenty to do. I don't want to retire yet."

Let these words stand as his Danbury epitaph.

Bishop Stuart Smith

JULY 1973.

CONTACT has received a letter from Bishop Stuart Smith to all his old friends in Danbury. "I know you will be pleased to hear that I have been making very good progress since I came back from the Nursing Home," he writes. "I cannot forget that it was through your generosity that I was able to stay there. This made all the difference. Now, although I cannot move about freely as of old, I can walk slowly with the help of a walking stick. I can no longer ride my bicycle and have in fact given it away so that it will still be seen on the road in Swithland (Leics). I do not now drive the car, but I do go out in it driven by my wife.

"I have a wheel-chair in which I have several times been to church. I had to give up the work of assistant bishop, being unable to travel. Now I have also resigned from the parish of Swithland and we have to leave this Rectory shortly. We have been fortunate to get a small bungalow on the outskirts of Loughborough. This will have some advantages, especially as I cannot manage steps and stairs without difficulty . . . With renewed thanks and the hope that we shall still be able to keep in touch." Danbury friends will be welcome at 3 Ulverscroft Road, Loughborough. But please ring Loughborough 67882 in advance, so that someone can be there to answer the door when you arrive.

1966

Revd Canon Basil Desmond Cornish

retired 1981



Photo: Institution and induction 07/01/1967

Mr L Spurgeon

Rt Revd John Tiarks MA

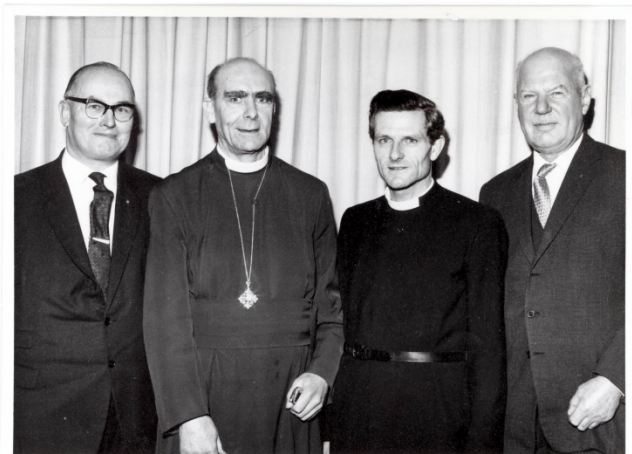
Revd Basil Cornish MA

Mr F D Holder

People's warden 1964-1971 Lord Bishop of Chelmsford

Rector of Danbury

Rector's Warden 1966 – 1972



**Danbury
Search for
new Rector
continues**

THE news that the Rev. Dann will not be our new rector after all is both sad and serious for it means that the parish may well be without a regular incumbent for several more months.

The position, as I understand it, is that after accepting the living from the Patron, Mr. Dann was obliged to change his mind because he was not satisfied with the temporary accommodation offered to him while a modern rectory is built.

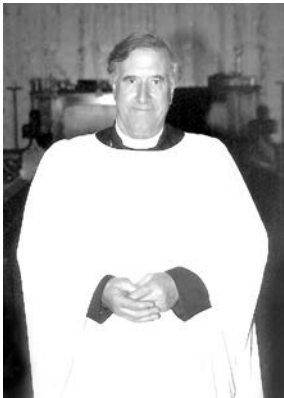
As a layman it seems to me deplorable in view of the shortage of clergy and the fact that there was a man ready to come to Danbury, that a solution to this difficulty could not have been found.

How unfortunate that this should follow on all the hard and selfless work of our late rector during the past six years.

Now the churchwardens and their loyal band of helpers are faced with a further period of arranging for other clergymen, many of whom are overworked, to come and take services in Danbury.

1982

Revd Canon Bernard James Lloyd



1995*

Revd Dr M Graham Blyth

(Graham was appointed as Priest in charge and only inducted and installed as Rector on 6th February 2011)

(Graham was appointed as Priest in charge and only retired 2012)



FEB-1967
by Stanley Sparks

Profile of our New Rector

The new man in the old rectory on the hill is the Rev. Basil Cornish. A bachelor, 44 years old, slightly built, quietly spoken, but with determined ideas about the Church and the role he hopes to play in Danbury's life.

The attractions of a country parish are apparent to a man whose first post was as a curate in industrial Sheffield and whose last parish, as vicar, was the crowded suburb of Seven Kings.

In Danbury there is an opportunity to get to know most of his parishioners, and he is plainly determined to do so—"There are lots of very interesting people living in Danbury."

There is, in his own words, a quality of leadership among the laity in the parish which gets things done and will free him for other duties. He does not want to disrupt this smoothly running machine.

But for all his enthusiasm to become part of Danbury and to renew the acquaintanceship he had when he was on the Chelmsford Cathedral staff, he has wider horizons.

"I want to knock down the parish walls," said Mr. Cornish. "I do not want to think in terms of Danbury in isolation."

He would like a co-ordination of effort across the parish boundaries. He wants the special skills of surrounding parsons to be put at the disposal of Danbury folk, and to put his own knowledge at the disposal of other parishes.

He favours a marriage guidance service, possibly with courses for young couples planning marriage, recognises that as a bachelor he is not qualified to run it.

The Rev. Basil Cornish comes to Danbury from the Advisory Council for the Church's Ministry at Westminster, where as one of the four selection secretaries he had the task of interviewing and assessing men who wish to be ordained. Since coming to Danbury he has been appointed diocesan director of ordinands by the Bishop and will continue to be concerned with the selection of new men for the ministry.

Born in 1922 in a farmhouse in Edmonton, North London, the son of a brickmaker, he had his studies at Cambridge interrupted for five years by war service in the Western Desert.

He entered the army as a trooper, emerged as a major after being one of the first tank officers to be produced at Sandhurst. For part of his service he was in charge of German and Italian prisoners of war in Tripoli.

In 1946 he returned to Cambridge, got his degree in 1948, had two years at theological college and was ordained in 1950.

Two years as a curate in Sheffield followed, then five as a curate at Chelmsford Cathedral, occasionally visiting his present rectory when the incumbent was the late Rev. F. Hopkirk.

In 1957 he became vicar of Seven Kings, where he remained for six years, before being appointed to the Advisory Council where he has served for the past four years.

retired 1994