

Note

JOHN LANE, CHANCELLOR OF LICHFIELD

THE Rev. A. L. Browne in his Lichfield Cathedral Chancellors (referred to as L.C.C.) equates John Lane, who was admitted 1434 July 23, to a single John Lane whom he describes as incumbent of St. Mary within the North Gate of Bath, Brompton Regis [sic], Curry Malet, Bathwick, Beckington, Cheddon [sic], Wellesbourne Hastings, and as the prebend of Whitchurch in Wells. He suggests 1454 as an approximate date of death, based upon the date of institution of John Lane's successor at Brompton, although in the succeeding article he states that Vincent Clement was chancellor in June 1448.

Mr. Browne has certainly fused two distinguishable Somerset incumbents, and an examination of the authorities quoted by him seems hardly to warrant identifying the Lichfield chancellor with any of the contemporary Somerset incumbents of the same name, an account of whom follows.

I. The man at Bath was probably he who was granted litt. dim. for acolyte and subdeacon orders 1414 Dec 6 and ordained in those orders 1417 Mar 6, for he had litt. dim. for all orders 1417 Mar 22 when he was incumbent of St. Mary's, being then a subdeacon. [Reg. Bubw. 88d, 246, 130.]

II. It must not, however, be overlooked that there was a contemporary namesake who was ordained subdeacon 1408 Jun 9, deacon 1408 Sep 22, and priest 1408 Dec 22. [Reg. Bubw. 238-9.]

III. The John Lane instituted 1420 Oct 29 to Brompton Ralph [not Regis as in L.C.C.] died in 1454, before Aug 10 when his successor was instituted. [Regs. Bubw. 176; Bek. 196.]

IV. The John Lane instituted as rector or prebend of Bathwick 1427 Dec 10 on the presentation of the Abbess and Convent of Wherwell is apparently the same as the man who was instituted to Curry Malet 1427 Feb. 12, for this latter living appears (from a comparison of Weaver's Somerset Incumbents, pp. 22 and 349) to have been exchanged for that of Beckington, and the *Cal. Papal Letters* quoted in L.C.C. identifies the incumbent of Beckington with the holder of the free chapel of Hungerford and of a canonry and prebend of Wherwell. He resigned Beckington before 1438 May 24 when his successor was appointed. [Reg. Staff. 37, 24, 148.]

V. The John Lane instituted to Chedzoy (not Cheddon, as in L.C.C., nor Cheddar, as in *S.R.S.*, Vol 32, p. 214) 1438 Mar 18 may have been the same man as No. IV. He died before 1447 Jun 6, and was consequently a different person from No. III at Brompton

Ralph. It seems, too, that he could not have been the same person as the incumbent of Wellesbourne Hastings as the latter, according to L.C.C., was there till April 1448. (Regs. Staff. 142 and Bek. 64.)

VI. A John Lane was collated to the prebend of Whitechurch some time after 1436 Aug 12, when a predecessor presented to Binegar. He was collated to a canon's residence 1440 Apr 1, having previously occupied another canon's house. 1442 Apr 3 he presented to Binegar; 1446 Aug 22 he was present at the election of Dean Carent; and he died before 1447 Jun 6 when his successor to the prebend was appointed. The filling of preferments subsequent to death make it reasonable to suppose him to be the same man as No. V (and perhaps No. IV). [Reg. Staff. 126, 165, 185; *S.R.S.*, vol. 50, p. 430; Reg. Bek. 64.]

A little earlier there had been yet other John Lanes, or perhaps a single one, in the diocese. Of these the earlier notices refer to a man who was successively at Croydon (Surrey), Chulmleigh (Devon) and Stanton Drew (in 1394); and we have the same name, and perhaps the same chop-church parson, at Hemington (left 1401), Cheriton Bishop, Ottery St. Mary, East Ogwell and Studland (1419).

It is noteworthy that, although Chancellor John Lane was admitted in 1434, the Papal dispensation of 1436 referred to under No. IV makes no mention of the chancellorship [*Cal. Pap. Lrs.*, VIII, p. 588], and the only common factor to justify Mr. Browne's identification of the chancellor with a Somerset parson seems to be that the Chancellor and Nos. V and VI (and perhaps IV) could have died in 1447.

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