

SOME SOMERSET PARISHES IN 1705

BY R. W. DUNNING, B.A., PH.D., F.S.A.

Five small volumes in Lambeth Palace Library, numbered 960-964, and usually known as *Notitia Parochialis*, contain 1606 returns¹ to an *Advertisement* or questionnaire² sent to each parish in the country in 1705, accompanying a Brief soliciting money for the rebuilding of All Saints Church, Oxford. Obviously the returns are not complete for the whole country, nor for any diocese, though a large proportion comes from Devon and Cornwall and, together with the Somerset returns, printed below, 'should', as a mid-18th-century newspaper remarked, 'specially claim the attention of the Western antiquary'.³

What is known of the circumstances of the questionnaire is given in two notices contained in the first volume of these manuscripts, the first anonymous, the second by A. C. Ducarel (Lambeth Librarian 1757-85), who purchased them for Archbishop Secker's Library. The first note states that the questionnaire was published on 28 February 1705, by the order of Robert Harley, presumably in his capacity as one of the two Secretaries of State,⁴ 'who at that time was endeavouring to relieve the distress of the inferior clergy'. The design may well have been Harley's, and have been connected with the establishment of Queen Anne's Bounty for the same purpose in the previous year; but, as the *Advertisement* makes clear, the author was 'a Divine of the Church of England'. Colour is certainly given to Harley's connexion with the project by Ducarel's note on the provenance of the manuscripts at the time he bought them: 'April 2, 1760. I purchased these papers of the Revd. Mr. Entick of Stepney, who, in 1743, had bought them at Osborne's sale of the late Earl of Oxford's [Harley's] printed Books . . .'.⁵

Both from this varied history and from the character of the *Advertisement* it is clear that, although attached to a Church Brief, the survey had no legal force behind it, and that the returns themselves, as the anonymous writer already quoted admits, are 'only a collection of private papers and can only be considered as designed for useful and certain information (and not as legal evidence) of the state of small parishes in the year 1705 . . .'. They are, however, of particular importance for Somerset, for diocesan records of the period are not very informative, and the information the returns contain, while of uneven value, is of a kind not found for any other period in the history of the diocese. The unevenness should be emphasised at once; the replies vary in scope from that of William Hussey, rector of Combe Hay, who insisted on repeating each question before giving his answers, to the terse comments from Yeovilton and Chedzoy.

Given the formality of the questions, however, a wide variety of answers emerge, many with the stamp of individualists. Samuel Dell of Exton and Elias Bulgin of Wincanton were obviously proud to have reached the age of 75, the former having served his cure for 50 years, the latter for 43 or 44 years. Dell, in fact, remained at Exton until 1713, having thus held the benefice for 58 years.⁵ No other cleric gave such personal details, but Mr. Redman of Street at least introduced a personal note by

¹ Printed by permission of the Librarian, Lambeth Palace Library. A note by A. C. Ducarel pasted into the front cover of the first volume (MS 960) refers to 1579 returns only.

² Printed below.

³ Unidentified cutting pasted into front cover of MS 960.

⁴ Secretary of State 1704-7.

⁵ *Somerset Incumbents*, ed. F. W. Weaver, 368. Dell is there stated not to have been ordained until 1662.

assuring the compiler of the survey of his prayers in his 'pious endeavours'. The unfortunate Mr. Corey of Chew Magna was unable to serve his cure 'being a lunatick', and his curate had to answer for him.⁶ His brother of Combe Hay declared himself unable to answer some of the questions in detail, on the excuse that he had not held the benefice for long. He had, however, been there since June 1702.⁷ Nicholas Mallarre, or Mallary, of Hawkridge, wrote that several of the questions were beyond his knowledge, 'they being all things forraigne to me, and out of my knowledge'. He had been at Hawkridge since 1693, and it is strange that he knew so little about his church and income.⁸

The care with which many of the returns were made, however, says much for the concern of the clergy involved. Though not particularly relevant, the rector of Seaborough quoted two medieval deeds, the first a royal licence of 1414 allowing the then patron to provide a new site for the parish church, the second one of 1415 by which the patron transferred the site to the rector.⁹ The rector also quoted a custom whereby a groat was taken to Crewkerne parish church after Michaelmas every year, in token that Seaborough was a daughter church. Mr. Dell of Exton quoted his glebe terrier, dated 1638, and also used the evidence of 'some folkes, now dead'; and the rector of Marksbury wrote of two glebe terriers then in the Diocesan Registry at Wells.¹⁰ Mr. Farthing of Winsford described the history of his vicarage, which had been ordained by Bishop Burnell in 1281 and augmented by Bishop Bekynton in 1454, evidence obtained originally from Bekynton's register at Wells.¹¹ Tradition was cited at Burrington to explain how it became independent of the mother church of Wrington; and the rector of Street with Walton told of their practice of celebrating the dedication festivals in both churches.

The main object of the survey was, quite clearly, to investigate the problem of small benefices. The establishment in 1704 of a fund to augment clerical incomes, known as Queen Anne's Bounty, was of the utmost importance in the history of the Church of England. Under its provisions, benefices with the 'clear improved value' of under £50 were to be discharged from the payment of First Fruits and Tenths, and were thereupon eligible for help from the Bounty. It was difficult, as these returns show, to arrive at an accurate valuation of many benefices. The official valuation, the *Valor Beneficiorum* or *Valor Ecclesiasticus*,¹² also referred to as the King's (or Queen's) Books, had been made so long ago as 1535; subsequent assessments, made for diocesan purposes, were in very round figures. And, despite the efforts made in this survey, the 1535 figures continued to be quoted in official publications until the end of the 18th century.¹³

The random sample of clerical incomes provided by these returns from Bath and Wells diocese is by no means satisfactory: twenty incumbents, or nearly a third, failed to answer the relevant question. Of the rest, however, twenty-three replied that they

⁶ But Corey retained the cure until his death in 1709: *Somerset Incumbents*, 252.

⁷ *Somerset Incumbents*, 69.

⁸ *Ibid.* 375.

⁹ Only the licence is quoted in J. Collinson, *History of Somerset*, ii, 174.

¹⁰ The terriers are now in the Somerset Record Office, numbered D/D/Rg 41 (Marksbury) and 343 (Exton).

¹¹ *The Register of Thomas Bekynton*, ed. H. C. Maxwell Lyte and M. C. B. Dawes (Somerset Record Society, 49 and 50), no. 825.

¹² *Valor Ecclesiasticus temp. Henr. VIII auctoritate regia institutus*, ed. J. Caley, with appendix and index by Joseph Hunter (Record Commission, six volumes, 1810-34).

¹³ *Liber Regis vel Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum*, ed. J. Bacon (1786).

had 'about £30' or more, and fifteen (more than a quarter) were under £30, below the level acceptable to the sponsors of the survey, and far below the level of discharge established by Queen Anne's Bounty. Buckland St. Mary provided one of the largest incomes, £80, followed by Chew Magna, where the glebe alone was worth £60. At the other end of the scale was Sampford Arundel, which was under £10, and Burrington, worth only £4 together with glebe and small tithes.

A questionnaire of this kind always gives ample scope for airing grievances. Joseph Wren, vicar of Somerton, implied that the severity of the taxes and the meanness of his parishioners made inroads into his income, and openly stated that the impropiator had usurped part of his tithes under colour of a supposed composition made just before Wren's arrival in the parish. Robert Paine, rector of Chew Stoke, was quite frank about the 'great agreeance' by which the vicar of Chew Magna was endowed with substantial tithes from lands in Chew Stoke, a situation of obvious irony since the vicar of Chew Magna had a large income (and was at the time also a lunatic), while his brother of Chew Stoke had a small one. There were, of course, genuine grievances: the parishioners at South Brewham refused to keep the parsonage house in repair; those of Burrington would not pay their composition and small tithes, leaving the chaplain with his glebe only. At Lyng there was no parsonage house and no glebe, and the vicar in consequence lived in Bridgwater.

Mr. Bloys of Lyng was not the only absentee revealed in these returns. Curates made the answers for Chew Magna (for the mad Mr. Corey), Corton Denham and Dunster. Charles Michell, rector of Stoke Trister, made the return himself, but from his residence at Grange in Dorset. Many of the returns are unsigned, and it is likely that they would reveal further examples of non-residence.

One other point which was of concern to the sponsors of the survey was the question of parochial libraries. Under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Bray (d. 1730) there was a movement current in the early years of the 18th century which culminated in 1709 in the Parochial Libraries Act. Bray's aim was to provide libraries of four types: for the use of incumbents; for laymen, held and administered by incumbents; lending libraries in market towns for the use of neighbouring clergy and gentry; and libraries for country curates¹⁴. The random returns from Somerset show that no libraries of any kind had been established in the diocese but — as the rector of Dunkerton wrote — his cure was 'a poor country village'; returns from some of the towns might have told a different story. Mr. Redman of Street at least recognised the value of such a development.

The main value of these returns is the evidence they contain of clerical incomes in Somerset at the beginning of the 18th century. Individual answers give much more, from the church at Seaborough, erected in the year of Agincourt, to the ruined chapel of St. John at West Dowlish, with its churchyard still in use; from helpful if not effusive clergy to those for whom it was almost too much trouble to answer at all. This is not a history of the church in Somerset in the 18th century, but the material provided by these returns for individual parishes is of great value in elucidating the history of tithes and glebe, often a subject of considerable complexity.

¹⁴ *Trans. Birmingham Arch. Soc.* 79, p. 36. See also Central Council for the Care of Churches, *The Parochial Lending Libraries of the Church of England* (1959).

Editorial Note: With few exceptions, each return is made on a narrow strip of paper cut from the bottom of the Brief for All Saints Church, Oxford, on one side of which the *Advertisement* was printed. The answers were sometimes cramped around the margins of the printed side, or else written on the back. The returns are now bound in five volumes, in no apparent order, and are numbered consecutively throughout. They are here arranged in alphabetical order, though their original numbers are given in the margin.

The original spelling has been retained. Contractions have been extended so far as possible, punctuation added where necessary, and capitalisation has been standardised. Round brackets occur as in the original; square brackets indicate additions. The modern £ has been substituted for l. or li.

NOTITIA PAROCHIALIS: LAMBETH PALACE MSS 960-964

ADVERTISEMENT

To the Reverend the Minister of every Parochial Church or Chappel in England.

Reverend Brother,

There being a Design form'd of publishing *The Present State of Parish-Churches*, giving an Account of all pious Persons who have been Benefactors to the Church since the Reformation; together with several other things that are worthy to be known: You are therefore humbly desired to contribute your kind Assistance to this so useful an Undertaking, by returning a particular Answer (at the bottom, or on the back of this Advertisement) to such of the following Queries, as the case of your Parish, and any neighbour vacant Parish (if such there be) shall require. 1 Are the Tithes, or any part of them, impropriated, and to whom? 2 What part of the Tithes is your Church or Chappel endow'd with? 3 What Augmentation or other Benefaction has your Benefice had, when, and by whom? 4 If your Church or Chappel was founded since the Reformation, when, and by whom? 5 What Union or Dismembring (if any) has been made of your Church, and by whom? 6 What Library is settled or settling in your Parish, and by whom? 7 If the yearly value of your Rectory, Vicarage, or Chappelry be under £30, how much? 8 To whom does the Advowson, Collation, or Donation of your Benefice belong? 9 If it be co-nominal with any other Place, what is the Note of Distinction? 10 If it be a Benefice what is not taken notice of in the *Valor Beneficiorum*, pray express in what Arch-deaconry or Deaconry it is. The Account you'll be pleas'd to give of these or the like Particulars, shall be faithfully apply'd to the Service of the Publick. Pray take care that what you write be at the Foot, or on the Back, of this Advertisement, and not upon the Brief; and if that Paper be too little, you may affix more, and write upon't.

Any Notices relating to this Advertisement, upon the Return of the Briefs, will be taken care of and lodg'd with *William Hawes*, Bookseller, at the *Golden Buck* over-against *S. Dunstan's Church* in *Fleetstreet*, for the AUTHOR, a Divine of the Church of *England*.

1460 ABBAS COMBE Abbas Combe is a rectory and no part of the tithes impropriated; Temple Combe is of the same parish tho' in it a privat chappel belonging to the manner house. The chappel is endowed with no tythes at all. The farme belonging

to the manner house payes no tithes to the church of Abbas Combe under the pretence that they did belong to the order of the Knites Templers; and all tithes in Temple Combe, the antient farme only being excepted, do all pay tithes to the church of Abbas Come.

21y The church is endowed will [*sic*] all tythes, there being no custom or modus to be proved by any of the parish as far as I could ever under stand.

31y There hath been no augmentation or benefaction added to this benefice.

41y When and by whom the church was founded I cannot understand.

51y No union or dismimbring hath been made of this church by any.

61y No library settled or like to be settled in this parish.

71y The vallue you may see in the Queen's Book and judge of it by that.¹

81y The advowson or donation belongs to Sir William Wogon, of Grayes Inn, London, being a seirgant at law.

91y Tis not conominal with any other place.

101y It belongs to the archdeconry of Wells, and in the deconry of Marson [*sic*] Magna, in the county of Somersett,

which is all from your friend and servant
Elias Sweet, Rector ibidem.

- 1475 ANSFORD There is noe part of our tithes impropriated, noe augmentation or benefaction. The church was not founded since the Reformation. No union or dismembring has bin made; noe library setled or setling. The advowson belongs to William Ettrick esquire, of the Temple. The parish is not conominal with any other, and the proper name of it is (I think) Almisford.

Bayford *see* Stoke Trister.

- 61 BISHOP'S LYDEARD Answers to the queries in the Advertisement:

1 The tiths, that is the great tith, is impropriated to the Dean and Chapter of Wells.

2 The church is endowed with the small tith only.

3 This church hath never had any augmentation or benefaction.

4 The church was founded before the Reformation, by whom it is not known.

5 There hath been no union, but a dismembring of the great from the small tith in the reigne of Henry the Eighth.

6 There is no library at all in this parish.

7 The value of the vicaridge is about sixty pounds per annum.

8 The donation of the benefice belongs to the Dean and Chapter of Wells.

9 It is conominall with an other place, and the note of distinction is Bishops, hence it's called Bishops Lideard.

10 It is taken notice of in the Valor Beneficiorum, and lys in the archdeaconry of Taunton.

- 1476 BREWHAM, SOUTH Somersett. Castle Cary Deanary. Brewham.

Is a curacy, part of the impropriation of Brewton. Payes twenty-five pounds per annum to the curate; worth per annum to the impropiator £200. There was, in

¹ The value was £9 9s. 4½d.

or about 1640, an house purchased for the use of the curate by the parishioners, but now out of repair. And the parishioners refuse to keep it in repair for the use of the now curate.

Jno. Albyn.

- 836 BUCKLAND ST. MARY Rectory of Buckland St. Mary, Somerset.
The presentation is in Francis Popham of Litlecot, esquire, Wilts.² The value fourscore pounds per annum. I can't find any augmentation at any time, nor any thing that is worthy of remark. It lies in the arch-deaconry of Crewkern. The present rector is Mr. Joseph Barker.
- 226 BURREINGTON Burington is a chappel, founded before the Reformation, belonging to Wrinton in the archdeakonry of Bath; 'tis dedicated to the H[oly] Trinity, as Wrinton is to All Saints. By whom it was founded, or who was its benefactor, I know not. There is belonging to it a tolerable hous, garden and orchyard, with about 16 acres of glebe, and the small tithes, which the rector of Wrinton has parted with for the use of the chaplain of Burington time out of mind; for which, as the tradition goes, the benefactor of the chappell gave an estate to the rectory of Wrinton, worth about £17 per annum, which is more than the small tithes are worth now. The people of Burington do choos and present their chaplain, who is approved of by the rector of Wrinton, a priviledg granted them on condition they would pay their chaplain four pounds per annum, besides the small tithes, which now they refuse to do.
- 1462 CAMERTON Reverend Sir, Camerton, in Somersetshire, is a rectory, and the jus patronatus is in the family of the Carews; and Thomas Carew esquire is the present patron thereof.
- 56 CHARLTON HORETHORNE Charlton Horethorn.
The tythes there are impropriated to Mrs. Blagdon; all the tythes belong to the vicar except the corn and hay landoll.³ The corn of Witcum Farm⁴ belongs to the vicar. The advowson belongs to Mr. Blagdon. No First Fruits paid. It lyes in Merston deaconry in the county of Sommerset.
- 651 CHEDZOY Reverend Sir, Chedzoy, Somerset.
There is nothing material in relation to your queries in this parish, the minister being endow'd with all tithes, and the right of advowson in the present rector.
Oct. 2nd 1705 Thomas Coney
- 58 CHERITON, NORTH Reverend Sir, In the parish of North Cheriton, neer Wincanton, in the county of Somerset, diocese of Bath and Wells, archdeaconry of Wells, and deanry of Merston, there is a farm, called Latterford Farm,⁵ whereunto antiently belonged a chappell endowed with glebe lands and the tithe of the farm. The glebe is of the value of sixteen pounds per annum or upward. But now the glebe and tithes of the farm are in the hands of one Mr. Oake, a layman, living neer Crookhorn,⁶ in the county of Somerset. The tithes of the farm, which are impropriated,

² Littlecote Park, Wilts., near Hungerford, Berks.

³ Land doles were portions of common land allotted to certain land holders.

⁴ Whitcomb Farm, partly in Corton Denham.

⁵ Possibly Lattiford Farm in Holton.

⁶ Crewkerne.

are more than a third part of my present tithes, and the impropriated glebe is more than half of my present glebe. The advowson of my benefice belongs to George Rives of Ranston,⁷ near Shroton in the county of Dorset, esquire.
Reverend Sir, I am your humble servant

John Sampson, rector of North Cheriton.

- 234 CHEW MAGNA This parish of Chew Magna, together [*sic*] with the chappell of ease of Dundrey, in the diocess of Bath and Wells and the deanery of Bedminster, is a vicarage endowed with the great tythes as well as small, only two pence an acre in lieu of tythe hay; also some of the tythes impropriated, some to Mr. Popham and Mr. Baber, near to the 3rd part. There is belonging to the said vicarage a considerable quantity of glebe land in Chew, near to the value of threescore pound per annum, and a good manner of several tenenements [*sic*], both in Chew and Dundrey.⁸ The next presentation of the said vicarage is litigious, the present incumbent Mr. Michael Corey being a lunatick. This is all we have material to communicate in answer to the advertismment within.

Your affectionate brother,

Wm. Cheswell, curate.

- 1256 CHEW STOKE The advertisement and information of Robert Paine, rector of Chewstoke in the county of Somerset, in the dioces of Bath and Wells, and in the deanery of Bedminster, as also belonging to the archdeacon of Bath's jurious-diction, as followeth in answer, in full, to the tenn queryes incerted on the other side, etc. September the 5^o, 1705.

1 Two parts of three of our tyth corn growing on the greatest part of the Abby Land⁹ are impropriated, to geather with all the mortuaries of Chewstoke, unto Chew Episcopi alijs [*sic*] Chew Magna, the next parish to us, which have been saught after. And it hath been our great agreevance to be under such usurpation, the vicar of Chew having nothing to do in our parish church, neither ever did or doth of (due) do any service in our parish church, neither hath, or ever had, any juriousdiction over our rector. But it lies on their part to prove how they came by such a powre and interest in Chewstoke profitts, the minister whereof having been exposed to many hardships to maintaine himselfe and family.

2 Our church and rectory is endowed with all the corn of the Knighten hold¹⁰ in Chewstoke and some little part of the Abby hold,¹¹ and the smaller tythes of the whole parish, to nere the improved value of £15 per annum, together with the glebe.

3 Wee have no augmentation to our parish church, only a benefaccion of two sermons yearly, given by Mr. John Lush of Chewstoke above 100 yeares sinc, paid out £30 given for a trading use, which was discontinued by the trustees thereof of late, and very hazardus of being lost by the misscarriage of the trustees, the late Bpp. Kidder &c.

⁷ Ranston House, near Shroton (or Iwerne Courtney), Dorset.

⁸ See F. A. Wood, *Collections for a Parochial History of Chew Magna* (1903), 210-12.

⁹ Keynsham Abbey held one of the manors in Chew, known as Stoke Abbatis.

¹⁰ Stoke Militis was the name of the second manor in Chew.

¹¹ See note 9.

4 Our church was founded doubtles long before the Reformation of which wee have the footsteps of one John Barrie, rector there 1529,¹² in the First Fruit Office etc.

5 Wee can not give any further account of the dissmembring of these tythes taken and carryed away by the vicars of Chew Episcopi alijs [*sic*] Chew Magna, which they are now questionable for Chewstoke.

6 Wee have no libery settled or settling in our parish of Chewstoke, nor almes-house, only a poor church hous.

7 Our rectory of Chewstoke is under the value of £15 per annum, besides the deduction of tenths and taxes with reparations.

8 Our donacion, that gives presentation, was Dux New Castle when the present rector was settled in 43 yeares since, but now Gabriel Odingsells, gent., lord of the manor of [Chewstoke].

9 Our rectory is no way conominale with any other place but independent of it selfe.

10 Our benefice is taken notice of in the Valor Beneficiorum and payes 14s. & 4d. yearly here.

- 785 CHILLINGTON The church was founded before the Reformation. The tithes of the parish of Chillington are impropriated to the Right Honorable John, Lord Paulett, Barron of Henton St. Gorge [*sic*], in comitatu Sommerset, and he payes the curate. The valew of the tithes of the said parish are forty pounds per annum.
- 1472 COMBE HAY Answers to the queries contained in the advertisement at the foot of this Brief with relation to the parochial church of Combhay, *alias* Combhawey, in the county of Somersett.
- Q 1st Whether the tythes, or any part of 'em, are impropriated, or to whom?
- Q 2nd What part of the tythes is your church endowed with? Answer: I have not been many yeares possessed of my benefice, and am not my self so fully satisfied in all particulars concerning the tythes belonging to my parsonage as to be able to give you a plenary and satisfactory answer concerning them.
- Q 3rd What augmentation or other benefaction has your benefice had? Answer It has had no augmentation or benefaction that I know of.
- Q 4th Whether your church was founded since the Reformation, when and by whom? Answer: I suppose 'twas founded before the Reformation, but when and by whom I cannot resolve you.
- Q 5th What union or dismembring has been made of your church? Answer: I know of no union or dismembring that has been made in itt.
- Q 6th What library is settled or settling in your parish? Answer: There is neither a library settled nor settling in it.
- Q 7th If the yearly value of your rectory be under 30 pounds, how much? Answer: The yearly value of my rectory is not under 30 pounds.
- Q 8th To whom does the donation of your benefice belong? Answer: The mannor

¹² John Barrie or Barrey was rector from 1524-46: *Somerset Incumbents*, ed. F. W. Weaver, 253. His name appears over the door of the old rectory, with the date 1529: J. Collinson, *History of Somerset*, ii, 103; N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: North Somerset and Bristol*, 161.

belonging to this place, with the right of donation of the benefice, is upon the point of sale, so that the right of donation is as yet pendulous.

Q 9th If it is co-nominal with any other place? Answer: 'tis not co-nominal with any other place that I know of.

Q 10th If it be a benefice that is not taken notice of in the Valor Beneficiorum &c. Answer: It is taken notice of there.

Wm. Hussey, rector de Combhay.

241 CORSTON Imprimis. The great tithes of the parish of Corston are in the hands of Madam Harrington of Kelston, widow.

2ly My church is endowed with very small tithes which you'l find in the seventh query.

3ly As for augmentation or benefaction, Corston hath had none that I know of.

4ly I suppose my church was founded before the Reformation.

5ly As for union or dismembring, Sir, I know of none.

6ly There is no library either settled or settling.

7ly As for the yearly value of my little vicarage, at the very outside 'tis not twenty pounds per annum.

8ly The advowson, collation or donation of my benefice belong to my Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells.

9ly Corston is joyning to Burnett and about three miles from Bath.

10ly Tis not taken notice of in the Valor Beneficiorum; and 'tis in the deaconary of Bedminster.

John Clark, vicar.

870 CORTON DENHAM Corton Denham. Sir, In answer to the queries above:

1 & 2 No part of the tithes is appropriated.

3 & 4 Our benefice and church has been time out of mind as it now is.

5 No union or dismembring has been made of it, as I can learn.

6 Here is no library etc.

7 The yearly value of the rectory is above £30.

8 The advowson belongs to the Portmans.

Yours, Edmund Burton, curate.

346 CULBONE The yearly value of the rectory of the parish of Kitnor *alias* Culbone is sixteen pounds. It belongs to the archdeaconry of Taunton, in the county of Somerset. The advowson belongs to John Fry, esquire.

1458 DINDER Dinder parish in the county of Somersetshire. A particular answer to each article on the other side.

Art. 1, 2 The tithes are not appropriated to any one, but they are all due and paid to the minister of the parish only.

Art. 3, 4, 5 There has been no benefaction to the church, which was founded before the Reformation; when and by whom we find not.

Art. 6 There is no library settled nor settling in the parish.

Art. 7 The yearly value of all the tythes amounts only to fifteen pound per annum.

Art. 8 The donation of it is in the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the cure being annex'd

to a prebend; the old rent of which is only twelve shillings per annum. Ther is also a corps stated out on 3 lives, valued at ten pounds per annum.

9 It is not co-nominal with any other place.

10 Tis a peculiar, and in the jurisdiction of the Dean of Wells. Finis.

663 DODINGTON In answer to the queries proposed in the within written advertisement, these are to certify all whom it doth or may concern:

1 That Dodington, in the archdeaconry of Taunton and diocesse of Bath and Wells, is an entire and independent rectory.

2 That it was founded before the Reformation.

3 That it is endowed with all manner of tythes payable to the rectour in kind, except hay, for which is paid for some lands a penny, and for others two pence per acre, according to custome.

4 That the true valew therof doth not exceed £30 per annum.

5 And lastly that it is in the donation of George Dodington, esquire, and at present in the possession of mee, Jo. Marshfield, rector.

837 DOWLISH WAKE and DOWLISH, WEST East Dolish *alias* Dowlish Wake is a rectory. The tythes are not impropriated, but by means of an ancient custom or pretended modus, the patron's estate of about £80 per annum pays only 10s. per annum to the minister. The patron's name is John Speke, esquire. The church belongs to the arch-deaconry of Taunton in Somerset. The value in the Queen's Books is about eight pounds per annum. There was anciently a chappel at West Dowlish, call'd St. John's chappel. The ruines remain and the inhabitants burie in the yard, but the chappel being demolished is now become a sinecure, value about £30 per annum. The patron John Speke, esquire. Never given with East Dolish in the memory of man, but is now enjoyed by Mr. John Pritchard, vicar of Whitelackington.

351 DULVERTON Dulverton, D[eanery] of Dunster. Reverend Sir, In answer to those articles you have proposed, I say:

1st That the part of the great tithes of Dulverton are impropriated to the dean and Chapter of Wells.

2nd That the vickaridge is endowed with the small tithes of the whole parish, and an estate called the Sanctuary, and the great tithe of an estate called Cockel Smarle, and part of the barton of Bierre.¹³

3rd No augmentation had been made since its foundation as I know of.

4th The church was founded before the Reformation.

5th If any union has been, 'twas upon the dissolution of Barlegde [*sic*] Abby.¹⁴ No dismembring as I can learn.

6th There is no library or any setling.

7th The yearly value is above thirty pounds per annum.

8th The nomination is in the power of the Dean and Chapter of Wells, according to their rolls [?].

9th I do not know it conominall with any place.

10th Tis taken notice of in the Valor Beneficiorum.

¹³ Perhaps Old Berry in Dulverton.

¹⁴ i.e. Barlinch Abbey.

Dundry *see* Chew Magna.

- 1457 DUNKERTON Somersetshire. Dunkerton parish in the deanry of Froom-Selwood. Answer to the 1st query: There are noe tythes either impropriated or appropriated. Answer to the 2nd query: The church is endowed with greater and lesser tythes. Answer to the 3rd query: It had noe augmentation or benefaction since the first endowment I know of. Answer to the 4th query: The church was founded, I presume, before the Reformation. Answer to the 5th query: There has been made no union or dismembring. Answer to the 6th query: There is no library either settled or ever like to be, it being a poor country village. Answer to the 7th and 10th queries: The benefice is taken notice of in the Valor Beneficiorum. Answer to the 8th query: The advowson belongs to the family of the Bampfilds of Poltimore, in the county of Devon. Answer to the 9th query: There is noe other place co-nominal with it I ever heard of.

Witness my hand, Thomas Piers, rector.

- 442 DUNSTER Dunster, October the 8th 1705. To the author of forming a design of publishing the present state of parish churches. Sir, In compliance with your request, I have herein given you my assistance and answer to the best of my knowledg relating to the several queries contain'd in this advertisement viz:
1st The tithes, both great and small, of this my parish of Dunster are impropriated to the private use of the Honourable Sir Hugh Stewkley, barronett.
2ly The right of appointing a minister to perform the offices of that church belongs to the impropiator.
3ly I find by the terrier of the parish¹⁵ that this benefice has the denomination of a viccaridge, and the endowment as such is only a small garden, one meddow containing by estimate three yard of ground, and eight pounds per annum to be paid by the impropiator. But Sir Hugh Stewley [*sic*], out of his bounty, makes an addition of £30 pound per annum to be paid to the curate. This is all the assistance that can be given towards the advancement of this undertaking by

Your unknown friend and humble servant, Wm. Kymer, curate.

- 352 EXTON Reverend Sir, The answer of Samuel Dell, rector of Exton in the diocese of Bath etc. to your several queries is to
1st No part of the tythes are impropriated.
2 Our church is endowed with all manner of tythes in kind, save some customary payments, as for a cow, 2*d.* in lieu of milk, etc., and 6*d.* for the fall of a calfe, and 2*s.* for a grist mill.
3 I have heard some old folkes, now dead, say that a small tenement called Sutcombe was given to the parsonage to better the glebe by the lord of the

¹⁵ Somerset Record Office, D/D/Rg 340 (dated 1634).

mannour of Exton and patron of benefice; his name Rolle, of Heaunton Sachevile in parish of Petrockston, commonly call'd Padstow in Devon.¹⁶ However that be, our terrier of the houses and parts of glebe lands hath not the name of Sutcombe, tho' some of the parts are so call'd at this day. Yet mentions a dwelling house on the overside of the glebe, with a garden, which house was raised [*sic*] before I enjoyed the parsonage more then fifty yeares past, and it seemes long before. The terrier mentioned beares date 1638;¹⁷ hath no portion of tythes, nor have we one of a later date.

To 4 query: Our church not founded since the Reformation, likely some ages before.

5 query: No union or dismembr[ing] as I ever heard off.

6 query: No library viz. publike.

7 query: Yearely value is not under £30.

8 query: The donation now belongs to one John Jeanes (of Wollastington¹⁸ parish nigh unto Bridgwater) gentleman, who bought the manour, with the donation of the rectory, of one Robert Syderfin (of the parish of Carhampton nigh Dunster) esquire. The said Robert Syderfin (a Dissenter) before he sold the manour to J.J. aforesaid, sold the next advowson (over my head) to one Mr. Wm. Cogan for [*blank*]. The manour etc. came to the hands of the said Mr. Robert from his brother Thomas Syderfin, a councellour,¹⁹ who bought it of Collonel Samuel Rolls now living, whose father, a deceased [*blank*] Collonel Robert Rolls, gave me the presentation and possession of the said rectory of Exton in the yeare of our Lord 1655.²⁰ And I have a durative deed under the hands and seales of the said R.R. and of his trustees by me this day.

To 9 query: There is no parish conominal with Exton in diocese and county of Somersett.

10 query: Exton is not such a benefice as you describe. Howe'r 'tis within the arch-deaconry of Taunton and deanary of Dunster.

Rev. Sir, Pardon the defects and impertinencies of this answer to yours (to serve you to the utmost of my knowledg or hearesay).

Samuel Dell, aged 75

October 5^o 1705

753 FARMBOROUGH An account of the state of the parish church of Farmborow in the county of Somerset and the deanery of Bedminster.

1 This parish church is a rectory without any impropriation.

2 The rector hath the tithes of every thing that is tithable.

3 I know nothing of any augmentation or benefaction to the benefice.

4 It was founded before the Reformation, depending from the monastery of Keinsham.

5 It was united with a neighbouring parish called Timsbury: two friars out of the monastery of Keinsham residing here did officiate in both places.²¹

¹⁶ Heanton Satchville in Patroockstow, Devon.

¹⁷ Somerset Record Office, D/D/Rg 343.

¹⁸ i.e. Woolavington.

¹⁹ i.e. a lawyer: *Somersetshire Wills*, ed. F. A. Crisp, iii. 90.

²⁰ He was not ordained until 1662: Somerset Record Office D/D/Vc 41.

²¹ There is no evidence for this.

6 Here is no library.

7 The advowson or presentation belongs to the honourable family of the Pophams.

8 It is not co-nominal with any other place.

9 It is mentioned in the Valer Beneficiorum.

Subscribed by me, Solomon Pages, rector ibidem.

- 240 HARPTREE, WEST Somerset. West Harptry is a vicaridge of small tyths only, to the value of five and twenty pounds a year, in the Prince's gift.²² The rest of the tyths are impropriated to Maurice Bocland of Stanelynych, county Wilts. esquire, let at ten pound a year.

John Smith, vicar.

- 349 HAWKRIDGE October 6th 1705. Reverend Sir, In answer to your request mentioned in this advertismnt, this is to acquaint ye as followeth, vizt: That the place which I serve, whereof I am the present rector or incumbent, is upon my presentation and orders of institution and induction thus described, scil.: Rectoria ecclesia parochialis de Hawkridge, una cum capella de Withipoole in comitatu Somersett, infra Bathon. et Wellens. diocaess etc. And the whole tythes, both great and small, are payable, and have been usually payd, to the minister onely. And the person that hath the perpetual advowson, collation or donation of this benefice is one Mrs. Elizabeth Portbury, a clergy-man's widow. And this gentlewoman hath a son that is a clergy-man in orders to whom, I suppose, she intends to give the next presentation after my decease.²³

This, Sir, is what I can inform you in the premises, and can say nothing to the rest of the quearies mencioned in the advertismnt, they being all things forraigne to me, and out of my knowledge. Who, with my humble service to you presented (tho' unknown), take leave to subsigne my self

Your most humble servant Nicli. Mallarre.

Huish *see* Pitney.

- 329 HUNTSPILL Sir, In answeere (to wit) concerniens the rectory of Huntspill as touching the quiries mencioned at the foot of the Briefe in the other side (is as follows) viz: that the parrish of Huntspill, lying in the county of Somersett, pay all their tythes both small and great to the rector of the said parrish church; the which church was founded before the Reformacion. The present patron of the said church is one Mr. Jn. Trippe, a layman living in the county aforesaid. The church of Huntspill lyes in the deanery of Powlett, being under the arch deacon of Wells.
- 833 KINGSTONE Kingstone near Ilminster in Somerset is a donative in the arch deaconry of Taunton. All the tythes are by a lease from the Vicars of Wells²⁴ granted at this day to Henry Tripp, gent., and he pays a salary of sixteen pounds per annum for serving the cure.

Kitnor *see* Culbone.

- 652 LYNG Sir, Linge is a long parish lying in the road between Wells and Taunton, and a very poor vicarage with about fifteen pounds per annum, without any

²² i.e. the Prince of Wales.

²³ George Portbury succeeded Mallarre in 1714: *Somerset Incumbents*, 375.

²⁴ i.e. the College of Vicars Choral at Wells.

vicarage house, stall or stable, and not one acre of glebe belonging to it. Mr. Samuell Atkins of Bridgwater is the patron and has the impropriation. It is in the deanery of Bridgwater.

Y[ou]r Gilbert Bloys, vicar. Bridgwater, October 5th 1705.

- 1255 **MARKSBURY** Marksbury, within the diocess of Bath and Wells, in the arch-deaconry of Bath and the deaconry of Bedminster, is a rectory. The tithes of the whole parish, great and small, belongs [*sic*] to the rector, as may appear by two several terriers made in the last century, now in the Register's office at Wells.²⁵ The value of it is above £30 per annum. The advowson belongs to the Honourable Alexander Popham, esquire, of Littlecott in the county of Wilts.²⁶ No union or dismembring. No late augmentation [*sic*] or benefaction. The church not founded since the Reformation, not co-nominal with any other place or parish church or chappel. It is taken notice of in the Valor Beneficiorum. William Radford at present rector *ibidem*. The tenths to the Queen twenty shillings and fivepence.
- 55 **MARSTON MAGNA**²⁷ The tythes impropriated to Sir John St. Barbe, barronett. In augmentation of 16 bushells of wheat to be paid at Martin's day by eight principal livings is 13 bushells by [*blank*] impropriator and 40s. in money at the same time. Worth about £25 per annum. Is in [the] arch deanry of Wells.
- 1449 **MIDSOMER NORTON** Midsomer Norton *alias* Norton *Canonicorum* in comitatu Somerset, a vicaridge endow'd.
 Sir, In answer to your queries I send you this following account of the parish above written.
 1 The great tithes are impropriated and belong to Christ Church Colledge in Oxon.
 2 A small part of the great tithes in one part of this parish aforesaid, called Benters, belong to the vicar, and some little tenements; and odd acres pay tithe hay and corn to the vicar; as also the vicar receives all privy tithe except tithe lamb, which the lessee receives.
 3 No augmentation or benefaction.
 4 The church founded before the Reformation.
 5 No union or dismembring that I know of.
 6 No library.
 7 The yearly value about £30 per annum.
 8 The advowson, collation and donation belong to the Colledge of Christ Church in Oxon.
 9 It is in the arch deaconry of Wells and deanery of Froom.
 Yours Thomas Coxeter, vicar *ibidem*.
- 347 **MONKSILVER** The advowson of the church of Monksilver in the diocese of Bath and Wells belongs to the Honourable Sir Philip Sydenham, baronet, by vertue of a lease from the Dean and Chapter of the church of Windsor.

²⁵ Somerset Record Office, D/D/Rg 41 (dated 1606, 1638).

²⁶ See note 2.

²⁷ This is assumed to refer to Marston Magna, although there is no direct indication on the return. The only other church in which Sir John St. Barbe had an interest was Ashington, which is a rectory.

- 1459 NORTON MALREWARD The return of the rector of Norton Male-reward in the county of Somerset in the dioces of Bath and Wells, in the deanery of Bedminster and the archdeaconary of Bath, this 26 of August 1705, as followeth:
- 1 Our rectory of Norton Malereward is not impropiated.
 - 2 It is indowed with corn, hay and all prediale tythes.
 - 3 Wee have no augmentation neither benefaccion.
 - 4 Our church was founded long before the Reformation.
 - 5 We have had no dissmembring of our church.
 - 6 Wee never had any libery there.
 - 7 The value at an improved rent ne[a]r £20 per annum only, subject 13s. 4d. per annum to the Queen. An old rent 18s. 3d. yearly for tenths.
 - 8 The advousand or presentation after the next turn of presentation belongs to Richard Holder, marchant of London, or his heyres.
 - 9 Our parish is conominall with no other parish.
 - 10 Our parish church is taken notice of in the Valor Beneficiorum for paying tenths aforesaid of 18s. 3d. yearly, to which we subscribe.
- Robert Paine, rector
John Silke and [blank], churchwardens.
- 1004 OTTERFORD Sir, The tithes are impropiated to Mr. Henery Coombs, a Bristol merchant. The value is fifty pounds per annum. It lies in the arch-deaconry of Taunton.
- 1003 PENNARD, EAST The answer of Nath[aniel] Browne, vicar of East Pennard in the county of Somerset, to the several questions in the advertisement annex to the Brief for All Saints Church in Oxford.
- 1 All the great tithes both in Pennard and West Bradley (the chappel annex) are impropiated, the first to Serjeant Coward, lately deceased, and now enjoy'd by his son, William Coward of Wells (Somerset), the latter to Madam Strowd of Street, near Glaston.
 - 2 All the small dues (i.e. hey and corn only excepted), though with pretty hard customes, as four-pence an orchard, three pence a cow and two pence a heifer &c. in Pennard belong to the vicarage, with one acre of glebe. Tith aples are at Bradley, but all the west end of the parish pay their whole tithes to Madam Strowd, and only two pence offrings to the vicar. And such as pay so are called Sexton's tenants.
 - 3 There has been no augmentation made to either place.
 - 4 The church and chappel were both built before the Reformation.
 - 5 And been united time out of mind.
 - 6 No library.
 - 7 Both places together are commonly valued at near thirty pounds, though it wants somewhat of that.
 - 8 The impropiator of Pennard (who holds from the bishop of Bath and Wells) usually presents.
 - 9 Two Pennards, East and West, are near adjoyning.
 - 10 The value in the Queen's Books is such as requires no first fruits.
 - 11 They are in the archdeaconry of Wells and deanry of Castle-Carey.

- 1477 **PENSELWOOD** The answer of Rich[ard] Clarke, rector in the parish of Penzelwood, denary of Castle Cary and arch-deaconary of Bath and Wells.
 1mo There are noe tythes of any sort impropriated.
 2do The foresaid rectory is endowed with all sorts of thyths, viz: greate and small.
 3ly I know noe augmentations the benefice have received.
 4ly I believe the foresaid church was founded long before the Reformation, but by whom founded I know not.
 5ly I know not any alteration or dismembring in the foresaid church.
 6ly There is no library settled in the foresaid parish.
 7ly The yearly value of the rectory is not under £30 per annum.
 8ly The avosonage or donation of the foresaid rectory appertaines to three patrons who do present alternis vicibus, viz: the Honourable Collonel Thomas Strangways of Melbury Sampford in the county of Dorset, Sir Edward Wyndham of Orchard Wyndham in the county of Somerset, and to Eward [*sic*] King, living in the foresaid parish of Penzelwood.
 9ly I know not any place that is conominall with this parish in the foresaid arch-deaconary.
 10ly The benefice is taken notice of in the Valor Beneficiorum.
 Rich[ard] Clarke, rector *ibidem*.
- 1469 **PITNEY** As to the first, the thiths are not impropriated; however, almost halfe the great thiths belong to the parsonage of Huish, which parsonage is in lay hands, altho' held by lease from the archdeacon of Wells. As to the 2nd, corn, hay, aples, lamb, wool and other privey thiths. As to the 3rd, 2 acres of pasture, but when not known. As to the 8 'tis one Mr. Pyne. And to the last, 'tis in Ilchester deaconry.
- 350 **PORLOCK** Porlock rectory in the diocese of Bath and Wells and archdeaconry of Taunton and deanery of Dunster.
 1 The tyths there are not impropriated.
 2 All tyths are or should be paid and I know not any that have been (except by law) endowed.
 3 I know no augmentation.
 4 The church was founden before the Reformation, but by whom I know not.
 5 I know no union or dismembring.
 6 There is no library settled in the parish.
 7 The yearly value is above £30 per annum.
 8 The advowson belongs to the Queen.
 9 It is not conominal.
 10 It is taken notice of in the Valor Beneficiorum.
 Ita testor Guliel[mus] Michell, rector of Porlock.
- 1348 **SAMPFORD ARUNDEL** Sampford-Arrundle in the county of Somerset, in the arch-deaconry of Taunton.
 The great tythes are wholly impropriated to John Woodberry, of the parish of Burlescombe. The church is endow'd with the small tythes only. The yearly value of this vicarage doth not exceed ten pounds per annum. The donation did belong to the co-heirs of the Bluetts of Holecombe-Rogus, but is now lapsed into the hands of the Queene.

- 834 SEABOROUGH Seaborrow is in the archdeaconry of Taunton, and hath in it a chapple, and owneth Crewkern to be her mother church, and doth and ought customarily to send yearly, as an acknowledgment, upon the first Sunday after the day of the feast of St. Michael, the key of the chapple with a groat, and lay it on the chancell-board in the church of Crewkern. Where or when this chapple was first built is uncertain, but it appears by a Pattent²⁸ now in the custody of Mr. Martin of Seaborrow, bearing date the 10th day of November in the second year of the reign of Henry the 5th, authorizing Mr. Jno. Gold of Seaborrow, the then patron (notwithstanding the statute of Mortmain), to give for the rebuilding and removing of the church or chapple of Seaborrow a certain quantity of ground, viz: 100 feet in length and sixty feet in breadth; who accordingly gave by his deed indented, bearing date the 10th day of January in the second year of the reign of Henry the 5th (now in the custody also of Mr. Martin), to Jno. Threder, the then rector of Seaborrow, a certain quantity of ground, viz: 46 feet in length and 36 feet in breadth, for the building and transferring of the chapple from the place where it before stood to a place more eminent, and for the parishioners more convenient. Seaborrow is a rectory, and hath no part of his tyths impropriated. It joyns with some part of the parish of Broadwinsor in the county of Dorset and particularly with a little tenement about £7 or £8 a year value, which pays to the rector of Seaborrow 8*d.* per annum in lieu of tythe, and pays tythe no where else.²⁹ The advouzon belongs to Mr. Martin before mentioned, and to Mr. Sharp, the now rector thereof; that is to say Mr. Sharp presents twice in three times and Mr. Martin once in three times.
- 1574 SELWORTHY³⁰ Selworthy parish. In obedience to your advertisement I have here sett down the answers to your several queries (viz.):
 First That the tithes are not impropriated.
 2dly It is an intire rectory endowed both with great and small tithes.
 3dly As to any augmentation, none of late yeares that I can hear of or can be informed of.
 4thly That 'twas founded before the Reformation; as to number of years none can tell me. Since the Reformation, I do believe that a hall and parlour with a kitching were erected.
 5thly As to union, there are four chappels in the said rectory, which were of use in the times of popery to some Romish lords of the manner: one in the tithing of Alliford,³¹ another in the tithing of Balckford [*sic*],³² and at Tivington, vulgarly so called, another; one in the tithing of Bosington³³ and in the mannor of Holnicott,³⁴ belonging to William Martyn, esquire, in good repair and kept for pious use. The others are put to mean and sundry uses. As to dismembring there is too,

²⁸ The licence is in *Calendarium rotulorum chartarum et inquisitionum ad quod damnum*, ed. J. Caley (Record Commission), 370; cited in Collinson, *History of Somerset*, ii, 174.

²⁹ See G. P. R. Pulman, *The Book of the Axe*, 99, note 1.

³⁰ This is the only answer from Somerset entered on a separate sheet.

³¹ Allerford.

³² Blackford.

³³ Bossington.

³⁴ Holnicote.

four sh[ill][in]gs paid yearly to the abby of Old Cleive,³⁵ and twenty sh[ill][in]gs to Eaton Colledge, as a stipendary yearly.

6thly There is no library settled nor intended to be settled that I know of, or ever will be as I suppose.

7thly The yearly val[u]e of the parish is above £30 per annum.

8thly The advowson or donation belongs to the Honurabel John, Lord Arrundell, Baron of Trerice in Cornw[a]ll, and to his heirs for ever.

9thly It is absolute and in it selfe and no dependance on any other parochiall or parish church.

10ly It is in Valor Beneficiorum £14 and odd monies; and in the arch-deaconry of Tanton and deanery of Dunster, in the county of Somerset. In testimony hereof this 28th day of September, 1705, there unto sett my hand.

John Galard, rector ibidem.

1011 SHAPWICK Shapwick in the county of Somerset, with the chappel of Ashcot annexed.

1 The greatest part of tithes were impropriated to Henry Bull, esquire, late of the parish aforesaid.

2 Our church is endowed with the privy tithes, some glebe, and the corn tithes of the litle village called Pedwol.³⁶

3 Noe augmentation.

4 Founded before the Reformation.

5 Noe union or dismembring that I know.

6 No library settled or setling.

7 It is above the value of £30 per annum.

8 The advowson or collation etc. belongs to Francis Roll, esquire.

9 I know noe conominal place in this diocese.

10 It pays noe first fruits, therefore I conceive that it is not taken notice of in Valor Beneficiorum.

835 SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP Shepton Beauchamp. There is nothing to bee return'd concerning the within mention'd queries, but only that the living is a rectory, the value betweene fifty and sixty pounds per annum, the patron the Lord Bruce.

1470 SOMERTON Somerton in Somerset. The answer of Joseph Wren, vicar there, to the within printed queries.

To the 1st All the great tithes are appropriated to Mr. Tristram Flower, tenant of Collonel Wyndham of Salisbury, farmer of the Dean and Chapter of Bristol. To the 2nd He has also the tith-hay of such grounds as are never overflowen. But this church is endow'd with *1d.*, *1d.ob.* or *2d.* per acre as a modus decimandi for most of the water meadow. All other privy tithes do of right belong to the vicar, tho' the appropriator usurps in 3 or 4 gardens whose tithes are considerable, because paid in kind or compounded for. For the rest, is paid *1d.* per garden to the vicar, *1d.* for cow-white &c. He usurps also by a pretended modus of 10 years standing, *2s. 6d.* per annum for the herbage of a ground called Upper-Henlys whose rent is £7, depastur'd by an Innkeeper with guest horses.

³⁵ Presumably to the owner of the Cleeve Abbey estate.

³⁶ Pedwell.

To the 4th Tis not well known when this church was founded, or by whom those eight tenements were given for the maintenance of the same. But this is certaine, that the chief rents of them amount to £7 12s. 10½*d.* per annum.

To the 7th The value of this vicarage is not under £30 nor truly much above, considering the number of the parishioners (*viz.* 1100) and the severity of the taxes.

To the 8th The sole and undoubted patron of this church is the Right Honourable Thomas, Earle of Ailesbury.

910 STOCKLINCH OTTERSEY Stocklinch Ottersay. The gift of the rectory of Stocklinch Ottersey in the county of Somerset is in the Right Honourable John, Lord Poulet, Baron of Henton St. George.

1478 STOKE TRISTER The parish of Stoke-Bayford is a small parish in the county of Sommerset, in the arch-deaconry of Wells and deanery of Carey, consisting of 2 small hamlets, the one called Stoke-Trister, where the parish church stands, and the other Bayford, where is the parsonage-house, about a mile asunder. The church was founded (I presume) before the Reformation, and endowed with full tithes and a poor scattered glebe. The advowson belongs to the lord and lady of the manor (the heires of Sir Hugh Wyndam, one of the judges of the common pleas), by name Rachell, countesse of Bristol, and Nathanael Nappier junior, esquire, and after the death of the said countesse, entirely to the said Nathanael Napier.

Yours Charles Michell, rector, of Grange in the county of Dorset.

1242 STREET WITH WALTON Revd. Brother, I present you with an answer to your queries in the order you propose them; and this account serves for Street and Walton.

1 Neither the whole nor any part of the tithes of Street and Walton are impropriated.

2 Street, the mother church, and Walton, the daughter, or chappel annexed, are endow'd with predial tithes, as corn and hay etc., and all other small tithes whatsoever.

3 This church and chappel, as they have had no diminution, so neither have they had any augmentation or benefaction; but have been happier than their neighbour churches 3 or 4 miles round to preserve their own primitive rights.

4 This church and chappel were founded, I conceive, long before the Reformation, but by whom I know not. The chappel of Walton (doubtlesse it was a distinct parish church of it self before it was annexed) was dedicated and consecrated upon Whitsunday, for that day is kept at Walton as a great festival in honour of the dedication of the church; as as [*sic*] the mother church at Street was dedicated on Trinity Sunday, which is the great festival of that parish upon the like occasion.

5 The chappel of Walton, which before was a distinct church of it self, has been annexed many yeares, but when and by whom I know not.

6 We are not so happy as to have any publique library either at Street or Walton, nor do I hear of anyone that designes us so great a bounty.

7 The yearly value of this rectory of Street and Walton is above £30.

8 The advowson of this rectory belongs to the Right Honourable Lord Vice-Count Weymouth, the patron of the present incumbent.

9 Walton is co-nominal with another place in the deanery of Redcliff near Bristol. There is also another place in the county of Somerset call'd Street in the Vosse or Fosseway. But there is neither church nor chappel in that Street, it belongs to the parish of Pill.³⁷

10 This rectory of Street and Walton are in the Valor Beneficiorum under the Jurisdiction of Glaston.

There remain nothing more but the prayers, for a blessing of successe upon your pious endeavours, of, Sir, your humble servant,

T. Redman.

60 TIMSBURY All the account that I can give of the present state of the parish church of Timsbury is only this:

1° This parish church is a rectory without any impropriation.

2° The rector hath all tythes except the tyth of a few acres of glebe belonging to the church of Farnborow.³⁸

3° There hath been no augmentation to the benefice.

4° Founded before the Reformation.

5° There is no library.

6° Tis not conominal with any other place.

7° Tis mentioned in the Valor Beneficiorum.

Subscribed by Bar: Deeke, rector of Timsbury.

348 TOLLAND Sir, All the account that I can give you of the parsonage of Tolland in the county of Somerset and in the archdeaconry of Taunton and deanery of Dunster is that it was endow[ed] with great and small tiths before the Reformation and has receved no augmantation or benefaction since. And the advowson thereof belongs to the Crowne.

Walton *see* Street.

239 WELLOW Wellow. The tithes are impropriated to the value of £100 and £60 per annum. The impropriation belongs to Joseph Langton, esquire. The minor tithes only belong to the vicar to the value of £30 a yeere. The donation belongs to Sir Seamur Portman. Our church founded before the Reformation [*sic*], but by whome I cannot understand. We have noe library settled or settling, nor hath the benefice had any augmentation or benefaction from any.

Attested by John Hodson, vicar.

1542 WINCANTON October the 5, 1705. Reverend Sir, Our rectory of Wincalton, in the county of Somerset, is a total impropriation. The greatest part of it is now in the hands of William Lewis of Stock-Gailard³⁹ in the county of Dorset, esquire. No part of the tithes belongs to our church. He allows but £30 per annum to his curate, and no house. We are in the arch-deaconry of Wells and denary of Castle-Cary. I have served this cure (only) 3 or 4 and 40 years. The parsonage is valued at

³⁷ Street-on-the-Fosse in Pylle.

³⁸ Farnborough.

³⁹ Stock Gaylard near Sturminster Newton, Dorset.

about £80 per annum. There is paid out of it £8 per annum to the Crown. No augmentation has been made to this benefice. We have no library (nor like to have) in our parish. Our church is endowed with land to the valuation of £15 per annum for the repair of the fabrick, and the overplus to what charitable uses the trustees shall think fit.

It is supposed that our church was founded in the beginning of the Reformation,⁴⁰ soon after the priory and great church at Staverdale (within our parish) were destroyed; for 'tis reported that it was formerly our parish church, and that we had our bells from thence, but I cannot be positive in this point.

Sir, this is the best information that can be given you by your humble servant Elias Bulgin, curate of Wincalton, aged 75.

776 WINSFORD The parish of Winsford in the county of Somerset and diocese of Bath and Wells, within the archdeacondry of Taunton [and] deanary of Dunster hath:

1 The tith corn impropriated a quarter part to Mr. Edward Dyke, another part given by one Mr. Thomas Dyke to the [?parishes] of Kingston, Bishop's Lidiard and King's Brompton, and the other halfe is given by Thomas Dyke, Dr. of Physick, to St. Mary Hall in Oxford, after the death of Mr. Edward Dyke, as I am informed.

2 The small tith doth belong to the vicarage as the endowment made 1281 by the then bishop of Bath and Wells, with the consent of the prior and covent [*sic*] Barlich, the house and some ground being being [*sic*] then given to the vicarage for ever, under the rent of 10s. per annum doth make appeare.⁴¹

3 In the year 1453, by the decree of the then bishop of Bath and Wells, with the consent of the prior and 'covent of Barlich, there was an addition made to the vicarage of six yeeres [*sic*] of ground in [*illegible*] to the vicar and his successors for ever, under the payment of 20s. per annum to the prior and covent or their assignes.⁴²

4 I cannot understand when our church was founded nor by whom, but I suppose it was before the Reformation.

5 There hath been no union or dismembering of our church that I know of.

6 Nor is there any library settled or to be settled in our parish.

7 The vicarage is not under £30 a yeare, nor is it left out in the Valor Beneficiorum, nor is it co-nominall with any other place as I know of.

Lastly, the donation or advowson of the vicarage belongs to Emanuel Colledge in Cambridge.

Testor: Robert Farthing, vicar.

Withypool *see* Hawkrigde.

1473 WOLVERTON The donation of the rectory of Woolverton belongeth to Edward Bainton, esquire, Mr. Grubb of Potterne in the county of Wilts. being his guardian.

⁴⁰ This is not, of course, correct.

⁴¹ The original of the ordination is lost, but it is recited in *The Register of Thomas Bekynton* ed. H. C. Maxwell Lyte and M. C. B. Dawes (Somerset Record Society, 49 and 50) no. 825.

⁴² *Ibid.* The actual date of the augmentation is 8 February 1453/4.

Formerly the rectory belonged to Sir Edward Hungerford of Farley Castle. Noe augmentation to it.

1471 WRITHLINGTON Sir, In answer to your queries I send as good an account as I can of the parish of Wriggleton in the county of Somerset.

1 The tithes are not impropriated.

2 The whole tithes belong wholly [to] the rector of the said parish.

3 No augmentation nor benefaction.

4 Founded, I suppose, before the Reformation, but when and by whom I know not.

5 No union nor dismembring that I know of.

6 No library settled nor setling.

7 The yearly value about £40 per annum.

8 The advowson belongs to one of the prebends of Salisbury, whose prebendary the parish is.

9 It is in the archdeaconry of Wells and deanery of Froom.

Yours, Thomas Coxeter, rector *ibidem*.

Wrighton *see* Burrington.

75 YEOVILTON I can make no answer to any of the querys except the eight. The bishop of Bath of [*sic*] Wells present.