The constitution and the clergy of Beverley minster in the middle ages

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LISTS OF THE CLERGY OF BEVERLEY MINSTER

PRIOR TO 1548

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APPENDIX VII

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INTRODUCTION TO THE CLERGY LISTS

The following lists include the names of 42 provosts, 221 prebendaries, 21 sacrists, 13 precentors, 15 chancellors and 133 vicars (excluding the vicars of St. Mary’s Chapel annexed to St. Martin’s Altar who are listed separately).

The Provost’s Book, much of which has been printed in the second volume of A.F. Leach’s Memorials of Beverley Minster, contains two lists of provosts which together provide an almost complete succession from post-Conquest years up to the dissolution of the Collegiate Church in the mid-sixteenth century. The earlier of these, compiled by Simon Russell in 1417, was incorporated in the second list, drawn up by Leland in the following century, which afforded the basis of Mr. Leach’s lengthy account of the provosts printed in the same second volume.

Besides solving numerous problems of chronology Leach added three more provosts hitherto unrecognised, giving the list at least the appearance of completeness. Only one name - that of an apparently short-lived alien - has been added as a result of the present search, though the fact that it has been possible to do so is a caution against finally closing the roll.

Some eighty years have passed since Leach wrote, and it has not seemed superfluous to subject his survey, especially his dates, to further scrutiny in the light of much fresh material now to hand. Whilst, however, it has been possible to add some further details and to question some of his assertions, Leach’s list and commentary remain substantially unchanged.

It is upon the prebendaries of Beverley that most of the present labour has been bestowed. Leach did not consider the compilation of a close list of these men a worthwhile undertaking, and Beverley Minster has remained one of the very few great collegiate churches where the task has been neglected. It may be fairly claimed, however, that since it was the chapter which presided over the Minster its composition is more relevant to the history of the church than a list of the provosts who were not necessarily members of it, and were more often than not absentees.

Whilst there are grounds for believing that the great majority of twelfth- and early thirteenth-century prebendaries are known to us, they chiefly occur simply as witnesses to charters. Not only is it impossible to assign them to particular prebends, but in some instances no more than Christian names are recorded. They are therefore listed separately with as much as can be learnt of their dates.

Apart from one or two early prebendaries whose prebends are noted in chance references, the lists for the seven major prebends and the so-called eighth prebend begin all together towards the end of the thirteenth century. Thereafter surprisingly few gaps occur in the succession to each stall, though the incidence of the Black Death and the turmoil which followed Alexander Neville’s visitation of the Minster in 1381 create, now as then, periods of great uncertainty.
Not the least difficulty has been distinguishing between prebendaries and those many clerks who, on the strength of papal provisions, were admitted to canonries to await prebends which eluded them. Failure to recognise this distinction has sometimes led to exaggerated estimates of pluralism in general, especially in the fourteenth century, and has unduly sullied the reputations of individuals cited as examples of worldliness. To the secular clerk a canonry alone brought an empty title of little honour and no financial asset. Indeed for many it spelt disappointment and failure - failure, that is, to secure a prebend which alone brought a share in the fruits of a collegiate church. Multitudes of thirteenth and fourteenth century clerks were admitted to canonries at Beverley in expectation of a prebend only to wait, like the paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda, whilst more robust claimants stepped quickly in before them.

When prebends were warmly contested by rivals with powerful backing, usually from the crown or the curia, possession frequently passed to and fro, in the course of endless litigation. When local records, which alone can give the position accepted at Beverley, are lacking, the best one can do is to record the dispute itself.

The prebendaries are followed by lists of known sacrists, precentors and chancellors - the dignitaries, or officers as they were sometimes and perhaps more accurately called. Their status at Beverley bore no relation to that of majores personae at most other great churches, for they were always much inferior to a prebendary, having no voice in chapter, and receiving their appointment from the provost. It is this last peculiarity which accounts for the disappointing gaps which occur in these lists. Being of no great importance, at least at the time at which they held office, such men were unlikely to receive much mention in diocesan, still less in state records, but the fact that the patronage of all three offices was in the hands of the provost meant that records of appointment were normally confined to local Act Books, which for later years are missing.

The same is true in the case of the vicars who were, of course, appointed by their respective prebendaries. Only the appointments of the archbishops' vicars are recorded in episcopal registers, and for others, especially in later years, we have to depend on isolated documents and chance references. Since many of the vicarages of these men cannot be identified, it has seemed best to list them all together in order of their appearance.

133 names of vicars cannot be considered a satisfactory total, especially when it is compared with the number of prebendaries. It must be remembered, however, that their terms of tenure were normally much longer: most vicars were appointed when young, soon after receiving Holy Orders, few aspired to higher things, and many lived to a ripe old age.

Some further names could possibly claim inclusion in this list, some of them occurring as early as the mid-thirteenth century, but since they are not specifically described as vicars it is difficult to distinguish them from members of that obscure group of Beverley clergy, the clerks of Berfell or Berfellarii.
With regard to the form of the biographical notices, an attempt has been made to follow a uniform pattern throughout whilst endeavouring to avoid the rigidity which tends to fossilize lively men and impersonalize interesting careers. Although lack of information makes the following of this pattern impossible in the case of some of the earlier prebendaries, the general aim has been to give a picture, however inadequate, of what manner of men they were who governed the Minster over four centuries.

The first paragraph is naturally concerned with the dates of tenure of preferment at Beverley, and the means by which it was acquired. The second seeks to show who the subject was - his employment and family connections where these were noteworthy. The third section lists his preferments in the York diocese as fully as possible, whilst the fourth gathers together his dignities and benefices held elsewhere (preferments held in the nearby liberty of St. Cuthbert, chiefly in the collegiate church of Howden, are included in this last group). In cases where biographies have already been compiled by others, or are otherwise well known, this fourth paragraph takes the form of a summary, and its source is noted. The final paragraph is variable in content, its purpose being to add notes of interest, such as academic attainments, which find no place in earlier sections.

Those provosts who held prebends are invariably given fuller treatment in their context as prebendaries.

Wherever possible comment, accounts of disputed possession and consideration of points of uncertainty, have been placed in footnotes. One or two matters of particular interest, however, have been made the subjects of special notes interposed between biographies in the main text.

A full summary of sources has been given in the introduction to the main text and in the bibliography appended, but reference must be made here to those of special help in the search for Beverley clerks. Not a few of these are named in the list of abbreviations which follows this note, but others appear only in the general bibliography.

Evidence is not lacking in the extant Act Book of the care taken by medieval chapter officials to preserve in orderly fashion the records of their collegiate church (B.C.A., i, pp. 137, 141, 143, 184, 186, 218, 229, 254, 308, 316, etc.). Most of these are believed to have survived the Dissolution only to fire the church boiler in the eighteenth century. Even so, a remarkable number survive, chiefly among the Lansdowne MSS, which came to the British Museum when it acquired the Warburton Papers. Now in the British Library, many have for long been available in the printed collections cited below. The same is true of the Beverley representation in the Archer-Houblon MSS held by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, and of the more varied records relating to the Minster in the Bodleian Library. Many of the latter are themselves copies of already well-known documents and, in common with the unprinted portions of the Provost's Book (now in the Humberside Public Record Office), are chiefly of constitutional or fiscal interest.
For our present purpose of discovering Beverley clergy the local charters of the twelfth and early thirteenth centuries, witnessed by groupings of canons and vicars, are of especial value. Mostly among the Lansdowne MSS, those excluded from printed publications have brought only a few new names to light, but in numerous instances they have considerably lengthened the tenures of personnel already known to us.

For the earlier provosts and prebendaries the most valuable printed source of names and dates is, therefore, the twelve volumes of Early Yorkshire Charters edited by William Farrer and latterly by Sir Charles Clay (Y.A.S. Records Series). It is supplemented by the earlier chartularies of northern religious houses, mostly published by the Surtees Society, by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society's volumes of Yorkshire Deeds and Yorkshire Fines, and by the numerous charters appended to Sir Charles Clay's York Minster Fasti (2 vols). In the first half of the thirteenth century more early prebendaries are brought to light in the Register of Walter Gray, the first surviving York episcopal register. In addition chance references occur in unlikely places in the volumes of the Rolls Series, the registers of other dioceses, and in collections appended, with other notes, to secondary works quite unrelated to Beverley: Dr. A. Saltman's Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. G.V. Scammell's Hugh du Puiset, Bishop of Durham, and Gilbert Foliot and his Letters by Dom Adrian Morey and Mr. C.N.L. Brooke, to name but three.

From the primacy of Walter Giffard onwards the registers of the Archbishops of York form a magnificent unbroken series to cover the whole period and give details of collations throughout the centuries. The Beverley Chapter Act Book, and to a lesser extent the Provost's Book, naturally afford the most interesting records of admissions, but unfortunately they cover but short periods. The surviving records of the Minster's sister churches at Ripon and Southwell, chiefly Memorials and Chapter Acts of the Collegiate Church of SS Peter and Wilfred, Ripon, ed. J.T. Fowler (Surtees Society) and Memorials of Southwell Minster, ed. A.F. Leach (Camden Society), have also been referred to. To these must be added several other volumes of the Surtees Society, namely Testamenta Eboracensia (6 volumes), The Fabric Rolls of York Minster and Yorkshire Chantry Surveys (2 volumes); and also The Registers of the Archdeaconry of Richmond, ed. A. Hamilton Thompson, in volumes of the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal.

Most of the royal appointments to the Beverley prebends made during vacancies of the see appear in the volumes of the Calendar of Patent Rolls, and these, with the Calendars of Fine Rolls, Close Rolls, Charter Rolls and Chancery Warrants, are a mine of information concerning the careers and preferments of all manner of men quite apart from royal clerks who naturally feature prominently on their pages. They are complemented for most of the period by the Calendars of Papal Letters and Papal Petitions, and together these sources provide the basis for accounts of disputed possession of prebends.
Like the *Yorkshire Chantry Surveys* (already mentioned), the *Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV*, the documents relating to the visitation of the Minster in 1442 from the Register of Archbishop Kemp (printed in *Miscellanea, ii.* Surtees Society), and the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* give the names of prebendaries at specific points in the church's history.

Memorials in stone and brass have sometimes provided conclusive evidence in establishing dates of death, and here Mill Stephenson's notes on Yorkshire brasses in the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal and his *exhaustive List of Monumental Brasses in the British Isles* and *Appendix* have been of great help.

Only a few of the secondary works consulted in connection with these lists can be mentioned here, but some cannot rightly be omitted. Everyone who undertakes such a task as the one in hand must now acknowledge his debt to Dr. A.B. Emden's *Biographical Registers of the University of Oxford* (4 vols.) and of the *University of Cambridge*. Relating, of course, only to graduates, they have been of the greatest assistance throughout, though naturally the numerous graduate prebendaries whose universities are unknown are not included in them. Some of Dr. Emden's biographical notices are incomplete, though usually only in the omission of minor preferments. Nevertheless when these are local to Beverley they are of considerable interest and significance. As gardeners are better able to notice weeds than are farmers, so more pedestrian students covering a smaller field will find some of the ground the better for turning afresh.

Much use has also been made of the recent edition of Le Neve's *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicae* in eleven volumes. One still has to refer to the old Hardy edition of Le Neve for prebendaries of Southwell, and to Fowler's *Memorials of Ripon* for those of Beverley's other sister church, though both share the same need of revision. For the early dignitaries, archdeacons and prebendaries of York who also enjoyed preferment at Beverley, Sir Charles Clay's *York Minster Fasti* (referred to above) and his notes on them in the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal have been most helpful, as has Professor Hamilton Thompson's list of prebendaries of the Chapel of St. Mary and the Holy Angels, York, in the same journal.

Finally, mention must be made of the works of two learned clerics long since dead. The first is the manuscript of extracts from the works of Torre, Dugdale and other antiquaries relating to Beverley Minster compiled by the Rev. George Dade in the eighteenth century, now in Yorkshire Archaeological Society's library. Dade's lists are mostly short and his dates unreliable, but they have brought to notice several Beverley men who would otherwise have escaped detection. The second is Canon W.H. Dixon's *Fasti Eboracenses: Lives of the Archbishops of York*, edited and enlarged by the Rev. James Raine. Recognised by Professor Hamilton Thompson as 'A work to which every student of the history of the northern province must pay his debt of gratitude'¹ it has strangely been omitted from the bibliographies of nearly all recent works in this field. Here its learning and warmth are gratefully acknowledged as a constant source of information and inspiration.

**ABBREVIATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.C.A.</td>
<td>Memorials of Beverley Minster; The Chapter Act Book of the Collegiate Church of St. John of Beverley A.D. 1286-1347, ed. A.F. Leach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.C.R.</td>
<td>Calendar of Close Rolls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.C.W.</td>
<td>Calendar of Chancery Warrants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.Charter R.</td>
<td>Calendar of Charter Rolls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.F.R.</td>
<td>Calendar of Fine Rolls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.P.L.</td>
<td>Calendar of Papal Letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.P.R.</td>
<td>Calendar of Patent Rolls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. &amp; Y.S.</td>
<td>Canterbury and York Society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dade</td>
<td>Materials of Compiling the Histories and Antiquities of Beverley, Collected from Torre's Manuscripts in the Cathedral at York ...... by William Dade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.Y.R.S.</td>
<td>East Yorkshire Record Society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.Y.C.</td>
<td>Early Yorkshire Charters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emden, Oxford</td>
<td>A Biographical Register of the University of Oxford to A.D. 1500, by A.B. Emden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emden, Cambridge</td>
<td>A Biographical Register of the University of Cambridge to 1500, by A.B. Emden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.H.R.</td>
<td>English Historical Review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le Neve</td>
<td>John le Neve, Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1300-1541 (New Edition - 11 vols) N.B. Where the appropriate volume is explicit in the text (i.e. where a volume of the new le Neve corresponds to a cathedral church mentioned) the name of the church is not given in the reference which follows.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettres Communes</td>
<td>Lettres Communes des Papes d'Avignon analyses d'apres les Registres dits d'Avignon et du Vatican per G.Mollat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Stephenson</td>
<td>A List of Monumental Brasses in the British Isles (1926) by Mill Stephenson with Appendix.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monasticon</td>
<td>Monasticon Anglicanum, ed. W. Dugdale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellanea</td>
<td>Miscellanea, ii, containing Documents relating to Diocesan and Provincial Visitations from the Registers of Henry Bowet .... and John Kempe, ed. A.H. Thompson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poulson, Beverlac</td>
<td>Beverlac; or the Antiquities and History of the Town of Beverley ...... and of the Provostry and Collegiate Establishment of St. John's, by George Poulson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reg.</td>
<td>Register of ......</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.S.</td>
<td>Rolls Series.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
S.S. Surtees Society.
Test Ebor. Testamenta Eboraceses, 6 vols.
V.C.H. Victoria County History.
Y.A.J. Yorkshire Archaeological Society.
Yorkshire Chantry Surveys. The Certificates of the Commissioners Appointed to Survey the Chantries, Guilds, Hospitals, etc. in the County of York, ed. William Page.
Y.D. Yorkshire Deeds.
York Statutes The Statutes, etc. of the Cathedral Church of York (Second Edition).

N.B. In the interest of clarity underlining of sources, etc., indicating italics, has been confined to footnotes throughout the following lists.
PROVOSTS
PROVOSTS OF BEVERLEY

1092 - 1109


c.1109, still in 1132

THOMAS (dictus NORMANNUS). Appointed c.1109 (B.C.A., ii, p.x), still in 1132! (Cartularium Rievallense (SS.83), p.21).

"Archbishop Thomas (ii) was the first provost. He seems to have been succeeded by another person bearing the same name, who devoted himself to the Cistercian rule at Clairvaux, but broke his pledge, much to St. Bernard's grief. The Saint tells us that he died, "Subita et horrenda morte". St. Bernard wrote to, and about him. (S.Bern. Opp., ed 1690, i, 111 - 115, 363 - 4)." (W.H. Dixon, Fasti Ebor, p.164n).

possibly c.1135

ROBERT. Appears fourth in the list of provosts of Simon Russell (B.C.A., ii, pp.306, 335, 352) but is rejected with only the slightest reservation by A.F. Leach (ibid, pp.xi - xii). Russell asserts that he was 'Prepositus temporibus partim Regis Henrici prii et partim Regis Stephani et Archiepiscopi partim Thurstini et partim Henry Murdake' (ibid, p.335). Dugdale (Monasticon, vi, pt.iii, p.1307) lists him as Robert de Gante, and Poulson (Beverlac, ii, p.646) appends the date 1135.

Russell's dating throughout does not inspire confidence. Robert's predecessor, Thomas, is also stated to have held the provostship partly in the reign of Henry I and partly in that of Stephen. Clearly this cannot have been true of both men, unless the tenure of the one was split by the admission of the other, which is most unlikely. Poulson was no doubt attempting to solve the contradiction when he dated Robert 1135, the year of Henry's death and Stephen's accession. Russell is certainly wrong in stating that Robert was provost in the primacy of Murdac who was consecrated in 1147, since Provost Thurstan confirmed a charter not later than 1142 (see below).

Leach rejects a Robert at this time, regarding 1135 impossible if such a man followed Thurstan, whom Russell places after Thomas the Younger; and also on the grounds that Robert de

1. In this year he was present at the foundation of Rievaulx Abbey.

2. St. Bernard entered the monastery of Citeaux in 1113, and died in 1153.
Gant was dean of York from 1142 to 1153. It is incredible, however, that Simon Russell, writing in January 1416/17 (ibid, p.307), was not following an earlier list, and, this being so, his names, if not their order, are not to be excluded without very good reason, whatever may be thought of his dating of them. Leach's grounds for so doing seem inadequate on two counts:

(i) Given the fact, which Leach recognises, that Russell, or the compiler of his source, made the mistake of identifying Provost Thurstan with the archbishop of that name, it was natural that he should feel obliged to bring the provost forward to succeed Thomas the Younger, in order to fit him in before his consecration (as he believed) in 1119, or his appointment to the see in 1114. Russell could hardly have done otherwise, and it is therefore beside the point to attach any importance to the fact that Robert is placed later than Thurstan.

(ii) Leach's own dating, if not erroneous, is misleading. In his revised order he shows Thurstan as coming to the provostship in 1132 (ibid, pp.xi, cix). 1132, however, is simply the year in which Provost Thomas the Norman made his last known appearance, i.e. when he attended the foundation of Rievaulx Abbey. Thomas in any case appears but rarely, and there is no evidence whatever to show that he died in 1132, still less to indicate that he was succeeded then, or at any other time, by Provost Thurstan. The best that can be said with absolute certainty of the latter's first occurrence as provost is that it comes not later than 1142 (E.Y.C., i, No.104). The fact is that the years 1132-1142 represent a gap of uncertainty in Leach's chronology, and it is precisely in this decade, i.e. the one which saw the succession of King Stephen, that Russell places Robert.

The grounds for Dugdale's identification of Robert as Robert de Gant are not known. All that can be said is that it cannot be disproved. Gant was chancellor to King Stephen from between 1140 and 1142 until at least 1154 (Y.A.J., xxxiv, pp.367-368). He did not become dean of York earlier than 1143, but if he was ever provost he must have vacated the office before this year, for we know that Thurstan was provost when William de Sainte-Barbe, Gant's predecessor, was dean (ibid, p.369; below, p.A.38,1).

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1. Archbishop Thurstan was appointed by Henry I on 15 August, 1114; consecrated by Pope Calixtus II on 19 October, 1119. He died on 6 February, 1139/40 (D.Nicholl, Thurstan, Archbishop of York (1114-1140), pp.15, 66, 237).

2. He and the canons of Beverley confirmed a grant to the canons of Bridlington in a charter which belongs to the period c.1135-1143 (See below, p.A.38, I; E.Y.C., i, No. 104, where the period allowed is 1135-1147. William de Sainte-Barbe, dean of York, a witness, was, however, consecrated bishop of Durham in 1143).
So far as we know, however, the identification is Dugdale's not Russell's, and any doubts about it cannot invalidate the latter's list.

Sir Charles Clay has rejected Robert de Gant as a provost, partly because he accepted Leach's conclusions without question, and partly on account of the certainty that Gant could not have been immediately succeeded by Becket, as Russell suggests (Y.A.J., xxxiv, p.366; B.C.A., ii, p.335). But again, this objection is explained away by Russell's initial error in identifying Thurstan with the archbishop.

by 1142-1152 THURSTAN. Appointed in or before 1142 (E.Y.C., i, No.152).
or 1153 Vac. on death in 1152 or 1153 (The Priory of Hexham, (SS,i) p.166).

Archdeacon, possibly of Richmond, in the Church of York by 1128.¹

1153-1154 PONT L'ÈVEQUE, Roger de. Said to have vacated the provostship at the time of his consecration as archbishop of York, 10 October, 1154 (Materials for the Life of Thomas A'Becket, iv, pp.10-11), having presumably succeeded to it on the death of Thurstan in 1152 or 1153.

Household clerk of Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury.

It was almost certainly the single reference cited above which caused Torre to include him in his list. Leach treats it with caution and admits Roger as a provost only with great hesitation. Russell omits him altogether, and since he dates Thomas Becket's provostship from the end of King Stephen's reign (d.25 October, 1154) and Murdac's primacy (d. 14 October, 1153), his chronology leaves no room for him (B.C.A., ii, pp.xiii, 335).²

B.C.A., ii, pp.xii-xiii.

¹ As archdeacon he witnessed Archbishop Thurstan's charter granting liberties to to the men of Beverley in the period 1115-1128 (E.Y.C., i, No.95). For consideration of the identity of his archdeaconry see E.Y.C., iv, pp.xxiii-xxiv; vi, p.81; Y.A.J., xxxvi, p.282.

² A. Saltman (Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, pp.167-168), alone among recent writers, mentions Roger's provostship, and makes what is surely an unlikely observation, that, since the archdeaconry of Canterbury and the provostry of Beverley both passed together from Roger to Thomas, the latter preferment must have been annexed to the former. For summaries of Roger's career see D.N.B.; W.H. Dixon, Fasti Ebor, pp.233-51; M.D.Knowles, The Episcopal Colleagues of Thomas Becket, pp.12-14. (None mentions Beverley).
by 1154 - 1162

BECKET, Thomas. Succeeded Roger de Pont L'Évêque
c.10 October, 1154. Vac. probably on consecration as
archbishop of Canterbury, 3 June 1162. (Materials for
the Life of Thomas A'Becket (R.S.), iv, pp.10 - 11;
v, p.515).

C. of Beverley and p. of St. Michael's Altar, according
to Simon Russell (B.C.A., ii, p.335; and see below,
p.A. 133).

Household clerk of Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury,
from c.1141. Archdeacon of Canterbury 1154 - 1162,
Archbishop of Canterbury 1162 - 70. Chancellor to Henry II
(1154 - 1162).

B.C.A., ii, pp. xii - xiv.

by 1169 - 1177

GEOFFREY. Provost by 29 June, 1169 (E.Y.C., i, No.86).
Vac. on death 27 September, 1177.¹ (Gesta Henrici Secundi,
(R.S.) i, p.195).

Nephew of Archbishop Roger Pont L'Évêque (ibid).
Described as 'archidiaconus Eboracensis'² when, in 1176, he
was made chancellor of Henry 'the young king' on payment of
11,000 marks of silver³ (Imagines Historarium of Ralph de
Diceto, (R.S.), i, p.406). He was still chancellor at the
time of his death (Gesta Henrici, loc.cit).

B.C.A., ii, pp.xiv - xv.

¹ The occasion was the sinking of several ships in a storm off the coast of
Normandy, in which Robert Magnus, magister scholarum of York, and 300 others
perished.

² Sir Charles Clay is unhappy about this statement: "It must certainly not be
assumed without further evidence that Geoffrey archdeacon of York in the period
1162 - 67 /when he witnessed an agreement between Archbishop Roger and Bishop
Hugh of Durham (Historians of the Church of York, iii, pp.79 - 81) / was
necessarily the same man as Geoffrey provost of Beverley; nor can the description
given by Ralph de Diceto of the latter as 'archidiaconus Eboracensis' in 1176,
unless corroborative evidence is available, be regarded as free from suspicion".

³ Archbishop Roger, who had crowned the young Henry in 1170, is said to have
paid the money. According to his enemies, at least, he was well able to afford
so large a sum.
by 1181 - 1201  
ROBERT.¹ Provost by 1181, his first appearance being as witness of a charter of the period 1177 - 81 (Y.A.J., xxxvi, p.420). Vac. on death in 1201 (Chronica Magistri Rogeri de Hovedene (R.S.), iv, p.174).


by 1202/3 - 1204  
SIMON OF WELLS (FITZROBERT). Provost by March, 1202/3 (B.C.A., ii, p.xvii) Vac. c.11 July, 1204, when he was consecrated bishop of Chichester.

Clerk of the Exchequer.
Archdeacon of Wells by September, 1199 (ibid).
Bishop of Chichester 1204 - 1207.

In 1205  
ALAN⁴. Provost by 5 July, 1205 (Reg. Giffard, p.256). He also occurs, as provost, witnessing a charter relating to the Ripon area in the period 1204 - 1206 (E.Y.C., xi, No.157).

He may have been the same as Alan, canon of Ripon, who witnessed several local charters about this time, but there

1. Simon Russell places Robert before Geoffrey (B.C.A., ii, pp. 306, 335), but Leach conclusively shows this to be wrong.

2. This prebend was partitioned by Archbishop Gray in 1218 to form the prebends of Fenton and Wistow, a third part, known as the prebend of Newthorpe (to which certain other vills were attached), being granted to the treasurer of York (Reg. Gray, p.132).

3. Russell (B.C.A., ii, p.335) gave no indication of the identity of this eighth provost whom he lists simply as 'Simon'. Dugdale believed him to be Simon of Apulia, who, according to Roger de Hoveden, claimed the provostrty on Provost Robert's death, but without success, Archbishop Geoffrey appointing Morgan, the natural son of Henry II (Chronica Magistri Roger de Hoveden, (R.S.) iv, p.174). Leach, citing numerous charters of the first two years of King John's reign, 'data per manus' of two royal clerks, shows clearly that one of them, "Simon archdeacon of Wells" at the beginning of the series, is the Simon provost of Beverley in those after March, 1203. Morgan did not acquire the provostrty until c.1215 (see below).

is no proof of this. Nor is there any solid evidence to support Leach's other suggestion that he was still provost as late as 1212, when his successor, Morgan, first appears, though this may well have been the case.


by 1212-1217

MORGAN.¹ Provost by October, 1212 (Yorkshire Feet of Fines during the reign of King John, p.171). Vac. on resignation by November, 1217 (Reg. Gray, p.130). He died at Fountains Abbey shortly after this.

Illegitimate son of Henry II.

B.C.A., ii, pp.xix-xxi.

1217-1218

WILLIAM.² Provost from c. November, 1217 (Reg. Gray, pp. 129, 130). He witnessed at least two extant charters as provost, both before 1 March, 1217/18, when his successor first appears (Reg. Gray, pp. 6n, 129, 132; York Minster Fasti, ii, p.76).

B.C.A., ii, p.xxi.

from 1217/18


Official of Archbishop Gray c.1219 (Guisborough Chartulary, ii, p.186).

C. of York and p. of Ulleskelf by 1201, vac. by 20 January, 1215/16 (York Minster Fasti, loc.cit). The identity of the prebend which he must have held after this date is not known (ibid).


¹ Provosts Alan and Morgan are placed after John Mansell by Simon Russell in the Provost's Book (B.C.A., ii, p.306).

² Neither William nor Peter de Sherburn features in any of the lists in the Provost's Book.

³ Leach was wrong in stating that the Peter de Sherburn who features in a grant printed on p.294 of the Act Book was sacrist of Beverley in 1272 (B.C.A., ii, p.xxii). He was indeed Peter de Sherburn the provost. The document, which is undated, is placed in its correct period by Roger de Richmond, the first witness, who was prebendary of St. Mary's Altar by 4 April, 1220 (see below, p.A.116). The source of Leach's date is a mystery, probably it is taken from the document which follows in the Act Book. The sacrist in 1272 is not known - possibly it was Thomas de Monkgate who certainly held the dignity by 13 July, 1274 (Reg. Richard Gravesend, p.59, and see below p.A.230).
by 1222 - c.1239

BASSET, Fulk. Provost probably by 29 March, 1222, when a papal mandate required the correction of clerks of the Bedem who had been eating outside the refectory.¹ (B.C.A., ii, p.xxiii). Still on 17 April, 1238 (Reg. Gray, p.177). Vac. probably on resignation between 28 May, 1238 and July, 1239, during which period he became dean of York (York Minster Fasti, i, p.4).

Bishop of London 1244 - 1259.


B.C.A., ii, pp. xxii - xxv; York Minster Fasti, i, p.4; D.N.B.

1239 - 1247

YORK, William of. First described as provost of Beverley in 1240 (B.C.A., ii, p.xxv), having almost certainly succeeded Fulk Basset in the previous year. Vac. by 14 July, 1247, when he was consecrated bishop of Salisbury.

Chancery clerk till c.1227. King's Justice from 1227, still in 1240.³ Bishop of Salisbury 1247 - 1256.

Sir Charles Clay has considered the identity of William of York and his many preferments in detail (York Minster Fasti, ii, pp. 150 - 153; see also pp. 2.44). The following is a summary of his findings:

In the diocese of York, besides being provost of Beverley, he was C. of York and p. of Knaresborough (1230 - c.1238/9), of Ampleforth by 1238/9. Rector of Kirk Deighton, nr Wetherby (1226 - ?); of Easington in Holderness (by 1227) of Hemsworth, West Riding (till 1227/8); of Nafferton, East Riding (1231/2 - ?); of Kirkham, Lancashire (from 1236, still in 1246); of Sandal Magna, nr. Wakefield (1238 - ?).

¹ A similar mandate was issued on 26 February, 1224/5 (C.P.L., i, p.100). Though Fulk is not mentioned in either document his future complaints concerning the manner of eating in the Bedem make it reasonably certain that he was behind them. (Reg. Gray, p.175).

² See W. Brown, The Institution of the Prebendal Church at Howden, Y.A.J., xxii, pp.166 - 173. In the patronage of the prior and convent of Durham, this immensely wealthy rectory was formed into a prebendal church, its five prebends together being worth 385 marks. See also F. Barlow, Durham Jurisdictional Peculiars, p.89.

Outside the diocese he was:

C. of Lincoln and p. of ? (by 1234)
C. of St. Paul's, London and p. of Mapesbury (1242 - 1247)
Rector of King's Ripton, Huntingdonshire (1219/20 - 1227/8); of Gayton, Lincolnshire (1236 - ?); of Ovingham, Northumberland (1237 - ?); of Eaton Socon, nr. St. Neot's, Bedfordshire (1244/5 - ?).

1247 - 1264/5

Vac. on death c.20 January, 1264/5 (York Minster Fasti, ii, p.25; Reg. Giffard, p.79).

King's Councillor - "the ablest of Henry's clerks" (F.M.Powicke, The Thirteenth Century, p.178, see also pp. 116, 145n, 162).
Keeper of the Seal in 1247, still in 1263 (B.C.A., loc.cit).
In temporary charge of the chancery in 1262, but never Chancellor.

In the York diocese he was also

His preferment elsewhere was even greater, and no less choice.
It included the chancellorship of St. Paul's, London, the deanery of Wimborne, Dorset, and the rectory of Maidstone, Kent. The possession of these and other benefices has earned him a place in text books as one of the greatest of medieval pluralists.
Quite apart, however, from absurd estimates, the extent of his preferment has usually been exaggerated, chiefly because of the difficulty in distinguishing him from his much beneficed kinsman and namesake who contested the prebend of Fenton in York in the years 1258 - 61 (York Minster Fasti, ii, pp.26 - 7).

1. Leach adds a prebend in Wells (B.C.A., ii, p.xxvi - where 'Casington' should read Easington).

2. In Leach's list William of York is succeeded by William Cantilupe, whom he believed to have been provost from 1244 till 1247 (B.C.A., ii, pp.xxv - xxvi, co). That this is a mistake is shown conclusively by C.A.F. Meekings, 'Six Letters concerning the Eyres of 1226-8', E.H.R., lxvi, pp.492 - 504 (see p.504n).

3. That Leach was wrong in extending Mansel's tenure until 1269 is shown by the statement of Chishull's appointment shortly after the accepted date of the former provost's death (see below).

4. Whether he had custody of the Seal continuously in this period is uncertain.

5. Mansel was the last rector. Following his death Howden was constituted a prebendal church. Within the liberties of St. Cuthbert, and outside the jurisdiction of the archbishops, it was strictly speaking not part of their diocese, and is so listed here simply on account of its geographical position.
CHISHULL, John. Appointed Provost 7 February, 1264/5, by royal grant, the see of York being then vacant following the death of Godfrey Ludham\(^1\) (C.P.R., 1258–66, p.404). Vac. by 29 April, 1274, when he was consecrated bishop of London.


The provostship was his only preferment in the Northern Province, and his benefices in the south were modest compared with those of his predecessor. His consecration left vacant the deanery of St. Paul's London, a prebend in Wells, the rectory of Haversham, Bucks, and one or two smaller preferments.

c.1274–1278

SANCTO MARCO, Geoffrey de. Provost from c.1274 (Reg. Corbridge, ii, p.108). Vac. by 1 May, 1278, when his successor first appears (see below).

He is not included in any previous list, and is known to have held the provostship through a single reference in Archbishop Corbridge's Register (loc.cit). In a letter of the archbishop to his official, he is simply stated to have received the provostship on the collation of Archbishop Giffard. A vacancy occurred but once during the latter's primacy, apart from that occasioned by Sancto Marco's own departure, and he must therefore have followed John Chishull.

Chishull was certainly provost on 6 December, 1272 (B.C.A., ii, p.295), and may reasonably be supposed to have retained the dignity for a further year, i.e. until his promotion to the see of London in April, 1274 (see above). Since Peter de Cestria first occurs as provost on 1 May, 1278 (B.C.A., ii, p.xxx), and held the provostry until 1294 or 1295 (see below), Sancto Marco's provostship can have lasted four years at the most.

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\(^1\) Walter Giffard was not translated from Bath and Wells until December, 1266.
CESTRIA, Peter de. Provost by 1 May, 1278 (B.C.A., ii, p.xxx). Vac. on death on 15 December, 1294, or 20 January, 1294/5 (ibid, p.xxxvii).

Said to have been the illegitimate son of John de Lacy, lord of Pontefract, later earl of Lincoln. Occurs as Justice in Eyre in 1262, 1270. Baron of the Exchequer, appointed 1284. He occurs in the York registers chiefly as a money-lender to the archbishops.2

His death left vacant prebends in Hereford and Lichfield, the rectories of (Hutton) Rudby in Cleveland,3 of Easington in Holderness,4 of Slaidburn by Bowland,5 and of Arksey in the deanery of Doncaster, all in the York diocese, and of Whalley, Lancs. in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield (C.P.R., 1292-1301 pp. 118, 121, 123; Reg. Romeyn, i, p.371n; Fasti Parochiales, i, p.6). He failed to secure permanent possession of the prebend of Bugthorpe in York in 1287/8 (York Minster Fasti, ii, p.17; Reg. Romeyn, i, p.371).

There is just a possibility that this provost was already a prebendary of Beverley at the time of his appointment. This may be the implication of a single reference to him in Archbishop Giffard's Register (p.192). Here in the ordination lists dated 1268 he is found presenting two candidates under the heading 'Capitulum Beverlaci'. Cestria was certainly not provost at this time, and it would be interesting to learn how he came into this context if he were not a member of the chapter or provost. It is possible that this part of the ordination list is distinct from the earlier part, and that it belongs to a later date, but it is unlikely to be so late as to fall within Cestria's provostship.

If he ever held a prebend he must have relinquished it some considerable time before his death, for then and for some years previous all the prebends were occupied by others.

1. B.C.A., ii, pp.xxxix-xxx, where it is suggested that he derived his name from the fact that his father was constable of Chester at the time of his birth. He was certainly described as a kinsman of the earl of Lincoln in 1291 (i.e. of Henry de Lacy, who, if Leach is right, would be Chester's grand-nephew)(C.P.L.,i, p.594).

2. To Wickwane he lent 300 marks in 1279, and 100 marks in 1280 (Reg. Wickwane, pp. 262, 333). To Romeyn: £200 in 1286 (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.155).


4. Not in the provosty. His predecessor in the church appears to have been Philip de Willoughby, dean of Lincoln from 1288 and Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1283 (C.P.R., 1272-81, p.108).

5. In Lacy territory. Slaidburn was in the patronage of Pontefract Priory, founded in 1090 by Robert de Lacy (V.C.H., Yorks., iii, pp.184-5). Chester's successor was instituted on 23 March, 1294/5 (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.150).
1294/5 - 1304


Bishop of Geneva from 1304 - 1311.

P. of St. Martin's Altar c. 24 April, 1290 - c. 23 May, 1304 (Reg. Romeyn, i, pp. 384 - 385; B.C.A., i, pp. 16 - 17, 19, 27; ii, pp. 160; Reg. Corbridge, ii, p. 30).

See Prebendaries of St. Martin's Altar, below pp. A. 92 - 93.

1304 - 1306


He was almost certainly a kinsman (probably an uncle) of William de Abberwick, a future precentor and later chancellor of York, who was prebendary of St. Katherine's Altar c. 1325 - 13492 (see below p. A. 203). The place of origin of both men was Abberwick, in the parish of Edlingham, near Alnwick, Northumberland.

1. Unfortunately there is no hint given of the circumstances under which the bishop of Durham's official came to receive this plum in the York diocese, where he appears to have had no other preferment and little definite interest. The proximity of Abberwick to Corbridge suggests the possibility that he was a kinsman of the Archbishop.

2. Robert was almost certainly responsible for William's appointment to the rectory of Sigglesthorn, which was in the gift of the provost, and which the latter held by 1305/6 (Reg. Corbridge, ii, p. 171n).
REYNOLDS, Walter. Provost of Beverley, appointed 3 April, 1306, by royal grant, the see of York being deemed vacant following the death of Archbishop Corbridge.¹ Adm. 13 April, 1306 (B.C.A., i, p.119). Vac. by 28 April, 1308, on his promotion to the bishopric of Worcester.² (ibid, pp. 226-228).


Archbishop of York 1317-1340.


See Prebendaries of St. Michael's Altar, below pp. A.138-140.

HUGGATE, Nicholas de. Provost of Beverley, adm. 13 January, 1317/18, on royal mandate, the see being vacant following the death of William Greenfield (B.C.A., i, pp. 346-347). Vac. on death 24 June, 1338. (B.C.A., ii, p.120).

Keeper of the Wardrobe till c. 1324.

P. of ST. JAMES' ALTAR, 10 April, 1316 - 24 June, 1338 (B.C.A., i, p.343; ii, p.120).

See Prebendaries of St. James' Altar, below pp. A.66-68.

¹ This was strictly incorrect. The sequence of events was as follows. Greenfield was consecrated by the pope (Clement V) at Lyons on 30 January, 1306; Provost Abberwick died between 5 and 28 March; Greenfield received the temporalities of the see on 31 March; grant of the provostry to Reynolds 3 April. It looks as though Greenfield was under pressure to accede to this doubtful promotion of the king's favourite. His vicar general issued an order to induct, but since by custom this ought to have been given by the archbishop direct the chapter ignored it and admitted Reynolds on the strength of the royal grant alone (B.C.A., i, pp. 110-111).

² Reynolds was not consecrated until 13 October, 1308, but clearly the vacancy was anticipated in the spring of that year.

³ See also May McKisack, The Fourteenth Century, pp. 3, 11, 46, 47, 48, 275, 296. Reynolds resigned St. Leonard's Hospital following his translation to Canterbury.
1338 - 1360


Dr. Emden, citing Reg. Melton fo.118, lists an unnamed prebend in Beverley among de la Mare's preferments (Oxford, i, p.563), but it is unlikely that he ever gained full possession of it. The prebend concerned was almost certainly that of St. James' Altar, which had formerly belonged to Nicholas de Huggate.

The latter died on 24 June, 1338, and four days later de la Mare had collation. All the other prebends are accounted for at this time, and it seems highly probable that Melton, who was the first archbishop to promote relatives on a large scale, should seek to secure this second half of his friend Huggate's Beverley preferment for his kinsman, having already promoted him to the first half.

Nevertheless the attempt was unsuccessful, for on 6 July, 1338, Anthony de Goldsborough, who had little connection with the diocese, was admitted by the chapter to St. James' Prebend on the strength of a papal provision (B.C.A., ii, pp. 120-122;

1. Since de la Mare died a few weeks later, i.e. before 10 November, 1360 (le Neve, Northern Province, p.84) this was probably a manoeuvre to secure the provostship within the family.

2. Leach states that Melton was his uncle, but gives no authority for the assertion. (B.C.A., ii, p.lxiii). The relationship was certainly close, and de la Mare certainly appears to have originated from Melton, near Howden, as did the archbishop. For a summary of the blood ties which linked the Meltons, Ferribys, Ravensers, Walthams, Thoresbys and de la Mares see below, p.A.93.

3. The letter of appointment of his brother Richard de la Mare to the office of goldsmith in the Minster is dated Cawood, 7 April, 1340 (B.C.A., ii, pp.133-134). The fact that Cawood was a manor of the archbishopric may indicate that at this time he was a clerk in Melton's household.
C.P.L., ii, p.535; and see below pp.A.68-69). Goldsborough appears to have been firmly in possession a year later, and retained the prebend until his death (B.C.A., ii, p.131; below p.A.68 & n). Whether his title was universally recognised is open to doubt, for there is reason to believe that the troubles experienced by his successor throughout his long tenure of the prebend sprang from claims that his (Goldsborough's) possession had been unlawful (see below, pp. A.70-71).

1360 - c.1368

RAVENSER, Richard de. Provost of Beverley following an exchange with William de la Mare who received his rectory of Waltham, Lincs. 4 October, 1360 (Reg. Thoresby fo.46d; B.C.A., ii, p.lxvi). Vac. on resignation¹ by 1368 when his successor first appears - not 1369 as has been suggested by Leach (B.C.A., ii, p.lxvii).

King's clerk. Master in Chancery 1362-86.

P. of ST. MARTIN'S ALTAR. 3 August, 1363 - May, 1386 (C.P.R., 1361-64, p.456; le Neve, Lincoln, p.123; Royal Archaeological Institute, Lincoln, pp.312-327).


c.1368 - c.1373


Member of the council of Mary de St. Paul, countess of Pembroke³ in 1351 (ibid, p.lxxi).


¹ The fact that Great Limber, the home of his successor's family, is so close to Waltham, Ravenser's former rectory suggests that an exchange, or at least a planned succession, may have been the occasion for his departure.

² It is unlikely that he was deprived, as suggested by Leach, even though his stewardship of the provostry was the subject of complaints to the king (B.C.A., ii, pp.lxxi-lxxii).

³ The French wife of Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke, who after her husband's death in 1324, continued to control the vast Pembroke estates until her own death more than fifty years later. See H.Jenkinson, 'Mary de Sancto Paulo, Foundress of Pembroke College, Cambridge', in Archaeologia, lxxvi.

To be distinguished from the Adam de Lymbergh, keeper of the Privy Seal from 1328, and chancellor of Ireland from 1331, who died in 1339, and was probably his uncle. Almost certainly another relative was William de Lymbergh, chancellor of Cambridge University in 1348, who was rector of Hotham in the East Riding from 1347 (Emden, Cambridge, p.379)². The family originated from Great Limber, near Grimsby, and, significantly, only 10 miles from Waltham, Ravenser's former rectory, and the home of the ecclesiastical family of that name. He was a graduate, probably of Cambridge, though he is not so listed by Emden.

1373 - 1379/80

THORESBY, John de. Provost of Beverley, coll. 20 April, 1373 (B.C.A., ii, p.lxxiii). Vac. on death by 1 February, 1380/1² (le Neve, Northern Province, p.54).


C. of York and p. of Grindale (1367 - 81), (le Neve, p.54).

1. It was almost certainly another Adam de Lymbergh, the keeper of the Privy Seal, who contested the Lincoln prebend of Buckden in 1327-28, and who finally secured that of Leicester St. Margaret (le Neve, Lincoln, pp. 43, 78, where the two men do not appear to have been distinguished). It was also he who was ousted from the prebend of Oxgate in St. Paul's (le Neve, St. Paul's, London, p.52). Both Lymberghs in their time kept greater residence at Lincoln (K.Edwards, English Secular Cathedrals, pp. 347, 348 - 351).

2. A Robert de Lymbergh was a fellow of Peterhouse till his death c.1352 (ibid).

3. Leach's date is a year early (B.C.A., ii, p.lxxiv). For notice of his proposed visitation of the provostry in 1377 see ibid, pp. 328 - 9.

4. Family connections north and south of the Humber Estuary (i.e. with the Walthams, Ravensers, Meltons, etc.) which have come to light since Dixon wrote, alone suggest that the Thoresbys originated from North Thoresby, near Grimsby, and not from Wensleydale as he suggests (op.cit, p.451). Our Thoresby was his uncle's executor in 1373 (Test. Ebor, i, p.90).


King's clerk, Keeper of Writs and Rolls of the Common Bench (1397-1410).


P. of ST. JAMES' ALTAR, 15 November, 1397-April, 1419 (ibid).


6 May, 1419 (B.C.A., ii, p.lxxxiv). Vac. on death by 18 December, 1422 (ibid; le Neve, Northern Province, p.67).


P. of ST. JAMES' ALTAR, 29 April, 1419-c.9 July, 1427 (Reg. Bowet, fo.137).

See Prebendaries of St. James' Altar, below p.A.75.

1. He exchanged Offley for the prebend of Nunwick in Ripon.

2. The precise date of Manfield's appointment is uncertain, but Simon Russell, who was writing in the Provosts' Book during his provostship (i.e. 1417), shows him as succeeding Thoresby.

3. The dates on which he made his will and on which his successor in St. James' prebend was appointed.

4. For a full discussion of the date upon which he received St. Michael's prebend see below pp. A.143-144.
1427 - 1450/51 Rolleston, Robert. Provost of Beverley, coll. 7 December, 1427 (B.C.A., ii, p. lxxxvi). Vac. by 10 January, 1450/51, when his successor received collation (ibid, p. lxxxix).

King's clerk. Keeper of the Wardrobe (1418 - c. 1444).


1450/51 - 1457 Barningham, John de. Provost of Beverley, coll. 10 January, 1450/51 (B.C.A., ii, p. lxxxix). Vac. on death between 29 March and 28 May, 1457, the dates on which his will was respectively made and proved (Test. Ebor, ii, pp. 203 - 207).

Diocesan administrator and a devoted servant of Archbishop Kemp from his Rochester days.


1. Rolleston appears to have resigned on his death bed, unless there has been a mistake in dating. He made his will on 4 January, and died eight days later (Test. Ebor, ii, p. 138; Poulson, Beverlac, ii, p. 597). The reasons for his doing are not obvious; it could hardly be to ensure a satisfactory succession, since the effectiveness of the archbishop's collation was unlikely to be questioned at this time. The answer probably lies in the fact that Rolleston was one of the very few provosts to die in Beverley.

2. For the possibility that Booth transferred about this date to St. Martin's prebend, see below p.A. 188, n. 1.
1457/8 - 1465


P. of ST. ANDREW'S ALTAR, 31 May, 1461 - c. 7 July, 1465 (Reg. Wm. Booth, fo.52).

See Prebendaries of St. Andrew's Altar, below pp.A.55 - 57.

July - September 1465


Vicar General of George Neville, bishop of Exeter, from 1456, and of his successor John Booth (1465 - 77).

P. of ST. ANDREW'S ALTAR, 24 September, 1465 - c. February, 1477 (Reg. G.Neville, fos. 2, 251; Reg. L.Booth, fo.11v).

See Prebendaries of St. Andrew's Altar, below pp.A.57 - 58.

1465 - 1467

TASTAR, Peter de. Provost of Beverley, coll. 29 September, 1465 (Reg. G. Neville, fo.2). Vac. on death, c. March, 1467 (ibid, fo.5v).

Judge of the Court of Sovereignty of Guyenne (1447 - 49), King's clerk engaged on diplomatic missions in France, Burgundy and Spain (1461 - 67).

P. of ST. MARTIN'S ALTAR, 30 January, 1466/7 - 24 March, 1466/7 (Reg. G.Neville, fos. 4v, 5v).


1467 - 1493

POTMAN, William. Provost of Beverley, coll. 30 March, 1466/7 (B.C.A., ii, p.xcii). Vac. on death between 8 February, 1492/3, when he made his will and 27 March, 1493, when his successor was appointed. (Test. Ebor, iv, pp. 78, 119n).

Warden of All Souls College, Oxford (1459 - 66), having been a fellow from 1447. Official to Archbishops George Neville and Rotherham, and also their vicar general in spirituals from 1467.

P. of ST. PETER'S ALTAR, c. August, 1476 - February or March, 1493 (Test. Ebor, iv, loc.cit; Reg. Rotherham, i, fo.104v).

1493 - 1503

TROTTER, Hugh. Provost of Beverley, coll. 27 March, 1493 (B.C.A., ii, pp. xciii - xciv). Vac. on death between 31 August, 1503, when he made his will, and 12 September following, when his successor had collation (Test. Ebor, iv, pp. 219 - 221; le Neve, Northern Province, p.14).

Vicar General of Archbishop Savage from 1501.

P. of ST. MICHAEL'S ALTAR, 10 April, 1493 - September, 1503 (Reg. Rotherham, fo.105; Test. Ebor, iv, loc.cit).


1503 - 1525/6


Memorial plaque in York Minster, where '1525' is meant to read '1525/6'; le Neve, Northern Province, p.27).

Treasurer of Archbishop Savage. Chaplain and counsellor of Henry VII and Henry VIII.


1525/6 - 1543


Natural son of Cardinal Wolsey.


1543 - c.1548


1. He was one of four Vicars General appointed by Archbishop Savage at the beginning of his primacy.

2. The list of East Riding Clergy (State Papers 17 Henry VIII, vol.iv, pt.1, No.2001) though dated February 1525/6, shows Dalby as still holding his Beverley preferments. It was probably compiled from information ascertained in the previous year.

3. He was probably a prebendary several years before 1525, see below p.A.84 n.1.
Relative of Edward Lee, archbishop of York (1531-44).
C. of Southwell and p. of Rampton (?-1548) (C.P.R., 1553, p.61).  

Described in the chantry certificate of 1548 as being 'of the age of xxii yeres or thereabouts' (Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, loc.cit). Referred a pension of £50 in respect of the provostry. (B.C.A., ii, p.xcix).

Though the date of this reference is 23 June, 1553, it almost certainly implies that Lee was a prebendary at the time of the dissolution of the Collegiate Church in 1548. It cannot refer to the restored college of Mary, who came to the throne in June, 1553.

In view of his youth Lee cannot have been a priest; he may well be the same Reginald Lee who was at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, in Michaelmas, 1547 (Venn, Alumni Cantabrigiensia, Pt.1, vol.iii, p.48).
PREBENDARIES
CANONS OF BEVERLEY BEFORE C.1260 TO WHOM NO PREBEND CAN BE ASSIGNED
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N.B. These canons are listed in order of their first appearance. The dates given in the left-hand margin give the period during which they are definitely known to have held prebends, and therefore represent the minimum length of tenure. The references given as Roman numerals (I-XI) refer to charters listed on pp. A.38-40 below.

before 1100

MATON, Richard de. Canon of Beverley when granted the prebend of Holme in York Minster, with the revenues of the church of Hexham as endowment, by Archbishop Thomas I (1070-1100) (Priory of Hexham, i, p.50).

When, in 1113, Hexham was once more given over to the regular life Thomas II compensated Maton for the loss of its fruits by making him a residentiary of York (ibid, p.54). Whether or not he was permitted to retain his prebend in Beverley is uncertain. He remains, however, the only named canon of Beverley of the eleventh century.

Roger - still a canon of Beverley in 1151 (BL Stowe MS 502).

1152-1169

-, Aylward. First occurs as canon of Beverley in the period of 1130-35 (Historians of the Church of York, iii, p.65). Between 1137 and 1140 he witnessed with William (de Sancta Barbara), dean of York, and William d'Eu, precentor of York, an enactment of Archbishop Thurstan allowing canons of York, Beverley, Ripon, Southwell and St. Oswald's, Gloucester, to bequeath 2/3 of the value of their prebends for one year to any house in which they elected to follow the religious life, or to their kinsfolk or other needy persons (E.Y.C., i, p.150). In the period 1145-53 he witnessed William Percey III's gift of the church of Seamer to Whitby Abbey, which was confirmed by Archbishop Henry Murdac (E.Y.C., xi, No.9). He also occurs in the following periods: 1148-51 (iii); 1150-53 (E.Y.C., ii, No. 1108); 1154-60 (E.Y.C., iii, No.1825); and witnessed a charter of Archbishop Roger de Pont l'Evêque on 29 June, 1169 (vi).

2. i.e. He now received, with the consent of the residentiaries of York, a share in the common fund.
3. William de Sancta Barbara became dean of York c.1135, and William d'Eu was precentor shortly before the death of Thurstan on 5 February, 1139/40.
4. See E.Y.C., loc. cit., for the reason placing this charter after 1145. Henry Murdac died on 14 October, 1153.
1143-1164
- Simon. As canon of Beverley he witnessed charters in the
periods: 1135-43(I); 1143-47(II); 1148-51(III); 1162-64
(or possibly 1177)(IV); 1164-74(V). All these documents
relate to Beverley and district.

1143-1148
- Radulfus. As canon of Beverley he witnessed charters in the
Radulfus - still a canon of Beverley in 1151 (BL Stowe MS 502).

1151-1166
MORYN, William. Occurs as canon of Beverley in the period
1162-64(IV), and is probably the William who witnessed as
canon an earlier charter, between 1148-51(III). Another grant
of William Roumare, earl of Lincoln, this time to William,
archbishop of York and Thurstan, provost of Beverley, is
witnessed by Willelmus Capellanus and Nicholaus Capellanus
(B.C.A., ii, p.390). Since canons of the same names witness
the other charter a few years later it is probable that they are
the same persons. If this were the case both William and
Nicholas (see below), could be said to be canons of Beverley
in the first part of William Fitzherbert's primacy (1143-47).^1

before 1151
- Nicholas. Occurs as canon of Beverley in the period 1148-51
(III). Though he is probably the 'Nicholas Capellanus' who
witnessed William Roumare's charter in favour of Beverley in
the period 1143-47 (see William Moryn above).

1151-1195
MORINUS, Philip. As a canon of Beverley he witnessed charters
in the periods 1140-51(III); 1164-74(V); c.1164-83, when
he first occurs with the surname Morinus (E.Y.C., ix, p.99)
1177-81(VII); 1177-c.1185(VIII). Finally, he is probably
the same Philip, canon of Beverley, who, in March, 1195,
witnessed the grant^2 by Hugh du Puiset, bishop of Durham, of
the vill of Newton to the prior and convent of Durham (Printed

1. Muxdac did not return to the York diocese after consecration until 1148. He
died in 1153. The grant is also witnessed by (among others) Ailred of Rievaulx,
who was abbot from 1147.

2. It is unlikely that anyone but canons would head the list of witnesses of such a
charter. Capellanus may mean that both men were also household chaplains of the
archbishop. The charter cannot belong to the second part of Fitzherbert's
primacy, since it refers to William Roumare junior (... et Wilhelmo filio meo
et harede) who died in 1151, i.e. before he regained the see (1153).

3. Made at Howden, a peculiar of Durham. This same Philip was also of Bramling,
col. of Durham (Scammell, p.100, citing DC Durham, i.1 Archex. 100, 30, FP, 295).
ARUNDEL, Osbert. Between 1154-1159 he witnessed, as canon of Beverley, Archbishop Roger de Pont l'Évêque's confirmation of Ralph Beber's gift of the vill of Hoveton to Rievaulx Abbey (E.Y.C., ix, No.127). About the same time he featured in a grant by the archbishop relating to land in Northumberland (Reg. Gray, p.275; E.Y.C., i, No.37). He also occurs in the period 1162-64 (IV), and on 29 June, 1169(VI). He was a witness to a decision of papal judge delegates in a case concerning Guisborough Priory, heard at Oxford between 1174 and 1180 (The Chartulary of Guisborough, i, pp. 83, 167, 169). Between 1170 and 1177 he witnessed a notification by Archbishop Roger of the ending of a dispute relating to the church of Hickleton, nr. Doncaster (E.Y.C., i, No.584). He last occurs, as a canon of Beverley, c.1181 (The Chartulary of Rievaulx, i, pp. 167, 169).

The activities of Arundel, who was a university graduate, perhaps of Oxford, were much more widespread, and more frequently recorded, than those of his known co-canons. They suggest that he was a leading official of the diocese or an active member of the episcopal household, under archbishops Roger de Pont l'Évêque and William Fitzherbert. The Arundels at this time held lands in the Wapentakes of Dickerling, Harthill and Whitby Strand, and had territorial interests in Beverley Town.

CARCASONNA, Peter de. Occurs as canon of Beverley in the periods 1162-64 (IV); on 29 June, 1169 (VI); 1177-81 (VII). In 1160 he was described as a clerk of Archbishop Roger de Pont l'Évêque, not as a canon (Reg. Gray, p.275n). Several references show him serving in this capacity in the period 1154-59 (The Chartulary of Rievaulx, i, p.84; E.Y.C., i, No. 35; ix, No.127), but it is uncertain whether he was continuing to do so when, sometime between 1164 and 1170, he witnessed a settlement made by Archbishop Roger between Walter, clerk of Adlingfleet and the abbey of Selby (E.Y.C., i, No. 487). Carcassone is in the department of Aude, in the south of France.

Miles ('Milone'). Occurs as canon of Beverley in the periods 1177-81 (VII); 1177-1201 (VIII); 1191-94, when a charter relating to the prebend of Masham in York was witnessed 'Magistro Milone de Beuerlac' (York Minster, Fasti, i, p.83); c.1197 (IX); c.1199 (The Chartulary of Guisborough, ii, p.148).

See also other charters witnessed by him in the period 1140-66, mainly relating to Whitby Abbey (E.Y.C., ii, Nos. 880, 884, 887, 888). See also The Chartulary of St. John of Pontefract, p.70.

So concludes Dr. Emden (Oxford, i, p.51), but solely on the grounds of his witnessing the Guisborough settlement at Oxford (see above).
Between 1198 and 1214 Mr. Miles, canon of Beverley, was one of the commissioners appointed by Innocent III (1198 - 1214) to adjudge a quarrel between the canons and Templars of Bridlington and William Testard, archdeacon of Nottingham (1190 or 94 - 1214). (The Chartulary of Bridlington Priory, p.323). He was 'magister' by 1181 (VII), and may have served as an archbishop's clerk whilst a canon of Beverley.

before 1201
- Robert. Occurs as canon of Beverley in the period 1177 - 1201 (VIII).

in c.1197
- Heimarico. Occurs as canon of Beverley c.1197, described as 'magister' (IX; see also E.Y.C., ii, No. 1102).

before 1214
MARMION, Roger. Occurs as canon of Beverley in the periods: 1198 - 1214 (The Chartulary of Bridlington Priory, p.323); 1205 - c.1230 (E.Y.C., iii, Nos. 1309 405).

MARMION, Roger - Possibly the 'Rogerus' who witnessed last among the canons of Beverley charters c.1198 (BL Lansdowne MSS 406, 407, 408). Still a canon of Beverley c.1220 (BL Lansdowne MS 395).

by c.1218

He may well be (a) Serlo de Sunning who was an archbishop's clerk in 1216 (Reg. Gray, p.38n).

and/or (b) Serlo, Canon of York by 20 February, 1219/20 (York Minster Fasti, i, p.75). Archdeacon of Cleveland by 13 November, 1230; still in July, 1238 (The Chartulary of Guisborough, ii, Nos. 838, 1069).

1. Misspelt Hennerico in Reg. Corbridge, i, p.47.

2. It was probably about this time that he entered into a marriage agreement on behalf of his nephew, Peter, and niece, Margery, with Reginald de Captoft. (E.Y.C., x, No.109).
VESCY, Richard de. Canon of Beverley by 4 April, 1220 (X); still in the period c.1225 - 27 (XI). In January 1227/8, Richard de Vescy, 'cum mercatoribus Romanis graviter esset obligatus', 1 received licence to sell rents for the ensuing

VESCY, Richard de. Still a canon of Beverley in period 1234 - 1242 (BL Lansdowne MS 195).

by 1220

DEI BONE, Ralph de. Canon of Beverley by 4 April, 1220, when he was also described as 'magister' (X).

1227 - 1236

WISBECH, William de. Canon of Beverley by April, 1227 (Reg. Gray, p.158). On 9 November, 1229, as canon, he witnessed the charter of Archbishop Gray annexing the church of Preston, in Holderness, to the newly-constituted subdeanery of York. (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.205). He was still a canon in February, 1236. (Reg. Gray, p.72n).

Rector of Skipsae, between Bridlington and Hornsea, from 1228. (Reg. Gray, p.23).

Magister by 1229 (Reg. Romeyn, loc.cit). He was probably a kinsman of Walter de Wisbech, who was archdeacon of the East Riding c.1216 - 27.

In 1230


c.1230

MELSONBY, Roger de. Occurs as canon of Beverley c.1230 (Reg. Gray, p.73n).

As vice-archdeacon of Richmond he witnessed three charters relating to lands within the archdeaconry in the period c.1191 - 1203 (E.Y.O., x, p.viii, Nos. 275, 277, 278). Magister by c.1191.

For the possibility that he was the same person as Mr. Roger de Richmond, who was p. of St. Mary's Altar in Beverley by 1220 till c.1235, and who had been official of the archdeacon of Richmond at the end of the twelfth century, see below, p.A117n. 3

1. This could conceivably refer to Archbishop Gray, and not Vescy.

2. The Richard de Vescy of Reg. Giffard is another man of the same family.

3. See also Y.A.J., xxxvi, pp. 433, 434, where Sir Charles Clay expresses the belief that the vice-archdeacons were the precursors of the archdeacon's vicar-general not of his official.
Household clerk of Archbishop Walter Gray from c.1216 until 1248, when he was granted release from all accounts and debts (ibid, pp. 38n, 221 - 222, 229, 260). He was one of three archbishop's justices at Hexham in 1230, 1235 and 1237 (ibid, pp. 235, 248, 249).  
Rector of Lund, just outside the Provostry, in 1230 (ibid, p.33).  
He is to be distinguished from Geoffrey de Bocland, who was in the service of Hubert Walter, archbishop of Canterbury, at the end of the twelfth century, and who was archdeacon of Norfolk by 1204. (Reg. Gray, p.33n; le Neve, ii, p.482; C.R.Cheney, English Bishops' Chanceries, p.18).  
by 1249  
FICHELDEN, Peter de. Canon of Beverley by 1248 (Reg. Gray, pp. 259, 290). He was probably still a canon when he last appears - as succentor of York - in 1253 - 4 (ibid, p.291).  
Domestic chaplain and clerk of Archbishop Gray by 1239 (ibid, pp. 68; 73n, 85, 88n, 92, 198, 253; Reg. Wickwane, p.79). He was Gray's treasurer by 1251 (ibid, p.266n).  
He probably originated from the village of Figheldean, north of Amesbury, in Wiltshire.  
by 1253  
SKEFFLING (HOLDERNESS), Roger de. Canon of Beverley in February, 1252/3 (Emden, Oxford, ii, p.948). He also occurs as a canon when witnessing a charter of Archbishop Gray sometime between 1250 and 1255 (Reg. Gray, p.291, see also p.117).  
Matthew Paris described him as being a clerk of St. Albans at the time of his appointment as dean of York in 1258(2) (Chronica Majora, v, p.725).  
C. of York by 1255/6 (C.P.L., i, p.328) Dean of York 1258 - c.1260/1(3) (Fasti Ebor, i, p.7) Rector of Brantingham, some 12 miles S.E. of Beverley, from 1260 (Reg. Gray, p.78n).

1. See also Yorkshire Deeds, x, p.123.
2. 'Vir peritus et graciosus'.
3. William de Langton, his successor first occurs as dean in March, 1261/2. (Fasti Ebor, loc.cit).
He was a magister, probably of Oxford, by 1252/3. In 1252 he was one of the parties to the terms of peace between Northern and Irish scholars at the university (Emden, loc. cit.). The village of Skeffling is well out on the Holderness peninsula, five miles beyond Patrington, but just outside the southern boundary of this part of the Provostry.

?- 1252


1252-

THIRKLEBY, Thomas de. Canon of Beverley from 1252, when he was granted the prebend which had been vacated by Richard de St. Mildred (Reg. Gray, p.14). Thirkleby is five miles south-east of Thirsk, not far from Byland Abbey.

In 1258

'GRIFO', John called. Canon of Beverley in July, 1258, when, as a papal chaplain and a subdeacon, he received licence to hold extra benefices (C.P.L., i, p.358).

1. This living fell vacant early in 1270, but who relinquished it is uncertain (Reg. Giffard, p.55).

2. Thirkleby was never another name for Thirsk as is sometimes supposed.
SOME EARLY CHARTERS WITNESSED BY CANONS OF BEVERLEY

C. 1135-1143

Cyrograph of the confirmation by Thurstan, provost, and the chapter of Beverley of their grant of alms from the parishes of Bridlington and Hummanby to the canons of Bridlington.

"Inde sunt testes, Willelmus decanus Ebosacensis, Simon et Radulfus et Rogerus canonici Beverlacii, Aluredus sacrista, etc."

(The Chartulary of Bridlington Priory, pp. 69, 74; E.Y.C., i, No. 104)

William de Sancta Barbara became dean of York c. 1135
(Y.A.J., xxxiv, pp. 364-365), and was consecrated bishop of Durham on 20 June, 1143 (Symeon of Durham, Opera (R.S.), i, pp. 149-150) Thurstan's tenure of the provostship embraced both these dates.

1143-1147

Grant by William (Fitzherbert), archbishop of York, of free burgage to the town and burgesses of Beverley.

"His testibus....Turstino preposito.....Simone canonico, Radulfo canonico, magistro Alfrido sacrista, etc."

(Beverley Charter Book, p. 7; E.Y.C., i, No. 105)

Provost Thurstan died in the primacy of Archbishop Henry Murdac who replaced William Fitzherbert in December, 1147. This charter must therefore have fallen in the earlier period of Fitzherbert's tenure of the see, i.e. between 26 September, 1143 and December, 1147.

1148-1151

Confirmation by Henry (Murdac), archbishop of York, of the gift of land of William de Roumare, earl of Lincoln and William, his son, to the canons of Warter Priory, for the purpose of building their house.

"Huius confirmacionis nostrae testes sunt: .... et canonici Beverlacenses Aelwardus, Radulfus, Simon, Nicholas, Willelmus, Philippus, et Alueredus sacrista."

(E.Y.C., x, No. 67)

Henry Murdac was consecrated archbishop by the pope at Troyes on 7 December, 1147, but did not return to the diocese until the following year. William de Roumare junior died in 1151 (Complete Peerage, vii, p.670).
1162 - 1164

Grant by Provost Geoffrey to Ralph de Hanton, nephew of Canon Simon, with the consent of Archbishop Roger, of the lands of St. John formerly held by Simon in fee.

"Hiis testibus Osberto, Simone, WillelmO Moryn, Petro".

(B.C.A., ii, p.328)

Geoffrey became provost not earlier than 1162, and was drowned at sea, September, 1177 (B.C.A., ii, pp. xiii - xv). Archbishop Roger de Pont l'Evêque also died in this year, but after 1164 he is nearly always styled 'apostolicæ sedis legatus'.

1164 - 1174

Notification by Roger, archbishop of York and papal legate, of the restoration of lands to the demesne of the prebend of Langtoft in York Minster.

"...... Testes autem redditionis predictarum terrarum hii sunt: Gaufridus prepositus BeverlacI, Jeremias canonicus Eboracensis, Symon, Philippus canonici BeverlacI, etc."

(E.Y.C., i, No. 161)

Roger de Pont l'Evêque became papal legate in 1164. Jeremy's appointment to the archdeaconry of Cleveland was no later than 1174 (Y.A.J., xxvi, pp. 412 - 414), and was possibly as early as 1170, as assumed in E.Y.C., i, p.138.

1169

Charter of Archbishop Roger de Pont l'Evêque granting titles of his assart of Bymanescong to the sisters of Killingwoldgraves Hospital, Bishop Burton, nr. Beverley. Dated 29 June, 1169.

"...... Hiis testibus, Gaufrido, preposito BeverlacI', Simone, Osberto Arundel, Petro de Carcassona, Aylwardo, canonici BeverlacI, etc."

(Reg. Corbridge, ii, pp. 57 - 58; E.Y.C., i, p.170)

1177 - 1181

Grant by Archbishop Roger de Pont l'Evêque, papal legate, to the prebend of Newbald in York Minster.

"...... Hiis testibus Roberto decano Eboracensi, Hamone cantore, Radulfo archidiacono Jeremy archidiacono, Roberto preposito BeverlacI ...... magistro Milone, Philippo, Petro de Carcassona canonico BeverlacI .... etc."

(E.Y.C., i, No. 160)


N.B. Although Milone and Philip are not described as canons, other evidence, including III and V above, and VIII and IX below, puts their identity beyond reasonable doubt.
1177 - 1201
A charter in the Chartulary of Bridlington Priory (p. 318) has among its witnesses: Robert, provost of Beverley, and Master Miles, Philip, and Robert, canons of Beverley.

VIII
\[
\text{Robert was provost from c.1177 until 1201 (B.C.A., ii, p.xvii)}
\]

c.1197
Confirmation by Archbishop Geoffrey (Plantagenet) of a grant by William de Warenne of the church of Conisborough to the priory of Lewes.

"..... Hiis testibus Petro de Dinant, archidiacono Ebor., magistris Hennerico (sic) et Millone, canoniciis Beverlacensibus ..... etc."

(Reg. Corbridge, im pp. 47 - 49)

1220
Ratification by the Chapter of St. John of Beverley of an exchange made between the prior and convent of Watton and Richard Caretarius of Beverley in connection with lands which Richard held of the chapter in the vill and territory of Hessle. Dated 4 April, 1220.

"Witnesses: Mags. Roger de Rich', Ralph de dei Bone, Richard de Vescy, Richard Cornubiensi, canons of Beverley ..... etc."

(Yorkshire Deeds, ix, No. 256)

1220 - 1235
Purchase of land in the manor of Bishopthorpe by Archbishop Walter Gray from John Flambard.

"Testibus Magistris Roger de Richmond et Ricardo Cornub", Richard de Vescy canonicis Beverlaci ..... etc."

(Reg. Gray, p. 192n)

Richard de Cornubia appears as a canon of Beverley from 1220 onwards, and continued to hold his prebend until death c.1234. He was chancellor of York by 1225, but the fact that he is not so designated here does not necessarily mean that this document belongs to an earlier year, since he witnessed it simply as a member of the Beverley chapter with his co-canons. See Prebendaries of St. Peter's Altar, below pp. A.153 - 154.

See also a related document (loc. cit), where "G. de Bocland, canon of Beverlaci" is a witness. See also Reg. Gray, p. 193, where the three canons above appear as witnesses, but Bocland is not named.
ADDENDUM

1151 - 1153 Grant by Henry Murdac, archbishop of York has among its witnesses: ....... et canonici de Beverlaco Ailwardus, Radulfus, Simon, Rogerus, Will. Morin et Alueredus sacrista.
(BL Stowe MS 502)

c.1198 Grants of lands in Middleton-on-the-Wolds to the Church of Beverley witnessed by "Philippus, Mag. Milo, Mag. Haimericus, Rogerus (? Marmion)".
(BL Lansdowne MSS 406, 407, 408)

c.1220 The following canons witnessed, with others, a grant of lands in Garton to the Collegiate Church: "Dominus Ralph de Deibone, Mag. Roger de Richmund, Mag. Rog. Marmiun".
(BL Lansdowne MS 395)

1234 - 1242 Local charter granting lands to the Church of Beverley features the following canons: "Ric. de (? Vesci), Mag. Will Scotus, Mag. S. de Evesham, Mag. W. de Wisebeche, Dominus G. de Boclaunde".
(BL Lansdowne MS 194)
PREBENDARIES OF ST. ANDREW'S ALTAR
PREBENDARIES OF ST. ANDREW'S ALTAR


Between 1269 and 1279 he founded a chantry in the chapel of St. James on Hull Bridge, attached to St. Andrew's Prebend (Y.D., ix, pp. 11-12; Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, ii, pp.536-7). His successors in the moiety of Linton were definitely relatives of Archbishop Gray, and presumably he was his kinsman also. (W.H. Dixon, Fasti Ebor., p.280n).

He may have been the John le Gras, D.Cn. and C.L., persona Multum Solempnis, who supported the Oxford Franciscans in their dispute with the Dominicans concerning evangelical poverty. M.A., probably of Oxford (Emden, Oxford, ii, p.1127). See also York Minster Fasti, ii, pp. 16-17).


He first appears in diocesan records in 1275 when he failed to secure the church of Normanton-on-Soar, Notts. (Reg. Giffard, p.262). Abroad in 1283, having recd. letters of protection for 2 years, possibly assisting in the prosecution at the curia of Wickwane's case against the prior and convent of Durham (C.P.R., 1283-92, p.86).


1. When Archbishop Gray (B.C.A., in error, has Giffard) dissiezed John le Gras, canon of Beverley, of common turbary at Beverley "after the first crossing of Henry III to Gascony" (see also B.C.A., ii, p.23).

2. He was Wickwane's executor (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.163).
He appears to have retired from diocesan administration in 1288, when he resigned his archdeaconry, and to have taken up almost permanent residence at Beverley (B.C.A., i, passim). He was blind and infirm by 1309 (ibid, p.241), and died at Sutton-on-Trent - an area in which several of his kinsmen were active (ibid, p.268). Will dated 19 July, 1310, and proved 16 January, 1311 (ibid pp.271 - 3). M.A., probably of Oxford, though not so listed by Emden.

**1310 - 1316**


Treasury clerk 1302; Treasurer and King's Chamberlain for Scotland 1305 - 6; Chancellor of Exchequer 1307; Treasurer of England 1310 - 11, 1312 - 14, 1318 - 19; Lord Chancellor 1314 - 18; Bishop of Winchester 1316 - 19.

C. of York and p. of Givendale (1313 - 14), of Riccall (1314 - 16) (le Neve, pp. 52, 75); Custodian of the church of Lockington, nr. Beverley, 1302 (Reg. Corbridge, i, p.174); Rector of Misterton, 1309 (C.P.R. 1307 - 13, p.111), of Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Notts. until 1316, of Stillingfleet, Yorks. 1311 - 12 (Reg. Greenfield, iii, p.66).

At the time of his consecration he held, in addition, prebends in Lichfield, St. Patrick's, Dublin; St. Paul's, London; Lincoln and Howden, his title to another in Wells probably still being the subject of dispute. He also held the rectories of Simonburn, dio. Durham, and Dunbar, dio. St. Andrew's.

1. Another Walter de Gloucester, a baron of the exchequer, in May, 1311, the year of his death, was successively escheator north and south of the Trent (C.P.R., 1307 - 13, pp.348, 384 - 5). The canon's brother, Henry, who was also his executor, held the church of Sutton-on-Trent from 1282 until its appropriation to Worksop priory in 1304 (Reg. Wickwane, pp.81 - 2; Reg. Corbridge, iv, pp.271 - 2). Normanton-on-Soar, which Walter failed to secure, was also in this locality, and another Henry de Gloucester recd. the church of Willoughby-on-the-Wolds nearby in 1317. (Reg. Greenfield, v, p.277).

2. At the request of the King and Queen he had been provided to a canonry to await the next vacant prebend earlier in 1310.

3. He failed to secure the Archdeaconry of Richmond against Francis Gaetani (C.P.R., 1307 - 13, p.353; le Neve, p.25).

4. His possession of the deanery of St. Paul's in 1316 is extremely doubtful.
B.C.A. nowhere shows him visiting Beverley, and the dilapidated condition of his prebendal house in 1316 supports this as a true record. (For the assessment of repairs in 1318 see B.C.A., i, p.353.)

1316 - 1322

NORTHBURGH, Roger de. P. of St. Andrew's Altar, coll. 4 January, 1318, following royal grant, the prebend having been in the King's hands by reason of the recent vacancy of the see1 (B.C.A., i, p.347). Admitted in person 15 October, 1318, the court being then at Beverley (ibid, pp.363-4). Vac. on consecration as bishop of Coventry and Lichfield 27 June, 1322.

King's clerk; Keeper of the Privy Seal 1312-16; Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield 1322-59.

C. of York and p. of Wistow (1315-22), Archdeacon of Richmond (1317-22) (le Neve pp.25, 93).

Until his consecration he was also a prebendary of St. David's, Lincoln, Salisbury2, and possibly, still, of St. Paul's London, and rector of Bowness, dio. Carlisle, and Ford, dio. Durham.

In 1320 Edward II requested the pope to make his favourite clerk a cardinal3. He was taken prisoner at Bannockburn in 1314, in company with his clerks and the Great Seal. Apart from the occasion of his admission to the prebend he is never recorded as visiting Beverley.

1322 - 1330


St. Andrew's Prebend appears to have been his only preferment in the York diocese, and his benefices elsewhere were modest: in addition to a prebend in Exeter he held the rectories of Ringfield, dio. Norwich, and Blockley and Harrington, both

1. Greenfield died on 6 December, 1315, and Melton was consecrated on 25 September, 1317. The prebend was definitely vacant throughout 1317 (B.C.A., i, p.353).

2. Acquired by exchange with Nicholas de Huggate (see Prebendaries of St. James' Altar, below p.A.67) for a prebend in Hereford (le Neve, Hereford, p.39; Salisbury, p.97).


4. He was Reynolds' Vicar General in 1309.

His early possession of Ringfield in Suffolk suggests that he originated from Paston, the home of the letter-writers. He was abroad, possibly at the curia, in 1323. A trusted clerk of Walter Reynolds, and essentially a southerner, he was nevertheless more than a name at Beverley, being in residence there at least in the spring of 1325 (B.C.A., ii, pp. 62, 65).

1330 - 1341

CARDILIACO, Bertrand de. P. of St. Andrew's Altar by papal provision dated 15 August, 1330; coll. 26 June, 1331 (C.P.L. 1305 - 42, p.324; B.C.A., ii, p.97). Vac. by 18 October, 1341, when he was probably supplanted by William de Kildesby¹ (C.P.R., 1340 - 43, p.302).

A native of the duchy of Aquitaine, and therefore a subject of the King of England, he held letters of protection throughout the 1330s (C.P.R., 1330-34, p.417; 1334-38, p.490). He was an absentee on the two occasions when he occurs in the Act Book, i.e. June, 1331, and September, 1338, (B.C.A., ii, pp.97, 128), and there is no firm evidence that he was ever actually domiciled in England. Bishop of Montauban (County of Toulouse) from 1356.

1341 - 1347

KILDESBY,² William de. P. of St. Andrew's Altar, 18 October, 1341, by royal grant, the see being vacant following the death of Archbishop Melton³ (C.P.R., 1340 - 43, p.302). Vac. on death 20 July, 1347 (W.H. Dixon, Fasti Ebor., p.439n).

Secretary and much favoured clerk of Edward III; Master of the Rolls 1340; Keeper of the Privy Seal 1338 - 40, 1341 - 42.


¹ Though Kildesby appears to have gained effective possession of the prebend in 1341, Cardiliaco continued to lay claim to it as late as October, 1356, when he sought to exchange it with Richard de Thoresby for the p. of Sharow in Ripon. The transaction came to nothing owing to his promotion to the see of Montauban in that year (Lunt, Accounts Rendered, pp. 102, 131, 155, 180), Thoresby, in fact, acquiring the prebend from Thomas de Helwell, successor to Kildesby's claim (see below).

² or KILSBY.

³ Melton died on 4 April, 1340; William de la Zouch was consecrated 7 July, 1342.

⁴ Kildesby never gained possession of a prebend in Ripon as stated by Boutflower, loc. cit.
At the time of his death, he also held prebends in Lincoln, Chichester, Howden and Penrith, and may have still retained others in Wells and St. Paul's, London. For a brief period in 1341 he was a prebendary of Darlington, and was also master of St. Katherine-by-the Tower, dio. London, from 1339. He was rector of Llanbadarn-Fawr from 1342 until 1346, when he was succeeded by John Thoresby, the future archbishop.

After his failure, in spite of royal support, in the contest with William de la Zouch for the see of York (1340-42) he received letters of protection on his departure, in 1343, to seek his fortune overseas (Poedera, i, p.332). He was the bitter enemy of John Stratford, archbishop of Canterbury (1333-48), whom he blamed for his disappointment at York, and his influence served to bedevil the relations between the archbishop and Edward III (1340-43). It is unlikely that he ever visited Beverley as canon, St. Andrew's being but a small part of the preferment heaped upon him by Edward.

1347-1355


King's clerk in 1346, still in 1355.

Archdeacon of Cleveland (1351-55) (le Neve, pp. 19-20); Estate ratified (C.P.R., 1350-54, p.444). He was presented to the church of Kippax, near Leeds, 18 February, 1355 (C.P.R. 1354-58, p.183), apparently as the result of an

¹ The date of his death is a matter of dispute, as is often the case of persons dying overseas. le Neve (new ed.) consistently gives 1346 as the year of death, citing C.P.L., iii, p.237 and Reg. Zouch fo.228. W.H. Dixon's assertion that he died at Caen 20 July, 1347, (Fasti Ebor., p.439n) is supported by the fact that Thomas de Helwell had the collation of St. Andrew's a week later.


³ Dade, p.29, places 'Rd de Thurmeston' before Helwell, at the head of his short list. This may be Mr. Richard de Tormeton, who at this time was contesting the prebend of Horton in Salisbury and the chancellorship of Wells, and who was Treasurer of Wells (1348-61) and p. of Whitchurch in Wells (1348-?). If he ever gained possession of St. Andrew's he must have parted with it almost immediately. He had a provision to a prebend in 1342 (C.P.L., iii, p.80). Alternatively, Dade may have misread the name of Richard de Thoresby, who attempted to acquire the prebend from Cariliaco in 1356, having already satisfied Helwell. In this case his order is wrong.
exchange with William de Ferriby who received his archdeaconry (le Neve, p.20). On 18 March following he exchanged Kippax with John de Ferriby for an unknown benefice (C.P.R., 1354-58, p.193).

C. of Woverhampton and p. of Hatherdon (1355-?). He was probably a near kinsman of John de Helwell, p. of Barnby in York (1349-87).

1355 –

THORESBY, Richard de. P. of St. Andrew's Altar, 16 May, 1355, on exchange for the prebend of Hatherdon in Wolverhampton (Dixon, Fasti Ebor, p.449n; see also C.P.R., 1354-58, p.212). No notice of his death or resignation has been found. It is probable that the admission of his successor in November, 1364, marked the approximate date of his death.¹


Master of the Free Chapel of Ferrybridge (1355); C. of Ripon and p. of Sharow (1355-?).

Elsewhere he was p. of Wolverhampton till 1355, Rector of Bugbrooke, dio. Lincs. (1348-9), and of Oundle, same dio. from 1352.

1364 –

SAUNDFORD, John de. P. of St. Andrew's Altar, 20 November, 1364 (C.P.R. 1364-67, p.44), still in 1369 (C.P.L., iv, p.78). His subsequent career is uncertain.

Clerk of Queen Philippa in 1363 and 1366 (ibid, p.57).

He appears to have held no other preferment in the Province of York, but in the south he was C. of Wells and p. of Ashill from 1364 (le Neve, p.18); C. of St. Paul's, London, and p. of ?² in 1363, still in 1369 (C.P.L., iv, pp.57, 78).

It was largely through the influence of Queen Philippa, whose child protégé he was, that he gained these prebends in spite of his illegitimacy and the fact that he was barely 14 years of age in 1364³. B.A. and student of arts at Oxford in

¹ He, and several other prebendaries of whom little is known, may well have been victims of the Black Death.

² Saundford does not appear in le Neve, St. Paul's, London, but there are several gaps in the St. Paul's Chapter at this stage, and he may well have occupied one of five prebends. The ravages of the Black Death, apparent in these present lists, seem to have caused even greater confusion in London.

³ He was under 14 in November, 1363 (C.P. Pet., i, pp.469-70). His illegitimacy was the subject of papal dispensations in 1363, 1367, 1369 (ibid, p.469; C.P.L., iv, pp.61, 78).
October, 1366 (C.P.L., iv, p.57). See also Emden, Oxford, iii, p.1645.

1375 - 1376

CRULL, Robert. P. of St. Andrew's Altar, 28 April, 1375, by royal grant, the see being vacant following the death of Archbishop Thoresby (C.P.R., 1374 - 77, p.94). Vac. by 7 October, 1376, when Walter Skirlaw had the prebend.

King's clerk by 1375 till 1377 (C.P.R., 1374 - 77, pp. 161, 474, 477).

C. of York and p. of Fridaythorpe (1377 - 1409) (le Neve, p.51; see also Fasti Ebor, i, p.115).

He received a royal grant of the prebend of Grantham Australis in Salisbury on 13 February, 1375, (C.P.R. 1374 - 77, p.76), but since similar grants were made later in the year to two other clerks (ibid, pp.77, 189) his continued possession must be doubted. C. of Dublin and p. of Swerdes in 1376 (C.P.R. 1374 - 77, p.283); C. of Free Chapel of Bridgenorth and p. of Mommarfield 1377 - ? (ibid p.458); P. of Tettenhal 1377 - ? (ibid p.477).

1376 - 1385

SKIRLAW, Walter de. P. of St. Andrew's Altar by 7 October, 1376, when his estate in the prebend was ratified (C.P.R. 1374 - 77, pp. 239, 348, 473). Vac., almost certainly, on his promotion to the see of Coventry and Lichfield, 27 October, 1385.

Secretary of Archbishop Thoresby in 1359; Official of the Court of York 1374 - 77; Clerk in Chancery from 1377; Keeper of the Privy Seal 1382 - 86; Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield 1386, of Bath and Wells 1386 - 88, of Durham 1388 - 1406.

C. of York and p. of Fenton (1370 - 85); Archdeacon of the East Riding (1359 - 85) (le Neve, pp. 22, 48).
When promoted to the see of Coventry and Lichfield he also resigned prebends in Lincoln (where he may still have possessed the archdeaconry of Northampton in addition), St. Martin-le-Grand, London, and possibly Howden. (A full list of these and lesser preferments are given by Emden, iii, pp. 1708 - 1710).

It would be strange if this great man were not influenced in his earlier days by Beverley Minster, and perhaps its Grammar School: South Skirlaugh, his birthplace, is about ten miles due east of Beverley, and in Skirlaw's time was almost surrounded by the Provostry. As a prebendary he can have found little time for active participation in the affairs of the chapter, and his almost continuous absence abroad in the 1380's, and his involvement in affairs of state, appear to have spared him the trials of his brother canons in their great dispute with Alexander Neville, which broke in 1381. He showed his affection for the Minster, however, in a noble will, leaving it the handsome sum of £40 and a set of vestments (Test. Ebor., i, p.306).

B.C.L. of Oxford by 1358, D.Ch.L. by 1373 (Emden, loc. cit).

1385 - 1410

WALKINGTON, Thomas de. P. of St. Andrew's Altar by papal provision, 17 December, 1385 (C.P.L., iv, pp. 343, 370). Vac. on death between 12 August and 24 September, 1410, when his will was made and proved (Wills and Inventories, pp. 49 - 51).

Papal chaplain and auditor of the Sacred College for at least 20 years from 1385\(^2\) (see Emden, Oxford, iii, p.1965, for refs.).

1. Henry Bowet, probably his immediate successor, was installed 23 February, 1386 (le Neve, Lincoln, p.11).

2. This post did not prevent him representing at the curia several eminent churchmen and institutions, including Thomas Brantingham, bishop of Exeter 1370 - 94, his early patron, who may have been responsible for sending him to Rome and Durham Cathedral Priory, a connection which may have brought him the Rectory of Houghton-le-Spring.
Archdeacon of Cleveland (by 1391 - 1410) (le Neve, p.20).

He owed his early preferment to Thomas Brantingham, bishop of Exeter 1370 - 94, in whose service he was prior to his departure for the curia: he was p. of Exeter (1378 - 93), dean (1378 - 84); p. of Crediton (1379 - 89).

In 1389 he exchanged this last prebend for another in St. Martin-le-Grand, London.

1. He was litigating for the archdeaconry in 1389 (the reference in C.P.L., iv, p.343, to the archdeaconry of the East Riding is almost certainly a mistake, though this too was also the subject of dispute, see le Neve, Northern Province, p.22). Walkington's claim to the archdeaconry of Cleveland may well have been connected with his prolonged dispute with John de la Pole (see below) for our prebend of St. Andrew's Altar, for Walkington was to resign St. Andrews on taking possession of the archdeaconry, and apparently he failed to do so. (C.P.L., iv, p.343; Wills and Inventories, pp. 49 - 51).

But Pole's claim to St. Andrew's was made earlier than this (1389), for, on 13 June, 1387, he obtained the first of several royal ratifications of his estate in the prebend (C.P.R., 1385 - 9, p.310). The course of the litigation, with its decisions and their reversal in favour of both men, may be traced in the pages of C.P.L., iv, especially pp. 370, 410. Pole, who was only 12 years old, appears to have gained effective possession in 1391. (C.P.L., iv, p.370; B.C.A., ii, p. 266) Walkington's will (Wills and Inventories, loc. cit) supports subsequent references in the Papal Letters in the view that he regained possession. A local man, coming from Walkington, five miles S.W. of Beverley, on the old Howden road, he certainly returned to England before his death, and the fact that he requested burial behind St. Andrew's Altar may indicate that like several other prebendaries, before and later, he spent his retirement as a residentiary of Beverley.

For the wider background to the dispute see POLE, John de la, following.

Another claimant, Thomas Haxey (see Prebendaries of St. Katherine's Altar, below p.A.213) appears not to have pressed his royal grant of the prebend (C.P.R., 1385 - 89, p.402). In any case it is unlikely that his claim, if it persisted so long, survived his pronouncement as a traitor following the Hilary parliament of 1397.
Rector of Houghton-le-Spring and Master of Sherburn Hospital, dio. Durham (by 1387 - 1410). A clerk of "great expectations": as was the case of many curialists at the end of the fourteenth century, he had more success in acquiring provisions than in bringing them to fruition. There is no evidence that his expectations of prebends in York, Ripon, Howden and Aukland were ever realised.


POLE, John de la.¹ Estate as p. of St. Andrew's Altar ratified 13 June, 1387,² 23 May, 1389, 19 December, 1391 (C.P.R. 1385 - 9, p.310; 1388 - 92, p.26). Listed as p. of St. Andrew's, assenting to Archbishop Arundel's Statutes for Beverley 28 July, 1391, (B.C.A., ii, p.266) but appears to have lost possession to Walkington soon afterwards, though not relinquishing his claim³ (see WALKINGTON, above).

1. Since his name is sometimes given as Poole he is to be distinguished from John Poole, Fellow of New College 1393 - 1407, headmaster of Winchester College 1407 - 14, whose benefices were all in the dioceses of Worcester and Winchester (Emden, Oxford, iii, p.1490 - 1).

2. C.P.L., iv, p.409, makes it clear that he had claimed the prebend, as had Walkington, from the consecration of Skirlaw in 1385.

3. The disputed possession of the prebend at this time must be set against the wider ecclesiastical and political background of the times. Although the pope's right to appoint Walkington was based upon the fact that the prebend was vacant through papal action (the elevation of Skirlaw to Coventry and Lichfield) Walkington's position was particularly difficult at the time which saw the enactment of the second Statute of Provisors (1390), and when Neville's quarrel with the Minster was still unresolved. Pole's position, on the other hand, was strengthened, and perhaps accounted for, by his father, who had been governor of Richard II, and the archbishop, being close adherents of the king, both suffering disgrace at the hands of the Appellants and the Merciless Parliament of 1388. The Pole family fortunes, however, were restored by 1399, when the second earl of Suffolk (John's brother), forgetful of his father's friendship with Richard, espoused the cause of Henry Bolingbroke, who rewarded him handsomely after his success. Against this background John de la Pole's succession to St. Andrew's prebend, at least on Walkington's death, can readily be supposed.
It is probable that in England he never ceased to be recognised as the lawful p., or, at least, that he had the promise of the prebend on Walkington's death. That he held the prebend at the time of his death, in 1415, is strongly suggested by the fact that Henry Bowet, the next known p. of St. Andrew's Altar, had collation 11 February, 1416, (Reg. Bowet, i, fo.55) the very day upon which Henry Merston succeeded Pole in the prebend of Wistow in York (Reg. Bowet, loc. cit; Test. Ebor., i, p.372).

Second son of Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk.

C. of York and p. of Wistow (1381 - 1416) (le Neve, p.93).

Pole's preferments were modest considering his status, for he is not known to have held any preferment outside the York diocese. Like his main rival, Walkington, he had strong local connections, for his family, though it had outgrown its merchant days at Hull, continued to hold extensive lands in Holderness throughout the middle ages. Born c.1373, he thus became a p. of York at the age of 8 or 9, and his age must have been a trump card in the hand of Walkington, since a p. of Beverley was, according to Minster Statutes, to be in priest's orders.


1416

BOWET, Henry. P. of St. Andrew's Altar, coll. 11 February, 1416 (Reg. Bowet, i, fo.55). Vac. on resignation on his transfer to the prebend of St. Martin's Altar, 7 October, 1416 (ibid, i, fo.58).

For a fuller account of this clerk see BOWET, Henry, under Prebendaries of St. Martin's Altar, below pp.A.104 - 105.

1416 - 1418

NOTTINGHAM, John de. P. of St. Andrew's Altar, coll. 9 October, 1416 (Reg. Bowet, i, fos. 53 and 58), having previously held St. Mary's prebend from 1409 (see below p.A.125). Vac. on death 20 December, 1418. (Reg. Bowet, i, fo.191).

Treasury clerk by 1383; Chancellor of Exchequer 1390, reappointed 1399 (C.P.R. 1389-92, p.295).


Rector of Cottingham from 1388/89 having exchanged with Thomas Hulse for a prebend in St. George's, Windsor (C.P.R. 1385 - 89, p.538).
Warden of St. Mary Magdalen's Hospital, Ripon, till 1408 when he exchanged it with William de Skirwith for a prebend in Bath and Wells (le Neve, Bath and Wells, p.50), and this, in turn, he exchanged with Richard de Kingston for St. Mary's prebend in Beverley in 1409 (le Neve, loc. cit).

A master of exchange. In addition to the transactions involving preferment in the York diocese he exchanged the prebend of Colworth in Chichester for that of Chiswick in St. Paul's in 1406 (le Neve, Chichester, p.18). Earlier, in 1388/9, he had exchanged his chancellorship of Hereford for the prebend of St. George's, Windsor, which he exchanged almost immediately for Cottingham Rectory (le Neve, Hereford, pp. 12-13).

In addition to these preferments he had a prebend in Hastings from 1394, and also the deanery of Tattenhall, Staffs. (See also Miscellanea, ii, pp.296-7).

WOODHAM, John. P. of St. Andrew's Altar, 22 December, 1418 (Y.A.J., xxxvi, pp.230-1), having held St. Katherine's prebend from January 1416/17 until that date. Vac. on death by March, 1435, at the end of which month his will was proved (Reg. Kemp fo.384, Test. Ebor, ii, p.203).

Archbishop's clerk; Registrar of Archbishop Bowet by 1410; Official of the Court of York in 1417; archbishop's chancellor in 1418. Notary public by 1410.

Archdeacon of Nottingham (1415-18) exch. for archdeaconry of East Riding (1418-35); C. of York and p. of Fenton (1419-28), of Stillington (1428-35)(le Neve, pp. 23, 24, 49, 79); P. of St. Mary and the Holy Angels, York (1415)(Y.A.J., xxxvi, pp.230-1); Master of St. John's Hospital, Ripon till 1414, when he exchanged it for the prebend of Norton Episcopi in Lincoln, which, in the following year he gave in return for the p. in St. Mary and the Holy Angels (le Neve, Lincoln, p.97).

His only other benefices were the rectory of Souldrop, dio. Ely, which he exchanged for Milton, same dio. in November 1406.


1. See below p.A.164.
BARNINGHAM, John de. P. of St. Andrew's Altar from 1435 (Test. Ebor, ii, p.203; Miscellanea, ii, p.273). There is little doubt that he held the prebend, as he did the Provostry, at the time of his death between 29 March and 28 May, 1457, when his will was made and proved¹ (Test. Ebor, ii, pp.203-7).


C. of York and p. of Wetwang (1426-32), Treasurer of York (1432-57) (le Neve, pp.14, 90). In 1452 he was rejected as dean of York in favour of Richard Andrew, the king's secretary, after a disputed election (York Cathedral Acta. Capit. 1427-1504, fo. 158). In addition to his prebends and dignity he held the rectory of Brompton, between Pickering and Scarborough, and the plum benefice of Bolton Percy, near York (Reg. Kemp fos. 118, 119, 376; 68, 72).

C. of St. Paul's, London, (1423-57), holding successively the prebends of Caddington Minor, Mapesbury and Oxgate (le Neve, pp. 26, 46, 52); Dean of the Collegiate Church of Wolverhampton from 1437 (C.P.R. 1436-41, p.32)².

Like William Duffield (see Prebendaries of St. Stephen's Altar, below p.A.187) he had been a devoted servant of Archbishop Kemp since the latter's Rochester days, and came north with him. At the outset of his primacy (16 September, 1452) Archbishop William Booth appointed him one of his four vicars general (A. Hamilton Thompson, English Clergy, p.191).

His benefactions both before and after his death bear out Leach's belief that he was a York rather than a Beverley man. He is chiefly remembered for the major part which he took in the erection of the S.W. Tower of York Minster, and as a co-founder of St. William's College at York (Test. Ebor, ii, pp.203-7; Miscellanea, ii, pp.291-2). His arms are in the east window of the south transept of the choir in York Minster (John Browne, Arms on the Glass in York Minster, p.241).

1. Whilst there was nothing to prevent him quitting his prebend, it is extremely unlikely that a Provost would give up his place in chapter whilst continuing in office.

   Though he is sometimes referred to as John Bermyngham, A.F. Leach is almost certainly correct in supposing the village of Barningham, near Greta Bridge, in Teesdale to be his place of origin (B.C.A., ii, loc. cit).

2. He never held a prebend in Salisbury, as is sometimes alleged; his proposed exchange of Wetwang in York for Salisbury with Robert Rolleston, his predecessor in the Provostry (see above, p.A.25, below p.A.214), in 1426, apparently came to nothing (le Neve, Salisbury, p.85).
1457 - 1461

STANLEY, James¹. P. of St. Andrew's Altar, adm. 31 May, 1457, (Reg. William Booth, fo.36). Vac. on resignation by 31 May, 1461, when his successor had collation (ibid, fo.52). C. of York and p. of Driffield (1460 - 85)(le Neve, p.45).

Apart from the prebend of Finsbury in St. Paul's, London, which he exchanged in 1481 for the wardenship of Manchester Collegiate Church (le Neve, St. Paul's, p.37), all his other benefices coincided with the Stanley estates in Lancashire and the Welsh Marches². He was rector of St. Mary's, Chester (1458 - 64), St. Peter's, Chester (1464 - 66), Winwick, Lancs. (from 1462), Warrington (from 1476), of Hawarden, Flint (from 1478). In addition, he was archdeacon of Chester (1478 - 85)(Emden, Oxford, iii, p.1760).

The son of Thomas, Lord Stanley, he belonged to the third generation of that military family whose rise in fortune is part of national history in the fifteenth century. He was 16 years of age, and a student at Oxford, at the time of his preferment at Beverley in 1457. A contemporary at Oxford described him as "Not indeed another Aristotle or Augustine, but endowed with great virtues and a staunch defender of the faith". (University's letter to his brother, cited by Emden, loc.cit). He was dead by July, 1485. M.A. of Oxford by 1462 (Emden, loc.cit).

1461 - 1465

BOOTH, John (note on page following). P. of St. Andrew's Altar, coll. 31 May, 1461 (Reg. William Booth, fo.52). Vac. on consecration as bishop of Exeter, 7 July, 1465.


C. of York and p. of Wistow (1457), Treasurer of York (1457 - 59), p. of Strensall (1459), of Bole (1464 - 65), Archdeacon of Richmond (1459 - 65)(le Neve, pp.14, 26, 36, 81, 94); Rector of Adbolton (1459) (Reg. William Booth, fo. 87).

¹ He is not to be confused with his nephew, James Stanley, who was not born in 1457 (he was in fact born c.1464), and who became bishop of Ely in 1506, dying in 1515.

² His mastership of the Hospital of St. James and St. John, Brackley, dio. Lincoln, which he held from 1472 - c.1484 is, however, an exception to this.
The fact that there were two John Booths, contemporaries in the York chapter, and both nephews of the step-brothers Archbishops William and Laurence Booth, has caused much confusion - confusion which Dr. Emden has left unresolved (Cambridge, pp.77 - 78).

Our John Booth was the son of Roger Booth (Reg. William Booth, fos. 36, 49; C. Pat. Letters, 1452-61, p.505) whereas his cousin, who held the prebend of Riccal in York (1459-96 - not from 1465 as in Emden, loc. cit) was the son of a Sir Robert Booth.

Emden gives St. Andrew's prebend to the latter John in 1461, but this is extremely improbable, for the fact that Henry Webber, introduced in the early days of George Neville's primacy, received the Provostry of Beverley and St. Andrew's at almost the same time, i.e. in the weeks following John Booth's consecration, carries the obvious inference that both had belonged to the same man. The Provostry certainly belonged to the John named here - the son of Roger Booth. (Emden gives the date of his admission to the Provostry as 31 May, 1457). This, however, is the date of his uncle's, Laurence Booth's, admission. John followed his uncle in the office after the latter's elevation to the see of Durham, the date being 12 January, 1457/8 - B.C.A., ii, p.xc).

Another extremely doubtful point in Dr. Emden's notices of these two Booths is his crediting of the Treasureship and prebend of Sawley in Lichfield to the second John. The relevant reference, dated 24 July, 1459 (Cal. Pat. Letters, 1452-61, p.505) explicitly states that it is the son of Roger who is being preferred. On the other hand the fact that a John Booth vacated the Treasureship of Lichfield in November, 1495, points to the conclusion that by this time it had become the possession of John, the son of Robert, who died in the following year, and the revised le Neve for Lichfield (as yet unpublished) may well reveal that he followed his cousin in the dignity in 1465. Emden is correct in listing the mastership of Manchester Collegiate Church among the preferments of our John Booth in spite of F.F. Raine's assertion that the dignity went to the son of Robert (The Rectors of Manchester and the Wardens of the Collegiate Church of that Town, i, pp. 25-27. Raines, however, assumes only one John Booth, the future bishop of Exeter). It was certainly Roger's son who exchanged Adbolton Rectory, in Notts, for the mastership with Roger Radcliffe (see following) on 12 December, 1459 (Emden, Cambridge, pp. 78, 469). The other John Booth also had Adbolton, but not until 13 March, 1467, vacating it before the end of the year (Emden, op. cit., p.78).
Elsewhere John Booth, the son of Roger, was:

Treasurer and p. of Sawley in Lichfield (1459 - ?1465) (C. Pat. Letters, 1452 - 61, p.505); C. of St. Paul's, London, and p. of Mapesbury (1464 - 65) (Le Neve, p.46); Rector of St. Mary Magdalen, Old Fish Street, dio. London (by 1453); Warden of Denwall Hospital, Wirral, dio. Lichfield (by 1453); Vicar of Leigh, Lancs. same dio. (1453 - 55); Rector of Girton, Cambs. dio. Ely (1454 - 57), of Barnack, dio. Lincoln (1455 - 59); Master (or Warden) of Manchester Collegiate Church (1459 - 65).


WEBBER, Henry. P. of St. Andrew's Altar, coll. 24 September, 1465 (Reg. George Neville, fo.2). Vac. on death by 14 February, 1477, when Robert Booth had collation (Reg. George Neville, fo.251; Reg. Laurence Booth fo.11b).


PROVOST OF BEVERLEY (July - September, 1465) (B.C.A., ii, pp. xci, 353).

1. At East Horsley Manor in Surrey. If, as Emden and Raines both assert, John Booth, bishop of Exeter, was buried in St. Clement Danes, London, the unique brass in East Horsley Church (of which Raines was aware) calls for some explanation, since the epitaph under the kneeling effigy of a bishop in profile reads

       ... Hic iacet Johes bowthe quoda Eps Exonien qui
Obit v° die mesis Aprelis A dni MCCCCLXXVIII

(Emden, Oxford, iii, p.2005, states that he made his will on 25 February, 1471, by which time he was a very old man, and likely to be thinking about his will. If, however, 1471 is a slip for 1477, it would mean that Webber resigned St. Andrew's shortly before his death to facilitate his successor's appointment. This was a common procedure, but only the oddness of the dates, which are both in the month of February, suggests that it could have been followed here. His will was proved 1 March, 1477 (Reg. Bourchier (Canterbury and York Soc) p.214).
P. of Exeter (1436 - 77), Treasurer (1442 - 53), Precentor (1453 - 59/60), Dean (1459/60 - 77; C. of Wells and p. of Wedmore Secunda (1459 - 77) (le Neve, p.71). For Webber's other benefices, which were many, but all confined to the diocese of Exeter, see Emden, loc.cit).

The only connection of this distinguished West Country clerk with the York diocese was his closeness to Archbishop George Neville in his Exeter days. Webber's preferment in Beverley, wholly out of keeping with the rest of his career, was one of Neville's first acts after his translation, his appointment to the Provestry being actually under the seal of Exeter. (B.C.A., ii, xci). He certainly never left the West for long.

B.Cn.L. of Oxford by 1422 (Emden, loc.cit).

1477 - 1488

BOOTH, Robert. P. of St. Andrew's Altar, coll. 14 February, 1476/77 (Reg. Laurence Booth, fo.11b) having previously held the prebend of St. James' Altar from 27 October, 1476 (ibid fo.11a; see below p.A.78). Vac. on death between 23 and 30 January 1487/8 (Test.Ebor., iv, pp. 30 - 32, Reg. Rotherham, i, fo.102b).

Vicar General of Archbishop Rotherham¹ 1480, 1485 (Test. Ebor., iv, p.302; A. Hamilton Thompson, English Clergy, pp. 193 - 4). As a king's clerk in 1474 he was engaged in peace negotiations with Scotland.

C. of York and p. of Ampleforth (1477 - 78), of Wetwang (1478 - 88), Dean of York (1477 - 88) (le Neve, pp. 8, 28, 91); Warden of St. Mary's Hospital, Bootham, York (1487 - 88).

C. of Salisbury and p. of Charminster and Bere (? - 1488) (le Neve, p.43); Rector of St. Matthew's, Ipswich, dio. Norwich (1473 - 76), of Little Bowden, Leicestershire, dio. Lincoln (from 1475).

Robert Booth was the illegitimate son of a nobleman - his precise relationship with the archbishops Booth is uncertain. By 1473 he was studying at a university, probably Cambridge, though Emden thinks that his D.C.L., which he had gained by 1478, was awarded by a foreign university (Emden, Camb., pp. 79 - 80).

¹ William Poteman (see below p.A.167) shared the vicariate with him.
In his will, dated 23 January 1487/8, he requested burial close to Richard Andrew, his predecessor in the deanery (Test. Ebor., iv, pp. 30 - 32). His epitaph in York Minster reads:

Igenio, virtute, fide, dape, vix locus iste
Vulgi voce parem noverat ante diem
Robertus Bothe decanus 1487

CHADERTON, Edmund. P. of St. Andrew's Altar, coll. 30 January, 1487/88 (Reg. Rotherham, fo.102b). Vac. on death between 6 April (when he made his will) and 22 August, 1499 (le Neve, Salisbury, p.12; Test. Ebor., iv, p.68; North Country Wills, p.265). He had previously held St. Katherine’s Prebend c.1471 - 1477/8 (see below p.A.215).

Chaplain and favourite clerk of Richard III. Keeper of the hanaper until 1484, when he was appointed treasurer of the chamber. He received a general pardon from Henry VII, and in his will is described as 'chancellor of the most noble princess Elizabeth, queen of England (Test. Ebor., iv, pp.67 - 68).

C. of Southwell and p. of Sacrista (1472 - 75), of South Muskham (1475 - 76), of Norwell iii (1476), of Dunham (1485 - 99). C. of Ripon and p. of Thorpe (1485 - 97)1. Rector of Burton Agnes, nr. Bridlington (1462 - 70), of Kirkby Lonsdale (1470 - 73), of Almondbury, W.Riding, in 1484, of Hockerton and Staunton, both in Notts., till 1478; Vicar of Blythe, Notts. (1462); Master of St. Leonard's Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent (1476).

In addition, he held vast preferment elsewhere, possessing at his death the archdeaconries of Salisbury, Totnes, and Chester, and prebends in Lincoln, Salisbury, Chichester, St. Paul's, London and St. Stephen's Westminster.

For details of these and of other lesser benefices see the full, though not necessarily complete, biographical notices in Test. Ebor., iv, pp. 67 - 68; Memorials of Ripon, ii, pp.218 - 220 and Emden, Oxford, i, pp.382 - 3.

1. It is strange that a clerk of Chaderton's standing should have a prebend in all three daughter churches without ever acquiring a place in the York Chapter.
Chaderton, who had served Richard when duke of Gloucester, rose to wealth and status on his master's accession, and it was during his brief reign, as a member of the Council, Treasurer and domestic chaplain, that he received his choicest preferment. St. Andrew's, Beverley, was one of the very few acquisitions after the death of Richard III, which did not come to him by exchange.

Emden (loc. cit) claims him as an Oxford graduate, but has found no explicit proof of this.

CARNBULL, Henry. P. of St. Andrew's Altar, coll. 25 August, 1499, on transferring from St. Martin's prebend, which he had held since 1486/7 (see below p.A.110). Vac. on resignation in February, 1502/3 (Test. Ebor., v, p.28n).

He appears to have served under Archbishop Rotherham at Lincoln, and certainly at York - "One of the chief assistants of Archbishop Rotherham in the management of the diocese of York, and himself a man of great munificence and piety" (Test. Ebor. loc. cit). After the death of Rotherham, to whom he may have been related, he is found in the service of Henry VII: in March 1504/5 he was described as king's clerk, chaplain and councillor (C.P.R., 1494-1509, p.394), though he remained essentially north country clerk.

C. of York and p. of Fridaythorpe (1485-88), of Wetwang (1488-94), of Masham (1494-1508) (le Neve, pp. 51, 68, 91). At the same time he was archdeacon of Cleveland (1485-93), of the East Riding (1493-97), of York (1497-1504) (ibid pp. 19, 21, 23). C. of Southwell and p. of ? (1494-1507); Master of St. Mary's Hospital, Ripon in 1485; Rector of Collingham, Notts. 1492.

His chief preferments outside the diocese were: C. of Lincoln and p. of Spaldwick (1477), of Stow Longa (1477-78), of Leighton Manor (1478-?1507) (le Neve, pp. 84, 101, 112); C. of Salisbury and p. of Yatesbury (1493-94) (le Neve, p.99).

1. The fact that much preferment came to him soon after Bosworth Field suggests that his fortunes were linked with Henry's.

2. His next known successor was installed 22 February, 1507 (le Neve, Lincoln, p.84).

3. He was never M.A. as stated here. Although obviously a man of ability he was in fact one of the few non-graduates in the collegiate chapters at this time.
He made his will on 12 July, 1512, and appears to have died shortly afterwards, having resigned all his major preferments some years earlier (Test. Ebor., v, p.30).1

ROKEBY, William. P. of St. Andrew's Altar, coll. 13 February, 1502/3 (Reg. Savage, fo.22). The date of his vacation of the prebend is nowhere given: his next known successor, Robert Carter, was already in possession in 1525, so it is possible that he continued to hold it until his death on 29 November, 1521.2


Rector of Kirk Sandall (1487, 1497 - 1501),3 of Sproatley (1501 - 03), Warden of Sibthorp Hospital, Notts. (from 1498), of the Free Chapel of Ferrybridge (1501 - 12), Vicar of Halifax (1502 - 21) (Reg. Savage, xxiv, fos. 6, 51, 20, 15).


He was a fellow of King's Hall, Cambridge, from 1495 until shortly before his consecration (Emden, Oxford, iii, p.1585). B.Cn.L. 1490, D.Cn.L. 1495 (Emden, Cambridge, p.486).

He was responsible for the final establishment of Maynooth College in 1518, and ended the estrangement between successive archbishops of Dublin and their chapter in 1515.

He died in England, and was buried in the fine perpendicular chantry which still dwarfs the chancel of Kirk Sandall Church, though his heart and bowels were deposited in a chapel of Halifax Church, built for the purpose by his executors in accordance with his will. (Test. Ebor., v, pp.140 - 144)3. His memorial inscription at Kirk Sandall gives the date of his death as 8 November, 1521 (Y.A.J., xv, p.46).

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1. He himself was executor of Archbishop Rotherham in 1500, along with five others. It is his connection with the town of Rotherham which also suggests his kinship with archbishop. In 1507 he was patron of Rotherham vicarage (Fasti. Parochiales, ii, p.42), having earlier, in March, 1504/5, founded a chantry in the church there (ibid, p.133; Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, i, p.205). At the same time he also founded a chantry in York Minster (Fasti. Parochiales, ii, p.133; C.P.R., 1494 - 1509, p.394; Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, i, pp. 24 and n.201).

2. His elevation to the episcopate need not have affected his tenure of the prebend, for, as an Irish Bishop, he was permitted to retain his benefices. (He held Halifax Vicarage, the Rectory of Thorpland and the archdeaconry of Surrey (which he received late in life) at the time of his death).

3. For a full description of his tomb, and memorial brasses at Kirk Sandall and Halifax (the one much mutilated the other completely lost), see Y.A.J., xv, pp. 46 - 47. See also Mill Stephenson, op. cit., p.557.
CARTER, Robert. P. of St. Andrew's Altar by 1525/6 (State Papers 17 Henry VIII, vol. iv, pt.1 No. 2001), still in 1535 (Valor Ecclesiasticus, v, p.131). He was certainly eligible for the prebend when Rokeby died in 1521, and there is no known reason why he should not have retained it until his death early in 1541 (Emden, Oxford, i, pp.364 - 5).

Steward of Wolsey's household in 1524 and 1526, but otherwise a lifelong teacher in the University of Oxford (Emden, Oxford, i, pp.364 - 365).

The Beverley prebend was his only preferment in the north, but in the south he was rector of St. Martin's Vintry, dio. London (1519 - 41), of Yardley Hastings, dio. Winchester (1519 - 31), of Woolpit, dio. Norwich (1521 - 29), of Islip, dio. Lincoln (1526 - 41), and vicar of All Hallows, Barking, dio. London (1521 - 29) (Emden, Oxford, loc.cit).


DAY, George. Dade (p.22) lists him as p. of St. Andrew's Altar before George Clayton, but gives no dates. Clayton had coll. 9 April, 1543, and Day was consecrated bishop of Chichester 6 May following, and may reasonably be assumed to have resigned the prebend in anticipation of his promotion.

Chaplain to Bishop Fisher of Rochester; Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge; Public Orator of the University of Cambridge (1528 - 37); Master of St. John's College (1537 - 38); Vice Chancellor (1537 - 38); Provost of King's College (1538 - 47); Bishop of Chichester (1543 - 56).

Rector of All Hallows-the-Great (1537 - 43).


A conservative bishop, he was deprived of his see in 1551 for disobedience in the matter of the abolition of altars, and imprisoned in the Fleet. Restored 1553, his deprivation having been declared illegal, he preached at the funeral of Edward VI (ibid, pp. 353, 349). Died 11 August, 1556.
CLAYTON, George. P. of St. Andrew's Altar, admitted 9 April, 1544 (Dade p. 2).

THURLONDE, Thomas. The last p. of St. Andrew's Altar, he is recorded in 1547 as having handed over the prebend and its possessions to Sir Michael Stanhope (C.P.R. 1547-48, p. 170). In fact he had died before 27 September, 1546, when the prebend was noted as vacant in consequence (38 Henry VIII, State Papers, xxi, p. 154). The note to the same effect in the Chantry Certificate confirms that no successor was appointed, the dissolution of college being anticipated (Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, ii, p. 527).

In field of Clayworth 26 Nov 1554 (A. Blokens, The Marian Reaction in the diocese of York, Pt. II, Blokens, Blokens's Hall Publications 2011, p. 38) (Reg. side Vacant 1661)
PREBENDARIES OF ST. JAMES' ALTAR
PREBENDARIES OF ST. JAMES' ALTAR

- 1289


He had acquired a pension of 50 marks from the prebend of North Muskham and Caunton in church of Southwell as early as 14-September, 1241 (Reg. Giffard, p.84), and it is possible that he received all his other preferment in the York diocese, including his Beverley prebend, during the lifetime of his uncle, Pope Gregory, i.e. before 1241.


1289 - 1305


He held no other known preferment, and his career prior to his collation is obscure. For a brief period from August 1290, he was auditor of the accounts of William de Sens relating to the archbishop's houses in Paris (Reg. Romeyn, ii, pp.166, 170), but by then he had taken up residence at Beverley, where he continued an assiduous, if undistinguished, member of the chapter (B.C.A., ii, p.161, B.C.A., i, passim). He may well have been a kinsman of Geoffrey de Haxby, the learned monk of Durham.

M.A. by 1289 (university unknown). Haxby, his place of origin, is five miles north of York.

1. Haxby, appointed on the archbishop's mandate, possibly in the face of bid from one Odo de Papa, a relative of the previous prebendary, who held a papal provision, appears to have been slow in taking up residence at Beverley. Romeyn, having overcome the alien claim partly by insisting upon the need for personal residence, cited him in March, 1289/90 to reside forthwith (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.384; B.C.A., ii, p.157). Odo de Papa pursued his provision in the following year when William de Louth vacated the prebend of St. Katherine's Altar. Here again he appears to have failed to gain possession (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.389; B.C.A., ii, pp.164-5; and see below p.A.201, n1).
1305 - 1316  
DINNINGTON, John de. P. of St. James' Altar, adm. 13 October, 1305 (B.C.A., i, p.92), on the presentation of the king, the see being vacant following the death of Thomas de Corbridge. Vac. on death by 10 April, 1316, when Nicholas de Huggate had collation (B.C.A., i, p.343; ii, p.lvi).

Rector of Treeton, near Rotherham, from 1293 (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.128); Rector of Sandal Magna from 1307 (Reg. Greenfield, i, p.48n; ii, p.5n; Fasti Parochiales, ii, pp.99 - 100). From the beginning of 1308 onwards he was unfailing in his attendance of chapter convocations, and obviously kept much more than the statutory residence of 24 weeks (B.C.A., i, p.213 et passim).

1316 - 1338  
HUGGATE, Nicholas de. P. of St. James' Altar by royal grant 10 April, 1316, the see being vacant following the death of Archbishop Greenfield (B.C.A., i, p.343). Vac. on death 24 June, 1338 (B.C.A., ii, p.120).

King's clerk in chancery by 1307 (Cal. of Chancery Warrants, i, 1244 - 1326, p.266). 1314 (Coll. of William Melton, keeper of the diocese (Fasti Episcopii, i, p.237).

1. Dinnington's possession of Sandal Magna, however, is far from certain. In 1307 he attempted to exchange Treeton for it, but it seems unlikely that the transaction was effective (Reg. Greenfield, ii, pp.5n, 52). He certainly retained Treeton (C.P.L., ii, p.61). Doubt as to the identity of this John de Dinnington is caused by the knowledge that a clerk of the same name held Sandal Magna in 1320, four years after the prebendary of Beverley had died (C.P.L., ii, p.216; B.C.A., i, pp. 343, 348 - 9). If the latter is the same man who attempted the exchange of 1307 then our prebendary held neither Sandal Magna nor Treeton. The village of Dinnington, however, is only eight miles from Treeton, and not far from Sandal Magna, and two men of the same name and family could conceivably have been involved. Fasti Parochiales, ii, p.99n is thus definitely in error in saying that the prebendar of Beverley held Kirk Sandal in 1320, for this man certainly died in 1316, his executor being excommunicated in January, 1317/18, for failure to carry out the terms of his will (B.C.A., i, pp.348 - 9). Also, Professor Hamilton Thompson confuses him with William de Donington who was instituted to the rectory of Bramwith in 1306 (Reg. Greenfield, ii, pp.3, 4n).

2. Huggate probably owed his introduction to royal service, and his further advancement, to William de Melton, the future archbishop, and John de Hotham, the eminent bishop of Ely, both notable king's clerks of local origin. Although already a royal clerk he constantly acted as Melton's proctor in the York Diocese between 1307 and 1310 (Reg. Greenfield, iv, pp.27, 102n, 318; B.C.A., i, p.287), and was his attorney during the long period which the archbishop-elect spent at the curia seeking consecration. He succeeded Melton both in the provostship and in the rectory of Lythe.
Thesaurarius Domini Principis (i.e. of Edward, earl of Chester, later Edward III) by September, 1317 (B.C.A., i, p.343). Keeper of the Prince’s Wardrobe in 1319 (C. of Fine Rolls, 1319-27, p.6). Described as Queen’s clerk in December, 1323 (Reg. Drokensford, Bath and Wells, p.223). King’s Receiver for Aquitaine and Gascony, appointed 1 March, 1324; still in October, 1325 (C. of Fine Rolls, 1319-27, pp. 258, 341; C. of Chancery Warrants, i, 1244-1326, p.485). On 4 November, 1332, he obtained a general release of all debts 'in consideration of his manifold services to the King from boyhood'. (C.P.R., 1330-34, p.368).

PROVOST OF BEVERLEY (13 January, 1317/18 - 24 June, 1338) (B.C.A., i, pp. 346-7; ii, pp. 120-2).

C. of York and p. of Barnby (1327 - 38)(le Neve, p.97); Warden of St. Nicholas’ Hospital, York† (1308 -18) (C.P.R., 1307 -13, pp. 34, 146; 1317-21, p.120); Rector of Lythe, nr. Whitby2 (1315 - before 5 August, 1320) (Reg. Greenfield, iii, p.105; Dixon, Fasti Ebor, p.426).


1. He was followed as warden by Nicholas de Malton de Huggate, who was doubtless a kinsman (C.P.R., 1317 -21, p.120).

2. On the presentation of Sir Peter de Mauley of Mulgrave, who was lord of Huggate.

3. On exchange with Roger de Northburgh (see below, p.A.93) for the p. of Yatesbury in Salisbury.

4. On this date he was ordained subdeacon by Walter Reynolds, bishop of Worcester, on letters dimissory from the bishop of Lincoln.

See Tott, ii, p.157. where his career is briefly examined by a Reign.
From 1316 until about 1330 Huggate was invariably absent from Beverley convocations and perpetually non-resident, being in royal service in England and France. In 1330, or soon after, he appears to have retired from public life, and to have taken permanent residence at Beverley. His will, remarkable for the allowance made therein for funeral expenses and requiems, is published in B.C.A., ii, pp.122-124. The once sumptuous tomb on the east side of the North transept of the Minster, surmounted by the mutilated effigy of a priest in rich mass vestments, dates from this period, and is almost certainly his. Huggate, the place from which he took his name, is ten miles north-east of Pocklington in the East Riding, and about twenty miles from Beverley1.


1. For further consideration of Huggate's career see above, pp. 365-397.

2. There is, however, a possibility that Goldsborough's rival (if indeed he had one) came unheralded to the contest. On 28 June, 1338, Archbishop Melton gave collation of an unnamed prebend in Beverley to his kinsman, William de la Mare, to whom he had granted the provostship four days earlier, i.e. on the day of Huggate's death (Reg. Melton, fo.118). Quite apart from the fact that no other prebend was readily available, it would seem natural for Melton, who looked well after his relations, to prefer his kinsman to the other part of Huggate's possessions in Beverley. It is equally certain, however, that the attempt, if it were made, failed in the face of Goldsborough's provision. (For a fuller discussion see under Provosts of Beverley, above, pp.A.21-22).

3. Emden accepts the date in the unrevised le Neve (ii, p.83) which is almost certainly a year too early. The Lincoln Chapter Account Book suggests that he lived sufficiently long in 1365 to qualify for minor residence, but does not warrant the assumption in the revised le Neve (Lincoln, pp. 20, 88) that he was alive in 1366 (K. Edwards, op.cit. p.350). See also C.P.L., iv, p.85, where in July, 1370, his successor had been defending his titles to the prebend for five years.

His only other known preferment in the York diocese was the rectory of Goldsborough, near Knaresborough, which he relinquished in 1348 (Emden, Oxford, ii, p.781).

C. of Lincoln and p. of Marston St. Lawrence (by 1357 - 135), Precentor (1350 - 65) (le Neve, p.88); Rural dean of Brooke, dio. Norwich (1337 - 8), exchanged for Havingham, same dio. (1386 - 86), exchanged for rural deanery of Sudbury, same dio. (1346); Rector of Irthlingbury, dio. Lincoln (1346 - ?) (Emden, Oxford, loc.cit).

A Yorkshireman whose interests lay primarily in the Lincoln diocese - first at Oxford, where he was Junior Proctor in 1327, and latterly at Lincoln, where he was a residentiary from at least 1360 until his death (K. Edwards, English Secular Cathedrals, pp. 348 - 50). He was the son of Sir Richard de Goldsborough, Kt., whose body it is which lies buried in the chancel of Goldsborough church, and whose family were lords of the manor there for over four centuries.


1365 - 1387

FERRIBY, Hugh de. P. of St. James' Altar from 1365, when, by virtue of a papal provision he succeeded Anthony de Goldsborough (C.P.L., iv, p.85). Lost effective possession in 1370 when the king granted the prebend to Henry de Snaith (see below), but regained it on the latter's death c. February, 1380/81 (C.P.R. 1381 - 85, pp. 293, 303) (North Country Wills, pp.111 - 113). Vac. on death by mid-1387, when Adam Fenrother's estate in the prebend was ratified (C.P.R. 1385 - 89, p.367).

Ferriby probably held some position at the curia, but little is known of his career and other preferments, apart from his dispute with Snaith concerning his Beverley prebend 2. Presumably he belonged to the well known ecclesiastical family of the same name which claimed kinship with archbishops Melton and Thoresby.

1. For consideration of the date of Snaith's death see below p.A.72.

2. The grounds for the bitter contest for St. James' prebend, pursued both in England and at the curia are complex and at times obscure. /cont.
On the death of Anthony de Goldsborough the pope provided Ferriby to the vacant prebend (see previous page), but his possession was disputed from the outset, for in July, 1370, when the provision was confirmed (C.P.L., iv, p.85), it was stated that during the past five years he had obtained three sentences against a William de Pickwell, and three against John de Humbleton, for molesting him in the prebend. The names of these men indicate their local origin, and it is most unlikely that they were acting on their own account. More likely they were agents of Henry de Snaith, a royal clerk, who, with the aid of the king, obtained possession of the prebend by March, 1370. It was in this month that Snaith received a formal grant of St. James' from the king "by reason of the late voidance of the see" (C.P.R. 1367-70, p.461), but since John Thoresby had by then been archbishop for nearly eighteen years the vacancy to which this refers is not obvious. The most probable explanation is that although Goldsborough died in corporal possession, his title had not gone undisputed. The record of his admission in the Beverley Chapter Act Book is a much mutilated document, and has obviously been much consulted (B.C.A., ii, pp. 120-22). In the absence of written evidence, we have to depend on conjecture. Between 1333 and 1340 St. James' was the only prebend to fall vacant (Richard de Ferriby almost certainly succeeded to St. Peter and St. Paul's prebend very shortly after Pickering's death in December, 1332), but these same years saw at least three formidable candidates entering the queue for preferment at Beverley:

(i) on 29th July, 1333, Thomas, son of Ralph Neville of Raby, received a provision at the king's request, and was admitted to a canonry, presumably not a prebend, for none was vacant, in June, 1334 (C.P.L., ii, p.376; Reg. Melton, p.111).

(ii) Shortly afterwards Edmund de Grimsby, king's clerk, also received provision at Edward's request, and apparently he, too, was admitted to a canonry to await a prebend.

(iii) In 1337, the year before St. James' prebend fell vacant by the death of Huggate, William, son of the late Geoffrey le Scrope, kt., of Masham was granted a provision at the request of the king and Queen Philippa.

None of these men appears in the Act Book, and nothing is known of their efforts to establish their respective claims, but it would not be surprising to learn that Goldsborough, who, contrary to the statute requiring him to be a priest, was not even a subdeacon until 1363, was under considerable pressure from at least one of them. In 1350 he felt the need of having his provision and possession ratified at the curia (C.P.L., iii, p.318).
If Goldsborough's title were held to be invalid at the time of his succession in 1338, St. James' prebend could be claimed to be vacant, and at the king's disposal, on the death of Melton two years later, and, since he still retained possession, on the death of Zouch in 1352. Thus either of these occasions could be the 'voidance of the see' referred to above. (Not, surely, the vacancy in the papacy in 1370).

It is hardly surprising that Archbishop Thoresby protested against this construction, quite apart from the fact that Hugh de Ferriby was probably his relative (C.P.R. 1370-74, p.315). Nevertheless Henry de Snaith's possession was recognised by the Beverley Chapter (B.C.A., ii, pp. 231, 248) and by Archbishop Neville, Thoresby's successor, and he is described as canon of Beverley in his will dated 3 February, 1380/81 (Test. Ebor, i, pp. 111-113).

Ferriby, however, never gave up his claim and regained the prebend on his rival's death, his title being ratified by the king in 1383, when it appears that he had been outlawed for his contempt in pursuing the matter at the papal court, for he was then restored to the king's protection (C.P.R. 1381-85, pp. 293, 303).

The whole case must, like so many others involving provisions in the mid-fourteenth century, be set against the background of strained relations between the English Crown and parliament and the papacy (see G. Mollat, The Popes at Avignon 1305-78, pp. 262-268).
SNAITH, Henry de. P. of St. James' Altar, 5 March, 1370, by royal grant "by reason of the late voidance of the see" (C.P.R. 1367-70, p.461) died after February, 1380/81\(^1\) and before July, 1382\(^2\), when Hugh de Ferriby received pardon 'of his contempt in recovering, after a long struggle in Rome, the prebend of St. James against Henry de Snaith deceased' (C.P.R. 1381-85, p.303).

Keeper of the Privy Wardrobe in 1360, of the Great Wardrobe in 1364. Chaplain to Edward III.

C. of York and p. of North Newbold (1376-1381 or 1382\(^2\)) (le Neve, p.69).

Precentor of Hereford (1361\(^3\)) (le Neve, p.8); P. of St. Stephen's, Westminster (?-1364) (le Neve, St. Paul's, London, p.48); C. of Lincoln and p. of Gretton\(^4\) (1363-?) (le Neve, p.67); C. of St. Paul's, London, and p. of Mora (1364-1381 or 1382) (le Neve, p.48); C. of Chichester and p. of Henfield\(^5\) (?-1376) (le Neve, p.28); C. of St. David's and p. of Mathry\(^5\) (?-1376) (le Neve, Chichester, p.28); C. of Howden and p. of ? (?-1381 or 1382) (B.C.A., ii, p.lxxx).

1. i.e. when he made his will, dated 3 February, 1380/81 (Test. Ebor, i, pp.111-113).

2. Leach (B.C.A., ii, p.lxxix) may well be right in suggesting that Snaith was already dead when Alexander Neville descended on Beverley in March, 1381. Nevertheless it is curious that he should have been summoned as prebendary of St. James' Altar, along with his fellow canons, as late as 26 March (ibid, pp.230-232), and that his standard of residence should be reported to Neville (in the present tense) on 22 April, 1381 (ibid, p.248). Moreover, he is never actually described as deceased before July, 1383, and his successor in the prebend first appears, as such, in 1387. At York Snaith resigned his prebend, but even so his successor did not have collation until 21 April, 1382 (le Neve, p.69). (Le Neve, Northern Province, p.69, and Lincoln, p.67, does not give precise dates - only the dates upon which Snaith's successors had collation.)

3. Two others received royal grants of the dignity. In the second half of the fourteenth century the value of the prebends and dignities of Hereford cannot have held much attraction for men like Snaith (K. Edwards, English Secular Cathedrals, pp.74-75).

4. Snaith was deprived of his Lincoln prebend by the pope on a date unknown. It would be interesting to learn whether there was any connection between this incident and his Beverley dispute.

5. He exchanged his prebends in Chichester and St. David's for North Newbold in York.
In addition, he was master of Greatham Hospital, dio. Durham (1361-72); Rector of Oundle, dio. Lincoln (in 1364), of Youghal, dio. Cloyne (in 1361), of Haddenham, dio. Ely (at death) and of Balsham and Hardwick, same dio. (Fasti Dunelm, p.120; B.C.A., ii, p.lxxx).

Archbishop Neville, at his visitation of Beverley in 1381, was informed that Snaith (who, if he was alive, never appeared) kept, with Richard de Chesterfield, better residence than his fellow canons (B.C.A., ii, p.248). Originating from Snaith, seven miles south of Selby, he founded a chantry in the church there for the benefit of the souls of Edward III, his parents, himself and John de Goldale, monk of Selby, and embellished it in a pious will (C.B. Robinson, A History of the Priory and Peculiar of Snaith, pp. 30-31; Test. Ebor, i, p.111).

1387 - 1397


It was as p. of St. James' Altar that he attended the convocation of 1391 which approved the Statutes of Archbishop Arundel (B.C.A., ii, p.266).

For a full account of Fenrother see him under Prebendaries of St. Michael's Altar, below, p.A.144.

1397 - 1419

MANFIELD, Robert de. P. of St. James' Altar, adm. 15 November, 1397, having exchanged for it St. Michael's prebend with Adam de Fenrother (C.P.R. 1396-99, pp. 252, 255). Vac. on death between 12 and 29 April, 14191.

Clerk in Chancery, Keeper of Writs and Rolls of the Common Bench (1397-1410).


1. The dates on which he made his will and on which Robert Neville had collation of the prebend.
C. of York and p. of Wistow (1379-81), of Husthwaite (1381-1419) (Le Neve, pp. 58, 93); Archdeacon of Cleveland (1380-81) (Le Neve, p.20)\(^1\); C. of Ripon and p. of Nunwick (1382-97)\(^2\) (Memorials of Ripon, ii, p.194); Warden of St. Mary's Hospital, Southwell (?-1399) (C.P.R. 1399-1401, p.46).

In addition to his preferments at York and Beverley he held elsewhere, at the time of his death, prebends in St. Paul's, London, Howden, and St. Martin-le-Grand; the mastership of the Free Chapel and Hospital at Maldon, dio. London; the rectories of Hackney, same dio., and of Stone, dio. Canterbury\(^3\).

He probably came from the village of Manfield, near Piercebridge, in Teesdale. His noble will is dated Beverley, 12 April, 1419 (proved 8 July), and its terms suggest that he spent his later years in retirement at Beverley, or at least in northern parts (North Country Wills, pp. 20-25). Although Simon Russell, writing in the Provost's Book in January 1416/7, describes him as also being a residentiary of York (B.C.A., ii, pp. 306-307) his will gives a strong impression of Beverley having first claim upon his affections.


\(^1\) Le Neve, Northern province, p.20, states that he exchanged the archdeaconry of Cleveland with Adam Spenser for the Provostry on 14 January, 1381, but Simon Russell, a contemporary at Beverley, has Manfield following John Thoresby, and makes no mention of Spenser, who also passes unrecognised by Leach (B.C.A., ii, p.lxxxii). Manfield's possession of the Provostry was unsettled for many years. In 1389 his chief rival for the dignity was the papal candidate Adam Easton, the monk of Norwich, who by then was cardinal of St. Cecilia. Manfield's estate in the Provostry was not finally established until 8 February, 1397/8, when he was readmitted on a royal mandate, the see being vacant following the death of Robert Waldby on 6 January (ibid, p.lxxxiii).

\(^2\) Although the year of Adam de Fenrother's succession to the prebend of Nunwick has been given as 1403 (Memorials of Ripon, ii, pp. 194, 238) it is very probable that it came to him with St. Michael's prebend in Beverley in return for St. James' prebend. Manfield certainly relinquished Nunwick in November, 1397, the month of the Beverley exchange, and Fenrother is his next known successor. Furthermore, since St. James' was worth £26 and St. Michael's only £17 (B.C.A., ii, pp.341-2) the Ripon prebend would have provided a suitable adjustment.

\(^3\) For a list of Manfield's other preferments, which he relinquished before his death, see Emden, Oxford, loc.cit.

5th Son of Ralph Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland, and Joan Beaufort, daughter of John of Gaunt, and nephew of Cardinal Beaufort, at whose request he was provided to the see of Salisbury at the age of 23. Bishop of Salisbury (1427 - 38); of Durham (1438 - 57).

PROVOST OF BEVERLEY (23 December, 1422 - 9 July, 1427).

C. of York and p. of Grindale (1414 - 1416), of Laughton (1416 - 17) (le Neve, p.55, 65); Rector of Spofforth (1417 - 27).

At the time of his consecration he also held prebends in Lincoln, Aukland and Howden, and a portion in the church of Norton, dio. Durham (See Emden, Oxford, ii, p.1350, where he is accepted as a probable Oxford graduate; Fasti Dunelm, p.178).

SWANN, Thomas. P. of St. James' Altar, coll. 3 December, 1427 (Dade, p.4). Still in 1432, when he was granted an indulg to choose a confessor (C.P.L., viii, p.434).

Vac. by 1434, probably following an exchange with John Conge for the rectory of North Newton and a prebend in Wilton, dio. Salisbury.

A nephew of William Swann, the well-known papal notary and member of the papal household.

1. Neville's career provides a most reprehensible example of the way in which powerful personages, not least in the royal family and the highest orders of the Church, ignored at will the anti-papal legislation denying recourse to the Roman court in order to promote their kin and proteges. Dispensations flowed fast from Rome to permit Neville to hold a prebend of York at the age of 10, and of Beverley at 15, and to hold a bishoprick before reaching the canonical age for priesthood.

2. Enthroned 1441 (le Neve, Northern Province, p.108).


4. No record of such a transaction is to hand, but the passing of these benefices from Conge to Swann at about the same time as St. James' prebend was transferred from Swann to Conge is surely more than coincidence. The most that can be said, however, is that such an exchange must have taken place before, or during, 1434.

At the time of his death, before April, 1460, he was rector of Christian Malford, dio. Bath and Wells, of St. Mary-at-Hill, dio. London, and of North Newton, and p. of Wilton, dio. Salisbury (Emden, iii, p. 1629).


He was absent and without proctor at the visitation of the Minster in June, 1442, and declared contumacious (Miscellanea, ii, p. 272).


C. of York and p. of Bilton (1449 - 64) (Le Neve, p. 34); C. of Southwell and p. of North Leverton (1444 - 45) (Reg. Kemp, fos. 53, 55).

Whilst he had held previously prebends in St. Paul's, London, and Hereford, and several widely scattered rectories, his only other benefice at the time of his death was the rectory of Saham Toney, dio. Norwich, to which he had been presented by New College, Oxford, two years before his death (Emden, Oxford, loc. cit).
RADCLIFFE, Roger. P. of St. James' Altar, coll. 26 August, 1464\(^1\) (Reg. W. Booth fo.59b). The date of his vacation of the prebend is unknown, but it was probably at his death between 23 and 29 July, 1471, the dates when his will was made and proved (Emden, Cambridge, p.469).

For a fuller biographical notice of him see Prebendaries of St. Stephen's Altar, which he held 1457-59, below p.A.189.

COURTENAY, Peter. P. of St. James' Altar in succession to Roger Radcliffe, who probably vacated the prebend on death between 23 and 29 July, 1471 (see above). Vac. on resignation by 6 February, 1474/5, when William Dudley had collation (Reg. G. Neville, xxi, fo.6b).

Proctor General of Edward IV at the curia and nuncio of Pope Pius II to Edward (1463). Secretary to Henry VI in 1470, to Edward IV (1472-74) (C.P.R. 1467-77, pp. 228, 330). Keeper of the Privy Seal (1465-87). Bishop of Exeter (1478-87), of Winchester (1487-92).

In the year of his consecration he was dean of Exeter and of St. Stephen's, Westminster, archdeacon of Wiltshire and a prebendary of Salisbury and Lincoln, not to mention his several wealthy rectories (le Neve; Emden, Oxford, i, pp. 499-500).

One of the Courtenays of Powderham, Devon, a family of traditional Lancastrian sympathies. He was secretary, however, to Henry VI, and served Edward IV in both periods of his reign. He was forced to flee to France following the abortive West Country rising against Richard III in 1483. He returned to England with Henry, earl of Richmond, and was present at Bosworth Field in 1485. His translation to the see of Winchester two years later marked his withdrawal from affairs of state. He died 12 September, 1492.


DUDLEY, William. P. of St. James' Altar, coll. 6 February, 1474/5 (Reg. G. Neville, xxi fo.6b). Vac. on consecration as bishop of Durham in September or October, 1476.

\(^1\) Dade (p.23) gives 1469, though his day and month are correct.
Chaplain to Edward IV. Bishop of Durham (1476-83).
Chancellor of Oxford (1483).

C. of York and p. of Apesthorpe (1466-70), of Stillington (1470-76) (le Neve, pp. 30, 80).

He resigned vast preferment elsewhere when consecrated bishop of Durham; the deaneries of Wolverhampton, the Chapel Royal, and St. George's, Windsor; the archdeaconry of Middlesex, and prebends in Salisbury, Chichester and Wells, the Free Chapel of Bridgenorth and several rectories (Emden, Oxford, i, pp. 599-600).

A staunch supporter of Edward IV, to whom he owed the choicest of his preferments after that king's successful return to England in 1471.

1476-1476/7

BOOTH, Robert. P. of St. James' Altar, coll. 27 October, 1476. (Reg. Laurence Booth, xxii, fo.251). Vac. on resignation on transfer to St. Andrew's prebend, 14 February, 1476/7 (ibid fo. 251; and see above, pp. A.58-59).

For a more comprehensive account of this man see him under prebendaries of St. Andrew's Altar (above loc.cit).

1476/7-1485


1. He joined Edward with 150 men after the latter's landing at Ravenser in Holderness, and received at least five rich dignities and prebends in the four months following the battle of Barnet, 14 April, 1471. He celebrated the Mass of our Lady at the funeral of the King, 20 April, 1483, rather more than six months before his own death (29 November).

2. Unfortunately the marginal inscription of his memorial brass in Shillington church is missing, so that the precise date of his death is uncertain.

3. He was succeeded at Goodmanham by his cousin, John Grimston, it having been a family living of the Grimstons at least from the end of the thirteenth century (Test. Ebor, iii, loc.cit; Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.207; Reg. Greenfield, iii, pp. 133, 131).
Elsewhere in Yorkshire, but in the franchise of the Prior and Convent of Durham, he was Rector of Osmotherley, near Northallerton (1443-58) (T. Burton, *History of Hemingborough*, p.71); C. and 3rd p. of Hemingborough Collegiate Church (1447-57/8) *(ibid)*. Provost of Hemingborough (1458-1471) *(ibid)*.

He was also: C. of Lincoln and p. of Nassington (1471-85) *(le Neve, p.96)*; Rector of Blyborough, nr. Gainsborough, dio. Lincoln (1453-58) *(Burton, op.cit)*; Warden of the free chapel of Charing, dio. London (till 1458) *(ibid)*; Rector of Shillington, Beds. dio. Lincoln (till 1485) *(Mill Stephenson, A List of Monumental Brasses, p.11)*.

A friend, clerk and executor of Archbishop Laurence Booth¹, who had probably known him when Bishop of Durham. He belonged to the ancient family which had centred on Portington², a hamlet some three miles north-east of Howden, within the liberty of Durham, since the thirteenth century. A son of Sir John Portington a Justice of the King's Bench, it was largely due to his father's influence with the prior and convent of Durham that he received his valuable preferment from that source.³

Like several other fifteenth century treasurers he was a generous benefactor of York Minster, where his arms are still to be seen in the sixth window from the east in the south clerestory of the choir.


2. A Mr. John Portington was acting in a matter concerning the schoolmaster of Beverley, as auditor of Archbishop Kemp in February, 1440 *(B.C.A., i, p.lxiv)*. Edmund Portington requested burial in Beverley Minster in December, 1463. *(North Country Wills*, ii, p.140n; Dade, p.23). Another Mr. Thomas Portington probably one of the Barnby Dun branch of the family, was rector of Whiston, nr. Rotherham (1540-50), and of Sprotborough, nr. Doncaster (about 9 miles from Barnby Dun) from 1550 until his death in 1552 *(Fasti Parochiales*, ii, pp. 73, 117; see also *Y.A.J.*, xvii, p.24).

3. Although it is strictly irrelevant to Beverley a letter from William Ebchester, prior of Durham, to Sir John Portington, written in 1447, granting the 3rd prebend in Hemingborough to our Thomas Portington, provides an interesting illustration of the inner working of patronage in the mid-fifteenth century: "Worshipfull and right entierly webeloyd Sr, I recommende me to youw with all my herth, thankyng yow als hertly as I can or may for all the good gentilnesse and kyndnesse sheide to me of lang tyme, beseking yow of your goode contynuance. And plese it yow to wete that my right wirshipfull Lorde Cardinall of Yorke [Archbishop John Kemp] sen the tyme I spake with yow, wrate to me full specially for a prebend in Hemmyngburgh, now woide by the dede of Robert Pacocke, for a clerk of his callide Sr Randalfe Birde, whilke lettre nottwythstandyng, and also grett labour maide to me and my brother by right
M.A. of Cambridge by 1454¹ (Burton, op.cit).

1485 - 1490

on death 2 November, 1490 (ibid, fo.104; Mill
Stephenson, op.cit, p.174).

Warden of New College, Oxford (1454-75); Chancellor of
Oxford University (1457-61), (1472-79), (Emden, Oxford,
i, pp. 398 - 99); Chaplain to the king in 1472.

C. of York and p. of Bole (1467-90), Chancellor of
York (1467-86) (le Neve, pp. 9, 36); C. of Southwell
and p. of South Muskham (1476-85) (le Neve - Hardy, iii,
p.432).

His other preferments at the time of his death included
the deanery of Hereford, and a prebend therein, and
another in Wells, and the rectory of Childrey, dio.
Salisbury.

"May be considered in many ways as one of the principal
pioneers of early humanism at Oxford. Although his
attempts at writing as a classicist met with mediocre
success, his personal influence proved very valuable"
(R. Weiss, Humanism in England during the Fifteenth

(Note 3 continued from previous page)

notabill persons for the same prebends, yhitt for alde affeccion that
has been bitwix us, and grete gentilnesse shewid to me by yow att all
tymes, trustyng alway in youre good contynuance, I sende yow by my
brother Thomas Holme, the berer of this, a presentacion for your son to
the saide prebend, beseking yow thatt yhe will excuse me to my Lorde
Cardinall of Yorke, that he be nott hevy lorde to me, because he has not
his desyre and entent att this tyme, for I and my brether may full well
ber his hevy lordshipp or indignacion. And God giffe yow mykill wirshipp,
lang to endour, and your son mykill joy of his benefice, for His mercy.
Wreten att Durham, xvii day of Auguste (1477)

(Printed in T. Burton, The History of Hemingborough, pp. 382 - 3).

¹. Omitted by Dr. Emden for his Biographical Register.
Although the greater part of his life was spent in the service of Winchester College\(^1\) and New College, Oxford, he appears to have regarded his deanship of Hereford as more than a source of income, spending much of his last years there, and being buried in the cathedral under a fine memorial brass in November 1490\(^2\). (Mill Stephenson, op.cit. p.174).

M.A. 1443, B.Th. 1450, D.T.L. after 1455. (For his distinguished career at Winchester and Oxford see Emden, Oxford, loc. cit).

1490 - 1492/3

KING, Oliver. P. of St. James' Altar, coll. 18 November, 1490 (Reg. Rotherham, i, fo.104). Vac. on consecration as bishop of Exeter 3 February, 1492/3.

Clerk of the Signet (1473 - 75); Secretary in the French Tongue to Edward IV (1476 - 80); Chief Secretary (1480 - 83), again under Henry VII (1489 - 95). Bishop of Exeter (1493 - 95), of Bath and Wells (1495 - 1503).

C. of York and p. of Botevant (1480 - 88), of Fridaythorpe (1488 - 90) (le Neve, pp. 38, 51); C. of Southwell and p. of Beckingham (1480 - 90) (le Neve - Hardy, iii, p.416)\(^3\).

He was one of a number of distinguished clerks, who, having suffered under Richard III\(^4\), earned and received the gratitude of Henry VII. It was largely due to the latter that he possessed at the time of his consecration vast preferment, which included: the deanship of St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, the archdeaconries of Oxford, Berkshire, and Taunton, and, in addition to prebends in York, Beverley and Southwell, others in St. Paul's, London, Exeter, St. Stephen's, Westminster, and, probably, St. George's, Windsor (Emden, Cambridge, pp. 343 - 344).

Fellow of King's College, Cambridge 1452 - before 1465.

M.A. by 1456/7; Lic.C.L. (Orleans) by 1472/3; Lic.C.L. (Cambridge) 1474/5; D.C.L. by 1481 (Emden, Cambridge, loc. cit). Died 29 August, 1503\(^5\).

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1. He was Warden of Winchester College from 1450 till 1454.

2. His brass effigy, now without head and feet, is fastened to the wall of the south transept, with the inscription hard by, but not under the coped figure.


4. He was dismissed from his Secretaryship by Richard and imprisoned for a time in the Tower.

5. A dream is reputed to have moved King to rebuild Bath Abbey in a rather debased Perpendicular style.
CASTELLO (DE CORNETO) Adrian de. P. of St. James' Altar, coll. 18 September, 1493 (Dade, p.4). Vac. on consecration as bishop of Hereford by May, 1502.

Bishop of Hereford (1502-4), of Bath and Wells (1504-18), Cardinal priest of St. Chrysogonus from 1511.


Born of humble parents at Corneto in Tuscany, he first came to Britain as papal nuncio to Scotland in 1488, and remained as collector of Peter's Pence. He acted as Henry VII's agent in Rome both before and after his permanent return to the curia in 1511, in all serving English interests there for 20 years. Wolsey secured his deprivation of Bath and Wells in 1518 (le Neve, p.3).

His visits to the diocese were of the rarest, his affairs being managed by his fellow countryman, Polydore Vergil (Castellensis), who was archdeacon of Wells (1508-46) (le Neve, Bath and Wells, p.14).

MUNCEO (alias CASTELLO) Robert. P. of St. James' Altar, 19 May, 1502 (Dade p.4). Vac. by 6 November, 1508, when William Lichfield had collation (see below).

His alias suggests that he was possibly a kinsman, certainly a fellow-countryman, of Adrian de Castello and/or Polydore Vergil. There is no evidence of him holding any other preferment in England.


¹ He probably owed the prebend in Beverley - his only preferment in the North - to friendship with Christopher Bainbridge, who had recently been translated from Durham to York.

² In April, 1489, when he was appointed, the see was vacant, following the death of Thomas Kemp, so his office was probably that of Keeper of Spiritualities, as it was in later sede vacante periods.

³ i.e. following the translation of Thomas Savage to York in 1501, and of Willim Warham to Canterbury in 1503.
His death also left vacant the chancellorship and the prebend of Chamberlainwood in St. Paul's, London, a prebend in St. Stephen's, Westminster, and the vicarage of Willesden, dio. London, where he was buried, and where his memorial brass still remains.¹ (Mill Stephenson, A List of Monumental Brasses in the British Isles, p.317; Emden, Oxford, ii, pp.1145-6, where his Beverley preferment is omitted).


? 1517 - ?

LARKE, Thomas. P. of St. James' Altar for an unknown period sometime between 24 November, 1517, and February, 1525/6.²


C. and p. of St. Stephen's, Westminster (from 1511) (L. and P., 3 Henry VIII, vol. i, p.303); C. of Lincoln and p. of Welton Ryval (1514-?1517) (le Neve, p.128);

1. Lichfield was rector of All Hallows, London Wall (1475-9), a church held by William Lichfield, the eloquent preacher and poet, at the time of his death in 1448; the two men were probably near kinsmen (see G.R. Owst, Literature and the Pulpit in Medieval England, p.387, et passim; Emden, Cambridge, p.368).

2. This is almost certainly the implication of State Papers 17 Henry VIII, vol. iv, pt. 1, No.2001, where, in a list of East Riding Clergy dated February, 1525/6, he is shown as a pensioner of St. James' prebend, receiving its income in its entirety. The entry reads: "Mr. Thomas Dalby, prebendarius etc. Jacobi nihil quia solvit integros fructos in pensione", and on the following line: "Mr. Thomas Larke, pensionarius eiusdem".

The list itself was, at this point, out of date, for Thomas Dalby had died in the previous month (see below) and since this is the one and only reference to his tenure of the prebend, his date of entry upon it being unknown, it is impossible to suggest with any certainty the bounds of Larke's possession. It is natural to suppose that he succeeded Lichfield in 1517, but this need not necessarily have been the case. If the latter's intention were simply to have a pension he need only have held the prebend for a day or two, and this by arrangement with Dalby, who as provost doubtless valued it for the place it afforded in the chapter. The manoeuvre was far from uncommon in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. It would be interesting to know what happened to the arrangement after Dalby's death.

'Treasurer of the household of Thomas Savage, formerly Archbishop of York, chaplain and counsellor of the most illustrious King Henry VII, and of the most serene and all-powerful King Henry VIII, and Dean of the chapel of the most illustrious Prince, the Duke of Richmond and Somerset' (From his Latin epitaph in York Minster; F.Drake, Eboracum, pp. 448, 488, 502-3).

1. '1525' on his memorial plaque in the north choir aisle at York refers in present dating to 1526. Dalby had probably held the prebend for several years, depending on the length of tenure of Thomas Larke. Mr. Leach implies (B.C.A., ii, p.xciv) that Dalby held a prebend as early as 1509, when he and Thomas Magnus (see below pp. A.192-194) were executors of Thomas Savage. I have been unable to verify this, but it is probably correct. Obviously Dalby cannot have held St. James' earlier than 1517, but he could have transferred from either St. Peter's or St. Stephen's prebends. There is a gap in the list of prebendaries of the former after the death of William Sheffield at the end of 1496, which lasts until the first appearance of Thomas Winter in the prebend 1525/6. The latter cannot have held it much before 1522, when he was only fourteen. St. Stephen's prebend, however, is much more likely; it fell vacant on 27 October, 1504, with the consecration of Richard Mayew as bishop of Hereford just a year after Dalby came to the provostry, and presented the first opportunity for him to enter the chapter. It was also a year before he had the collation of North Leverton in Southwell. Peter Carmelian, who first appears as prebendary of St. Stephen's in 1525, could well have received it several years earlier, for he had been a prebendary of York since 1501 (le Neve, p.29). On a cynical view Dalby was more likely to have transferred from St. Stephen's, for whereas St. James' was valued at £44, it was only worth £41, whilst St. Peter's was by then the most valuable of all at £48.

C. of York and p. of South Newbold (1506 - 7), of Stillington (1507 - 26), Archdeacon of Richmond (1506 - 26) (Le Neve, pp. 27, 72, 80); C. of Southwell and p. of North Leverton (1505 - 26) (Le Neve - Hardy, iii, p.427; Visitations and Memorials of Southwell Minster, p.152); Vicar of Normanton, nr. Wakefield (1499 - ?) (Emden, Oxford, i, p.533).

Whilst presumably a student in law at Oxford Dalby held several benefices in the Lincoln diocese. Apart from the rectory of Brant Broughton, which he held until his death, he had relinquished them all a few years after entering the diocese of York in the service of Thomas Savage, who had been translated from London in 1501. In spite of his standing in affairs of state Dalby never held any important preferment outside the York diocese, which, like his namesake, who held the archdeaconry of Richmond from 1388 till 1400, he served with distinction for more than twenty years.


? - 1547/8

CLIFTON, William. P. of St. James' Altar in 1535 (Valor Ecclesiasticus, v, p.131). He is undoubtedly the same person as William Clyseton¹ referred to in the Chantry Certificate of 1548, and was therefore the last occupant of the prebend (Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, ii, p.526).

¹ Doubtless due to misreading 'f' for 's'.
Vicar General of Cardinal Wolsey in the Northern Province in 1523.

Succesor of York (1522–29), Subdean (1529–48)\(^1\) (le Neve, p.17).

The Valor Ecclesiasticus (vol. iv, pp. 49, 90) shows him as holding the rectories of Surfleet and Bratoft, dio. Lincoln, in 1535, and he probably held them until his death. The Chantry Survey (loc.cit) in recording him as holding 'promocions and lyvinges' besides St. James' prebend, to the value of £40 and better' is an underestimate of his income, since the subdeanery alon was worth £53. 6s 8d (York Cathedral Statutes, p.42).

D.C.L. of Oxford 1517, he probably studied also at Turin. Founded a fellowship in Brasenose College, Oxford (Joseph Foster, Alumni Oxonienses, 1500 to 1714, i, p.292; Emden, Oxford, i, p.443).

\(^1\) He is named in the will of Brian Higden, dean of York (1516–39) (North Country Wills, p.163).
PREBENDARIES OF ST. MARTIN'S ALTAR
GRAY, Walter de. C. of Beverley and p. - probably of St. Martin's Altar 1 - till 5 November, 1265, when the king granted his prebend to Godfrey Giffard (C.P.R. 1258-66, pp.498-9). The date of his collation is uncertain; the best that can be said is that it was almost certainly between 1235, when he first appears in diocesan records (Reg. Gray, p.68), and the death of his uncle, Archbishop Walter Gray on 1 May, 1255.


The loss of his prebends in York, Beverley and Southwell at the end of 1265, followed by a grant of safe conduct to stand trial in the king's court, 19 January, 1265/6, was probably connected with Simon de Montfort's defeat at Evesham in the previous August, and the fact that he appears to have been deprived of his lands also suggests that he was among 'the disinherited' who adhered to Simon's cause against Henry III and the Lord Edward. 5

1. St. Martin's prebend is the only one for which no occupant appears during the lengthy period in which Gray was almost certainly a prebendary. Godfrey Giffard, his successor, may be assumed to have vacated the prebend on his elevation to the see of Worcester (consecrated 23 September, 1268). This was very probably the time when Gilbert de St. Leofard had collation of the prebend. The latter first appears as prebendary of St. Martin's on 23 December, 1269 (B.C.A., ii, pp.194-195), but he had come to the York diocese a year earlier, being appointed Official of the Court of York on 14 November, 1268 (Reg. Giffard, p.2). St. Martin's being his only major preferment in the diocese, he probably came to it immediately on entering the service of Giffard, i.e. at the time of Godfrey Giffard's resignation. Quite apart from these considerations, status and connections certainly made both Gray and Giffard likely occupants of Beverley's richest prebend.

2. The king granted the prebend of Masham to Bogo de Clare on 5 November, 1265. It was York's most wealthy prebend. There is some evidence that Walter de Gray had received another, unidentified, prebend in York by 1268 (Reg. Giffard, p.49n; C.P.R. 1256-72, p.173).

3. He was actually instituted to Seamer in 1237 (Reg. Gray, p.77).

4. He succeeded his brother, Henry de Gray, who had been admitted in 1227 (ibid, pp. 7, 15, 246).

He was granted permission by the king to leave Oxford in May 1238, following a riot on the occasion of the papal legate's visit (C.P.R. 1832-47, p.236). It is uncertain whether he was an M.A. at this time (C.T.Clay, York Minster Fasti, ii, pp. 52-53). Emden, Oxford, ii, p.808, gives an incomplete account of Gray, omitting his Beverley and Southwell preferments. Died 11 November, 1271 (Reg. Giffard, p.34).

1265 - 1268

GIFFARD, Godfrey. C. of Beverley and p. - probably of St. Martin's Altar - by royal grant 5 November, 1265, the see being vacant following the death of Godfrey Ludham (C.P.R. 1258-66, pp.498-99). Vac. on consecration as bishop of Worcester 23 September, 1268.


He also relinquished the archdeaconry of Wells and a prebend in the same church, and another in Exeter, on his consecration.

The charge that Godfrey's advancement was the work of his elder brother, Walter, is not borne out by the facts: Godfrey had a prebend in Wells before Walter came to that see, and was appointed archdeacon in the vacancy following his translation to York. Furthermore, he held prebends in York and Beverley by royal grants made during the vacancy of the see of York after Ludham's death. Both men owed much to royal patronage and personal ability.


before 1269 - 1288


1. He appointed the Vicar of St. Martin's Altar in August, 1267 (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.57).

Rector of Kirk Ella, Nr. Hull (1274-?). (Reg. Giffard, pp. 286, 287).

Beyond the York diocese he was a p. of Chichester (1264-79), Treasurer (1279-88); p. of Wells by 1284 till 1288. These, and the rectories of Hollingbourne and Boughton-under-Blean, in Kent, which he acquired whilst in the service of Archbishop Pecham, he relinquished on consecration. He left at Chichester the memory of a saintly life and a fine bishop. His diocesan constitutions were taken by Archbishop Greenfield, who had been dean of Chichester under him, as a model for York. D.N.B. describes him as coming from St. Lifard, nr. Meung-sur-Loire, Loiret, so that whilst he was at Oxford, he may well have been M.A. of another university. He graduated before 1260 (Emden, Oxford, iii, p.1628). Died 12 February, 1305.

1288 - 1290

AUGUSTA (AOSTA) Boniface de. P. of St. Martin's Alter after 30 January, 1287/83. Vac. on election to the see of Sion c. 24 April, 1289/90 (Reg. Romeyn, i, pp.384-5).

King's clerk in 1287 (B.C.A., ii, p.154); Bishop of Sion from 1290.

A native of Aosta in northern Piedmont, he was doubtless one of those numerous Savoyard clerks who owed their English preferments and offices at court to Eleanor of Provence, whom Henry III married in 1236, and whose uncle, Boniface

1. Giffard had letters of protection on going abroad to attend the Council of Lyons on 28 February, 1273/4 (C.P.R. 1272-81, p.44; C.P.R. 1272-79, p.113).


3. The date of Gilbert de St. Leofard's election to the bishoprick of Chichester.

4. Sion is on the upper Rhone, before it flows into Lake Geneva, in the canton of Valais, and some fifty miles north of Aosta.
of Savoy, was archbishop of Canterbury (1245–70).1

Augusta had failed to secure possession of St. Stephen's prebend in 1287.2

1. C.W. Previte-Orton, The Early History of the House of Savoy, pp.418–19; F.M. Powicke, The Thirteenth Century, 1216–1307, pp.73–74. Peter de Augusta, archdeacon of Lyons, who resigned the church of Rotherham in September, 1287, on account of his inability to reside, was probably Boniface's brother (Reg. Romeyn, i, pp. 78-79).

2. On 26 September, 1287, Archbishop le Romeyn pursuing relentlessly his bitter quarrel with Robert de Scarborough, dean of York, issued a mandate to the chapter of Beverley to induct Boniface de Augusta, king's clerk, into the prebend vacant by Scarborough's deprivation, on the strength of a papal provision (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.369; B.C.A., ii, p.154). At the same time he ordered the York chapter to elect a new dean, and collated James de Hispania, illegitimate son of Alfonso X of Castile, and a relative of Queen Eleanor, to Scarborough's prebend of Husthwaite in York (Reg. Romeyn, loc. cit). Both Augusta and Hispania, both absentee aliens, were precisely the class clerk Romeyn spent his primacy resisting, and the fact that the relevant documents emphasize their high connections, suggests that the Archbishop chose them carefully as the sort of persons who Scarborough would have difficulty in resisting.

Scarborough did in fact resist strongly and the dispute was only settled in 1290 on the intervention of the king (B.C.A., ii, p.160; Reg. Romeyn, i, p.385). Then Hispania entered into possession of the York prebend (York Minster Fasti, ii, p.42), but Augusta, had already fallen in for the richer prebend of St. Martin's, St. Leofard vacating it opportune in 1287/8 (see above). The prebends involved are nowhere identified in the documents of the dispute, but we know that Scarborough's prebend was St. Stephen's because the clerk who finally succeeded Scarborough on 3 January, 1289/90 was Henry de Carlton, who appears frequently in the Act Book as holder of that prebend (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.381; B.C.A., i, passim). On the other hand we know that Augusta, in the event, obtained St. Martin's because his successor was Aymo de Carto, who was followed by John de Nassington who certainly held the prebend (Reg. Romeyn, i, pp. 384–385; B.C.A., i, p.27). Clearly Scarborough was well able to resist Romeyn's collation of Augusta, who was being used, in a large measure, as a tool in a larger issue; but in so far as the richer prebend of St. Martin's had fallen into alien hands the archbishop's tactics had in fact worked to his own disadvantage (see also, below, p.A.174).
1290 - 1304

CARTO\(^1\), Aymo de. P. of St. Martin's Altar on a papal provision, archbishop's mandate to induct dated 24 April, 1290 (Reg. Romeyn, i, pp. 384 - 385; B.C.A., ii, p.160). Deprived c. 23 May, 1304\(^2\) (Reg. Corbridge, ii, p.30; B.C.A., i, pp. 16 - 17, 19, 27).

Described alternatively as papal chaplain and king's clerk (B.C.A., ii, p.160; ibid, p.xxxvii). A kinsman of the counts of Geneva, he was another clerk whose English interests arose from the link between the royal houses of England and Savoy. Bishop of Geneva (1304 - 1311)\(^3\) (B.C.A., i, p.20; ii, p.xlviii).

1. Sometimes spelt Quarto or Cardo.

2. He was more than once in conflict with the archbishop. On 25 February, 1292/3, he failed to appear at Romeyn's visitation of the Minster, in spite of a special summons issued earlier in the month (Reg. Romeyn, ii, pp.15, 16; B.C.A., ii, pp. 171 - 172). He was summoned to answer for his contumacy, but nothing is heard of the result.

His deprivation, although it concluded lengthy proceedings on the part of Corbridge, was in the event no more than a formality, for Corbridge already knew of Aymo's election to the bishoprick of Geneva (B.C.A., i, p.20), and, in view of the Provost's connections, it would almost certainly not have succeeded, had it been attempted, under any other circumstances. Why was action taken at this late date? News of Aymo de Carto's election reached the archbishop by 1 May, 1304 (B.C.A., i, p.15); on 23 May the Official Principal, or his commissary, was ordered to proceed against him (Reg. Corbridge, ii, p.30), and 3 June Corbridge informed the pope of his excommunication and deprivation (ibid, p.112). The fact that on this same day the Official, John de Nassington, had the collation of Aymo's prebend strongly suggests that the archbishop's object was to ensure that appointment of a successor in St. Martin's did not rest with the pope, as it would have done had the latter been allowed to vacate it by reason of his consecration (Reg. Corbridge, ii, p.30; B.C.A., ii, p.200). The reasons given for the deprivation were twofold: (i) Aymo's failure to take priest's orders as his prebend, according to statute, required (B.C.A., ii, p.199); (ii) he allegedly lacked papal dispensation to hold more than one dignity having a cure of souls (B.C.A., i, p.7).

3. See B.C.A., ii, p.xlviii. 'As Bishop of Geneva Aymo merely entered on a family living, being the third Aymo of the same line: Aymo i, 1215 - 1260; Aymo ii, 1268 - 1304; while Aymo iii, our ex-Provost, was consecrated 5 October, 1304. One of the same family, Aymo, precentor of Geneva, son of the late Count of Geneva was, by mandate of Pope Alexander IV, directed to the Archbishop of Vienne, to be admitted Bishop of Viviers'. Our Aymo de Carto died 13 October, 1311.
PROVOST OF BEVERLEY (18 February, 1294/5-8 May, 1304) (Reg. Romeyn, ii, pp. 22-23; B.C.A., i, p.20).

In March, 1303/4, Aymo's other preferments - known to Archbishop Corbridge - were the precentorship of Lyons, the provostship of Lausanne, and the rectory of the prebendal church of Dungarvan, dio. Lismore in southern Ireland (B.C.A., i, p.7).

Although he spent much of his time overseas, and was, for a time at least, in the service of Otho de Grandison, Edward I's friend and counsellor, he was present at Beverley early in 1304, but had apparently left by 7 March, 1303/4 (B.C.A., i, pp. 8-9).

NOTE ON THE SUCCESSION TO ST. MARTIN'S PREBEND IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY

The retention of the richest prebend in Beverley within a close circle of clerks, nearly all related, throughout the fourteenth century is one of the most intriguing features of the history of the medieval chapter.

The occupant of St. Martin's from 1304 to 1321 was that notable servant of the see of York, Mr. John de Nassington, Archbishop Greenfield's official principal. After 1316, following the death of that archbishop, Nassington appears to have taken up more frequent residence at Beverley. He died there on 2 February, 1321/22, having resigned his prebend some six months earlier. On 5 September, 1321 William de Seton, papal delegate, acting on behalf of the abbot of Waltham and others, admitted Robert de Northburgh on a papal provision. The move had obviously been planned well in advance, for as early as September, 1319, a papal faculty had been granted to the abbots of Waltham and Beauchief, and Rigaud de Asserio, canon of London, to receive Nassington's resignation and to give his prebend to some fit person.1

Although there is no explicit statement to the effect that Nassington and Northburgh were related, all the evidence suggests that this was the case. The villages from which each derived his name are only about fifteen miles apart in the Soke of Peterborough, and the connection is strengthened by the recollection that five years earlier Nassington had been succeeded in his claim to the prebend of Wistow by another Northburgh, Roger, soon to become bishop of Coventry and

1. C.P.L., ii, p.183. For other references relating to the succession see the relevant biographical notices.
Neither of these moves was an exchange, but the event at Beverley, at least, is an interesting instance of the way in which, given influence, it was possible to secure a desired succession at a time when a host of candidates sought every benefice of value which fell vacant. There must have been many disappointed clerks with expectative graces when Beverley's plum prebend was thus snatched from their reach, for we may imagine that not a few, like Wolsey in a later age, noted the failing health of an ageing prebendary with more than passing interest. No doubt, too, it is an example of an astute and influential administrator serving the interests of his kinsmen as assiduously as he had cared for those of the diocese.

The next succession was effected by an exchange, which helps to confirm the Nassington - Northburgh connection; on 26 July, 1325, Robert de Northburgh exchanged St. Martin's with Roger de Nassington for the substantial rectory of Houghton, Bedfordshire, in the diocese of Lincoln. This Nassington was a young man, and his admission secured the prebend in the family for close on forty years. His residence at Beverley was intermittent, for the same family connection brought him even richer preferment elsewhere. In 1328 he received a prebend, and a year later the chancellorship, in Roger de Northburgh's cathedral at Lichfield, holding the dignity until his death in 1364.

Six months before he died, however, the prebend was once more removed from the reach of waiting provisors. On 16 September, 1363, Roger de Nassington exchanged St. Martin's with Richard de Ravenser for the less wealthy prebend of Welton Brinkhall in Lincoln. So far as we can tell it thus passed from the family, but nonetheless in a pre-determined manner. Ravenser doubtless had his own reasons for acquiring the prebend: he was a local man by birth, if not in his subsequent activities and connections, hailing from the now lost village of Ravenser at the mouth of the Humber estuary. His succession to St. Martin's appears to have been a step in grouping much of his preferment in the York diocese. Already Provost of Beverley, he had been granted the enormously rich mastership of St. Leonard's Hospital at York in April, 1363, and had exchanged his prebends in Hereford and Abergwili for the prebend of Barnby in Howden in the following July. By the time Alexander Neville descended upon Beverley, however, much of this collection had been dispersed by further exchanges, and

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1. Le Neve, *Northern Province*, p.93. It is doubtful whether Nassington ever secured undisputed possession of Wistow against the alien Aymo de Jovenzano. Both le Neve's reviser and Professor Hamilton Thompson (*Reg. Greenfield*, v, p.liii) see Roger de Northburgh as an intruder, succeeding against both disputants with royal backing. It is more likely, however, that he took over Nassington's claim when the latter retired to Beverley.
St. Martin's and the prebend of Knaresborough in York, were the only vulnerable preferments within the archbishop's grasp in 1381.

More to our purpose from the point of view of the future of St. Martin's prebend was the fact that Ravenser held a key place in an intricate genealogical network which linked the Thoresby, Ferriby, Melton, Waltham and de la Mare families. Richard de Ravenser, and his brothers John and Thomas, were nephews of Archbishop Thoresby, who no doubt promoted their interests in the North. Now Thoresby and William de Ferriby were kinsmen and household clerks of Archbishop Melton, who was closely related to William de la Mare, a near kinsman of Richard de Ravenser with whom he exchanged the Provostry and the rectory of Waltham. The name de la Mare is certainly another form of the name del See, which was borne by one of the Ravenser brothers. The links which connected these families were therefore several, and this was certainly the case in the relationship of the Ravensers with that other great ecclesiastical family, the Walthams, whose home was on the Lincolnshire side of the Humber. John de Waltham, who was consecrated bishop of Salisbury in 1388 was also a nephew of Archbishop Thoresby, being the son of another of his sisters, and was therefore Richard de Ravenser's first cousin. In addition, however, Ravenser and Waltham are found to have had a nephew in common, William de Waltham, which would suggest that Ravenser's sister married Waltham's brother.

The significance of these family connections is apparent when the succession to St. Martin's is pursued.

We have related elsewhere the circumstances under which Ravenser was deprived by Archbishop Alexander Neville in 1381, and have suggested that the latter's nominee, Anthony de St. Quentin, enjoyed the recognition of no-one apart from his patron. Ravenser died in 1386 with his title still widely recognised, but so long as Neville remained at York this can have profitted him little. With the Archbishop's disgrace and subsequent removal, however, the prebend was considered vacant, and one of Ravenser's kinsmen received it by royal grant, sede vacante.

This was Thomas de Ferriby, who was almost certainly the nephew of Melton's clerk, kinsman and executor, William de Ferriby, mentioned above as being a relative of Thoresby. What part the family tie played in Thomas de Ferriby's appointment we do not know, but the identity of the next prebendary suggests that his preferment was not merely a coincidence.
In May or June, 1398, Ferriby exchanged St. Martin's prebend with William de Waltham, Ravenser's nephew, who still held it at the time of his death in 1416. The next prebendary was, in more ways than one, a break with the past. Henry Bowet, probably an illegitimate nephew of Archbishop Henry Bowet, belonged to one of those new ecclesiastical families which took the church in England by storm in the fifteenth century, and it is characteristic of their rapacity that he should have received St. Martin's as part of a block grant of Waltham's preferments in the York diocese.

By this time, however, there are indications that the value of the prebend was not what it had been. Its wealth was derived from its estates in Beverley town, and Beverley itself had seen better days. The rise of Kingston-upon-Hull and the shift of the woollen industry to the West Riding both helped to hasten the decay which Leland found a century later.

In the fourteenth century the town, and with it St. Martin's prebend, had prospered, and the net result of the manoeuvres described in this note was to keep the greatest prize in the Beverley chapter within a closely knit circle for over a century. They represent an instance of a little-explored influence upon appointments which should modify any notion of the system of preferment to prebends as a clear cut issue to be decided, in dispute or agreement, by the crown, the papacy and the diocesan bishop.

Moreover, when it is recalled that the list of provosts of Beverley in this century included William Melton, his nephew William de la Mare, and kinsmen Richard de Ravenser and John de Thoresby (a nephew of the archbishop), and that besides the prebendaries of St. Martin's Altar two more Northburghs, two Ferribys and a Thoresby held other prebends between 1304 and 1364, it is easy to appreciate the influence of this family connection in the affairs of the Minster.
A. 97

1304 - 1321

NASSINGTON, John de. P. of St. Martin's Altar, coll. 3 June, 1304 (Reg. Corbridge, ii, p.30). Admitted 5 June, 1304, ex collatione Domini Thomae Archiepiscopi Eboracensis necnon ex collatione Domini Regis (B.C.A., i, p.27); Re-grant by the king 17 June, 1305, the prebend being in his hands by reason of the voidance of the archbishoprick (C.P.R. 1301 - 1307, p.365). Vac. on resignation c. 3 July, 1321 - 'a half-year before his death' 2 February, 1321/2 (B.C.A., i, p.392; ii, p.1).


One of the most astute and active administrators in the York diocese of his day. Testimony to the value of his service is given by Archbishop Greenfield in a letter to the Beverley chapter, dated 29 May, 1306, requesting for him his corrody in the Bedern though absent, since, beyond all other his clerks, he bore the heat and burden of the day in the archbishop's business\(^4\). The chapter must have understood this well, for, even when he was resident in York, he was on constant call for advice and support in the legal matters of the church.

He appears to have left the Officiality sometime in 1315. Certainly in the following years his frequent presence in Beverley suggests that his retirement was spent in almost permanent residence there (B.C.A., i, pp. 324, 327 et passim).

1. See above, p.A.93.

2. For Nassington's bid for the prebend of Wistow in York see le Neve pp.92 - 93, and above p.94 n1.

3. For Nassington's institution to Brayton 3 April, 1301, see Reg. Corbridge, i, p.44.

4. B.C.A., i, p.136 .... praeceteris clericis nostris, tanquam is qui pro nobis pondus et aestus habet jugiter supportare, nostris et ecclesiae nostrae continue noscatur utilitatisbus insudare, sicque ex ecclesiastica remuneratione merito gaudere debeat.
John de Nassington was one of the first members of a great ecclesiastical family to enter the service of the archbishops of York.\(^1\) Introduced to the diocese, it seems, by Archbishop le Romeyn, who had earlier been prebendary of Nassington in Lincoln, it produced at least nine clerks of that name who found preferment or employment (usually both) within its borders during the first half of the fourteenth century.\(^2\)

M.A. (probably of Oxford) by May, 1300 (Reg. Corbridge, i, p.1).\(^3\)

**1321 - 1325**


The rectory of Houghton which he thus obtained is his only other known benefice.

In June, 1323, he was studying at Orleans, as appears from his letter to the chapter dated in Orleans, 4 October, 1323 (B.C.A., ii, pp. 34, 41). He had returned to England by 17 February, 1324, when he appeared in Beverley, and was admitted in person to a place in choir and chapter (ibid, p.44). His presence in chapter again in April, 1325, may indicate that he had become a residentiary (ibid, p.62).


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1. For the likely family connection of the Nassingtons with the Northburghs see above pp. A.93-94.

2. The first to appear in the archbishop's registers was Robert de Nassington who was Romeyn's household clerk by December, 1293 (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.136). Our John de Nassington, first makes his appearance at the end of 1299, following the death of Archbishop of Newark, seemingly taking over the officiality and acting as commissary of the York chapter during the vacancy of the see (Reg. Romeyn, ii, pp. 321, 325, 330). Emden (Oxford, ii, pp. 1337-8) has successfully distinguished the careers of our John de Nassington and his two namesakes, though he wrongly gives the year of the former's death as 1317.

3. He left £20 to the vicars choral of the Minster for an obit with Mass for the dead to be said yearly on 1 February. This may, therefore, be the precise day of his death. He had already given a splendid cope to the Minster (B.C.A., i, p.392; ii, p.6).

4. As early as September, 1319, a faculty was granted to the Abbots of Waltham and Beauchief and Rigaud de Asserio, papal chaplain and canon of London, to receive John de Nassington's resignation of his prebend, and to give it to some fit person (C.P.L. 1305-42, p.200).

King's clerk in 1327, still in 1354 (C.P.R. 1327 - 30, p.177; 1354 - 58, p.28).

Warden of St. Mary Magdalen's Hospital, Southwell² (1363-4) (le Neve, Lincoln, p.123).

He held no other known benefice in the York diocese, his main preferment being in the diocese of Lichfield, where his kinsman, Roger de Northburgh, was bishop. He was a prebendary of Lichfield in 1328, before being granted the chancellorship a year later. This he held, with the prebend of Ashill in Wells, until his death shortly before 1 March, 1364 (le Neve, Bath and Wells, p.18)³.

Though he was present at convocations in June, 1331, and in May, 1337 (B.C.A., ii, pp. 97, 118), his frequent absences abroad (C.P.R. 1321-24, p.121; 1327-30, p.177) suggest that this was exceptional, at least at this stage in his career.


RAVENSER, Richard de. P. of St. Martin's Altar, 3 August, 1363⁴, in exchange for the prebend of Welton Brinkhall in Lincoln (le Neve, Lincoln, p.123; C.P.R. 1361-64, p.456). Vac. on death in May, 1386⁵ (B.C.A., ii, p.lxix; for his will see Royal Archaeological Institute, Lincoln, pp.312-327).

1. Mr. Leach's date, 16 September, 1363, probably refers to a royal ratification (B.C.A., ii, p.lxviii).

2. By exchange for his prebend of Welton Brinkhall in Lincoln, which he thus held for barely two months.

3. For the preferments which he relinquished before his death see Emden, Oxford, ii, p.1338.

4. Leach has 16 September, 1363, possibly the date of ratification (B.C.A., ii, p.lxvii).

5. Although Archbishop Neville deprived Ravenser, and invested Anthony de St. Quentin with his prebend on 31 August, 1381, it is quite clear that the latter's title was recognised by no-one but the archbishop, and that both the pope and the crown believed Thomas de Ferriby, whom they concurred in appointing in 1388, to be the next lawful holder of St. Martin's. As late as 1391 St. Quentin was described as having been litigating the curia for years (C.P.L., iv, pp.368-9). See Quentin and Ferriby below.
A much-favoured clerk of Edward III. Clerk of the hanaper in 1356. Receiver of Isabella, the Queen Mother in 1358, and later of Queen Philippa, his chief patron (C.P.R. 1354-58, p.609; 1358-61, pp.134, 223). Master in Chancery 1362-86 (B.C.A., ii, pp. lxvii). Clerk in the household of the Princess Isabella in April, 1364 (C.P.R. 1361-64, p.484).

PROVOST OF BEVERLEY (4 October, 1360 - c.1369) (B.C.A., ii, pp. lxvi-lxix); C. of York and p. of Knaresborough (1371-81) (le Neve, p.60); Master of St. Leonard's Hospital, York (1363-86) (C.P.R. 1361-64, p.331).

In other dioceses he was:
C. of Lincoln and p. of Welton Brinkhall (1359-63), of Empingham (1363-84), of Caistor (1384-86, archdeacon of Lincoln (by 1369-86) (le Neve, pp. 6, 49, 63, 123); C. of St. Paul's, London, and p. of Hoxton (1361-63) (le Neve, p.42); C. of Abergwili and p. of Trallong (1361-63) (C.P.R. 1361-64, p.135); C. of Hereford and p. of Wellington (1361-63) (le Neve, p.50); C. of Salisbury and p. of Ruscombe Southbury (1362), of Preston (c.1366-67) (le Neve, pp. 77, 82); C. of Howden and p. of Barnby (1363-66) (Y.A.J., xxv, p.252); C. of St. Stephen's, Westminster and p. (1366) (ibid).

Rector of Anderby, dio. Lincoln (1349-59), of Waltham, dio. Lincoln (1359-60) (ibid).

Rural dean of Brooke, dio. Norwich (?-1359) of Depwade, dio. Norwich (1359-?) (ibid).

1. On this date he exchanged his rectory of Waltham with William de la Mare, a kinsman, for the Provostry. He was presented formally to the office by the Crown and admitted 10 October, 1360 (C.P.R. 1358-61, p.460).

2. This was no ordinary hospital: the Valor Ecclesiasticus (1535) gives the value of the mastership as £367 17 9fed, a figure which had changed little in the later middle ages. At York Minster nearby only the deanery (£373 6s 8d) exceeded it in wealth (York Cathedral Statutes, p.42).

3. Ravenser's prebendal house of Lincoln was allegedly the centre and refuge of the excommunicated clergy of Beverley in the years after 1381. Ravenser himself, however, does not appear to have been long in residence at Lincoln, never qualifying for a residentiary's share in distributions (K. Edwards, English Secular Cathedrals, pp. 349-354).


5. Both the Abergwili and Hereford prebends were exchanged for Barnby in Howden, 2 July, 1363.
As ringleader, with John de Wellingborough, of the Beverley Chapter's resistance to Alexander Neville's attack upon its rights and privileges he bore the brunt of the latter's wrath when he visited the Minster in 1381. Neville, according to Ravenser, was his mortal enemy (capitalis inimicus) (B.C.A., ii, p.220); certainly he required the king's special protection when he visited St. Leonard's Hospital in 1382 (ibid, p.lxxix). The archbishop excommunicated him on 22 April, 1381, deprived him of the prebend of Knaresborough in York by 12 July, 1381, but was only partially successful in ejecting him from St. Martin's in Beverley (see St. Quentin Anthony de., below). Ravenser's richest prebent in the York diocese, St. Leonard's Hospital, being a royal foundation, was beyond Neville's reach, as, of course, was his rich prebent at Lincoln. Deprivation of even two prebends can have been of little real consequence to this wealthy royal clerk who rarely attended to them personally (B.C.A., ii, lxxviii - lxxxix) (le Neve, Northern Province, p.60).

ST. QUENTIN, Anthony de. Invested with the prebend of St. Martin's Altar by Archbishop Alexander Neville "by delivery of our biretta" 31 August, 1381 (B.C.A., ii, p.lxxxviii). Admitted by Neville in person 2 September, 1381 (ibid).

He appears to have enjoyed corporal possession of the prebend for the remainder of Neville's primacy, i.e. till 1388, though the Crown, the curia and the Beverley chapter never acknowledged his title. No alternative candidate

1. The documents from Neville's Register relating to the dispute and so-called "clerical strike" at Beverley in 1381 are printed in B.C.A., ii (pp.202 - 265).

2. Nicholas de Louth, prebendary of St. Katherine's Altar (1355 - 83), who was one of the three canons who tardily obeyed the archbishop's summons to the 1381 Visitation, had declined to admit St. Quentin (B.C.A., ii, p.lxxxvii).

3. The royal attitude throughout the great dispute was conciliatory, but it is clear that the Crown did not countenance Ravenser's ejection. He was deprived of his York prebend despite a royal writ of prohibition (Y.A.J., xxvi, p.252). Neville acted at Beverley in defiance of a writ from the king ordering him to stay proceedings until the matter could be brought to the king's court at Westminster (B.C.A., ii, pp.242 - 3). Consideration of the case at the curia extended over at least a decade, but St. Quentin's claim made little headway either before or after Ravenser's death. Ravenser succeeded in obtaining two judgments against him with a total of 143 florins costs, and an order of sequestration. In 1388 the executors of his estate claimed the fruits of the prebend in consequence of this (C.P.L., iv, p.269; B.C.A., ii, p.lxxxviii). When in November, 1388, Thomas de Ferriby received a provision to St. Martin's it was explicitly stated that it was Ravenser (not St. Quentin) whom he was succeeding (C.P.L., iv, pp.269 - 70). Needless to say Nicholas de Louth's attitude represented that of the rest of the chapter. It would have been most surprising had they assented to the leader of their cause being supplanted by their persecutor's nominee. Nevertheless the archbishop's support did apparently enable St. Quentin to reap the fruits of this plum prebend.
is known to have been put forward on the death of Richard de Ravenser (who had never relinquished his claim) in 1386, but in 1388, following the archbishop's disgrace and flight, Thomas de Ferriby was admitted on a papal provision, followed by a royal grant (C.P.R. 1385-89, p.400; C.P.L., iv, p.270). St. Quentin was still litigating at the curia in 1391 - a dangerous business at a time when the Statutes of Provisors and Praemunire were much in mind, and in view of the fact that the king had made his grant to Ferriby in the previous year. It was probably his persistence in the matter which brought him imprisonment in the Tower, though he may have been implicated in the fall of his patron, Neville.


In the diocese of Durham he was rector of Gainford (1427-28), of Ford, in Northumberland (1410-31).

St. Quentin was one of the few clerical members of the ancient knightly family, which until comparatively recent years, were centred on Brandesburton and Harpham in the East Riding1. He died in 1431.

1388 - 1398 FERRIBY, Thomas de.2 P. of St. Martin's Altar by papal provision, 11 November, 1388 (C.P.L. iv, p.270) and also by royal grant in the same year, temporalities of York being in the king's hands, following the flight of Archbishop Neville (C.P.R. 1385-89, p.400). Vac. on exchange with William de Waltham for the prebend of Teinton Regis in Salisbury, 8 June, 13983 (le Neve, Salisbury, p.91).

1. For the fine monumental brasses of his generation of the family see Y.A.J., xii, pp. 203-205, 211-216.

2. A royal ratification of the estate of John de Ferriby in St. Martin's prebend, which perplexed Mr. Leach, is almost certainly a slip (C.P.R. 1388-92, p.230; B.C.A., ii, p.lxxix). Although there was indeed a John de Ferriby alive at the time, it was certainly Thomas who received the papal provision in 1388, and Thomas who made the exchange of the prebend in 1398.


He exchanged his York prebend in 1403 for the prebend of Fawkeners in Good Easter in St. Martin-le-Grand, London (Le Neve, Northern Province, p. 29), which, eight years later, he exchanged for the prebend of Dinder in Wells (Le Neve, Bath and Wells, p. 43). In 1426 he exchanged this for St. Radegund's Free Chapel in St. Paul's, London (ibid). The prebend which he secured in Salisbury in return for St. Martin's he held until his death, which took place before 8 May, 1432 (Le Neve, Salisbury, p. 91).

Ferriby was a lesser known member of that great ecclesiastical family which originated on the banks of the Humber, and which claimed kinship with Archbishop Melton, the de la Mares, and almost certainly, the Ravensers (Y.A.J., xxv, p. 258 and n). He is probably the Thomas de Ferriby who benefited in the will of William de Ferriby, c. of York and archdeacon of Cleveland, who died in 1379, and who would therefore be his uncle (Test. Ebor, i, p. 104).

1398–1416

WALTHAM, William de. P. of St. Martin's Altar, 8 June, 1398, following an exchange with Thomas de Ferriby for the prebend of Teinton Regis in Salisbury (Le Neve, Salisbury, p. 91; Test. Ebor, iii, p. 56n). Vac. on death by 9 October, 1416, when probate was granted on his will (Test. Ebor., iii, pp. 55–59).


¹ The statement that he was Keeper of the Great Seal for a short time after 1390 (Test. Ebor, iii, p. 56n) almost certainly mistakes him for the John de Waltham, future bishop of Salisbury, and Keeper of the Privy Seal (1386–89).

² A John Waltham was his uncle, but as there were two eminent clerks of the same name and family alive at this time it is uncertain whether this was the future bishop or the Official of the Court of York, who was also subdean of York, whose biographical notice appears in Emden, Oxford, iii, pp. 1973–4. (Professor Hamilton Thompson treats their two careers as one in Y.A.J. xxv, pp. 257–260).
Although he had held at various times, prebends in St. Paul's, London, Salisbury, Wells and Lincoln, Waltham's rich preferment in York and Beverley represented the permanent part of his assets. In addition to this, however, he held at his death the prebend of Chalk in Wilton conventual church, dio. Salisbury, the wardenship of Sturbridge Hospital, dio. Ely, and the rectory of Algarkirk, dio. Lincoln (Emden, Cambridge, p.514; Y.A.J., xxv, pp. 257-260).

His surname indicates that he came from Waltham, near Grimsby, where both John and Richard de Ravenser were rectors. His uncle was probably the John de Waltham who was nephew to Archbishop Thoresby, and his mother must have been a sister of the Ravensers, whose home was on the opposite bank of the Humber. (Y.A.J., xxv, pp.257-8; Test. Ebor, iii, p.55). In his will he requested burial near the grave of his uncle, John de Ravenser, in Lincoln Cathedral, and left all his civil and canon law books, after some small bequest to King's Hall, Cambridge, to Beverley Minster (Test. Ebor, iii, loc.cit; North Country Wills, ii, p.11).


1416-1442

BOWET, Henry. P. of St. Martin's Altar, 7 October, 1416, on resigning St. Andrew's prebend (Reg. Bowet, i, fo.58). Vac. on resignation by 10 November, 1442, when Stephen Wilton had collation of the prebend (Reg. Kemp 48b; C.P.R. 1441-46, p.163).

Kinsman of Archbishop Henry Bowet\(^3\), to whose nepotism he undoubtedly owed his preferment.

1. See le Neve, St. Paul's, London, pp. 27, 64; Salisbury, p.91; Bath and Wells, p.39; Lincoln, pp. 67, 84, where the exchanges which he effected are also detailed.

2. He never held the prebend of Ampleforth from 1386 till 1389, as stated in Test. Ebor, ii, p.562. The holder in fact was William de Waleham, who died on 19 October, 1389 (le Neve, p.28). It is wrongly stated in the same place that Waltham was archdeacon of Lincoln, but it may be true, as stated, that he was rector of St. Bride's, London, in 1396.

3. He was possibly his nephew, and certainly one of his executors. Born c.1385 he received a dispensation on account of illegitimacy in 1411 (C.P.L., vi, p.291).
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C. of York and p. of Strensall (1413-14), of Laughton (1414-16), of South Cave (1416-22), of Masham (1422-47) (le Neve, pp. 43, 65, 67, 81), Archdeacon of the East Riding (1416-18), of Richmond (1418-42) (ibid, pp. 23, 26); C. of Southwell and p. of North Muskham (1414-16), of Oxton (1416), of Norwell Palishall (1420-42)1 (Miscellanea, ii, p.292); C. of Ripon and p. of Thorpe (1420-42) (Memorials of Ripon, ii, p.214); Sacrist of St. Mary and the Holy Angels, York (1416-22) (Y.A.J., xxxvi, p.232); Master of St. John's Hospital, Ripon (1416) (Miscellanea, loc.cit).

His preferment outside the York diocese was negligible by comparison:

He was c. of Hereford and p. of Moreton Parva (1410-14) (le Neve, p.36), and rector of Wonson, dio. Winchester (?-1416) (Miscellanea, ii, loc.cit).

All his prebends and dignities were acquired before the death of Archbishop Bowet in 14232, and were greatly diminished in 1442. Indeed it has often been assumed that he died in that year (Miscellanea, ii, loc.cit; Y.A.J., xxxvi, p.232). His archdeaconry and his prebends in the three daughter churches of York, however, all fell vacant on resignation, not death,3

1. As an example of shameless avarice and nepotism the career of Henry Bowet junior is hard to equal, even among the Booth family later in the century. The value of his successive prebends in the York churches speaks for itself:

At York: prebend of Strensall (80 marks), of Laughton (110 marks), of South Cave (160 marks), of Masham (230 marks); archdeaconry of the East Riding (£42 6s 8d), of Richmond (£200) (York Minster Statutes, p.42).

At Beverley: prebend of St. Andrew's (£27), of St. Martin's (£45) (B.C.A., ii, pp.340 - 341).

At Southwell: prebend of North Muskham (£14 approx.), of Oxton Crophille (£18 approx.), of Norwell Palishall (£23 approx.).

2. Bowet seems to have received a block grant of William Waltham's preferments on the latter's death in 1416, receiving in that year the archdeaconry of the East Riding, and his prebends in York and Beverley. It may be that the prebend of Oxton Crophille in Southwell, which Bowet acquired in the same year, had also belonged to Waltham.

3. The circumstances which induced a member of the Bowet family to relinquish so many of his assets in a single year must have been as weighty as they are obscure. That resignation was forced upon him is suggested, in connection with Beverley at least, by the record of the visitation of the Minster by William Felter (see St. Peter's prebend below, pp.A.165-166), Archbishop Kemp's commissary, earlier in 1442. Henry Bowet who was absent and without representation was pronounced contumacious, and his punishment reserved to the archbishop (Miscellanea, ii, p.272). An amicable transfer of benefices is most unlikely under such circumstances. The background may have been political, but the fact that he was succeeded in the archdeaconry by Thomas Kemp, nephew of the archbishop, and at Beverley by the chancellor of Cardinal Beaufort, may suggest that he had fallen foul of a most powerful faction.
and he is known to have retained the prebend of Masham in York until resigning it, too, on 16 February, 1447 (Reg. Kemp, fo.60).

Although he was described as being 'in legibus scholaris' in 1416, the place and results of his studies are unknown. Certainly he never appears as a graduate.

1442 - 1457


Chancellor of Cardinal Beaufort, whose executor he was in 1447 (C.P.R. 1446-52, p.561; 1452-61, pp. 67, 116).

C. of York and p. of Tockerington (1434-41), of Strensall (1441-50), of South Cave (1450-57); Archdeacon of Cleveland (1453-57) (le Neve, pp. 21, 43, 81, 83); Rector of Bainton (1443-57), of Huggate (1443-46)¹ (Reg. Kemp fos. 49d, 59; Reg. Wm. Booth fo.111).

At the height of his career he held in addition prebends in Lincoln, Salisbury and St. Paul's, London, and was successively archdeacon of Stowe, Salisbury and Winchester. For these, and his lesser benefices, which included rectories in four dioceses, see the exhaustive biographical notices in Emden, Oxford, iii, pp. 2053-4, and in Visitations of Religious Houses, Lincoln 1420-36, pp. 183-4.

Between 1432 and 1442 he was engaged in diplomatic missions of considerable importance on the continent and in Scotland. In the latter year he seems to have retired from affairs of state, though he retained his attachment to Cardinal Beaufort until the latter's death. However, he is little heard of in this connection, and the move coincides with a grouping of his preferments in the York diocese,² to which he certainly returned in later years. A Yorkshireman, probably originating

¹ Two well endowed livings, ten miles apart in the Yorkshire Wolds, north of Beverley.

² He exchanged the archdeaconry of Middlesex with Robert Wiot or Wyott (below pp. A.126-127) for the rectory of Bainton, 15 April, 1443 (le Neve, St. Paul's, London, p.12) and it is probable that the rectory of Huggate nearby, which had also belonged to Wiot, was connected with the transaction.
from Bishop Wilton\(^1\), East of York, he was a generous benefactor of both York and Beverley. At York he was a co-founder, with John de Barningham (see above p.A.54), of St. William's College, at the East End of the Minster, in 1554/5 (Test. Ebor, ii, pp. 203-7; C.P.R. 1452-61, p.218). Beverley Minster obviously had a special place in his affections, for in his will he requested burial in the chantry he had founded there in 1455\(^2\) (Test. Ebor, ii, p.140; C.P.R. 1452-61, p.250). Executor of Robert Rolleston, Provost (Test. Ebor, ii, p.140).

D.Ch.L. (probably of Oxford\(^3\)) by 1429 (Emden, Oxford, loc.cit).  

1457 - 1467  
BOOTH, Thomas. P. of St. Martin's Altar, coll. 26 July, 1457 (Test. Ebor, iii, p. 251). Vac. on resignation in January, 1466/7 (ibid; Dade, p.5).


C. of York and p. of Ampleforth (1478 - 1501)(le Neve, p.29); C. of Ripon and p. of Nunwick (1463 - 78) (Memorials of Ripon, ii, p.196); Rector of Halsham in Holderness by 1462 (Test. Ebor, iii, p.251), of Carlton-in-Lindrick (1477 - 1501) (ibid; Emden, Cambridge, p.80).

He was only 15 years of age when he had the collation of St. Martin's, being 17 in 1459 when he was dispensed from proceeding to deacon's orders (C.P.L., xi, p.434)\(^4\).

Student (presumably of Cambridge) 1459 (C.P.L., xi, p.434), B.Ch.L. (Cambridge) (Emden, loc.cit)\(^5\).

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1. There is another Wilton, five miles from Pickering, on the road to Scarborough. Bishop Wilton is, however, more likely to have been his home, being only a few miles distant from his rectories of Huggate and Bainton.

2. Licence to Stephen Wilton, clerk, to found a chantry in honour of Corpus Christi, the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary the Virgin, and St. John of Beverley, to pray for the King, Margaret Queen of England, the said Stephen, and Henry, late cardinal of England, 20 July, 1455 (C.P.R. 1452-61, loc.cit; Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, ii, p.555).

3. Emden gives no reason for including him in his Oxford Register. His kinsman (possibly a brother), Thomas de Wilton was a fellow of Oriel by 1410/11, when he was accused of instigating a fracas in the University. He was still a fellow in 1424 (Emden, Oxford, iii, p.2055).

4. He was, in fact, only ordained subdeacon in April 1462 (Test. Ebor, iii, loc.cit).

5. Emden omits much of Booth's preferments, including that at Beverley.
January - March 1467

TASTAR (TESTA, TASTARIO) Peter de. P. of St. Martin's Altar, 30 January, 1466/7 (Emden, Oxford, iii, pp. 2220-1, citing Reg. G. Neville, xxii, fo. 4v; Dade, p.5). Vac. on death by 24 March, 1466/7 (Emden, loc.cit; Reg. G. Neville, fo. 5v).

Judge of the Court of Sovereignty of Guyenne (1447-49). King's clerk engaged in diplomatic missions in France, Burgundy and Spain (1461-67).

PROVOST OF BEVERLEY (29 September¹, 1465 - March, 1466/7) (B.C.A., ii, pp. xci-xcii, 353).

At the time of his death he held also prebends in Lincoln, Salisbury², and Exeter, together with several wealthy and widely scattered rectories in the south of England, notably St. James Garlickhithe, dio. London, and Chartham, dio. Canterbury (Emden, Oxford, loc.cit; C.P.R. 1461-67, p.80; le Neve, Lincoln, pp. 81, 105; Salisbury, p.29).

A Gascon by birth, he was dean of St. Severin, Bordeaux, from 1445, continuing to hold the dignity after being sent to England by the Estates of Guyenne in 1449. The loss of Gascony, finally sealed in 1453, probably determined his settlement in England, and his subsequent supplanting in the deanship in 1460. He never accepted his deprivation, however, frequently appearing in documents as dean in later years (B.C.A., ii, pp. xci-xcii). For his will see North Chantry Wills, pp. 46-48.


1467-1479


¹ The date given by Dr. Emden (loc.cit). Leach gives the date as 30 September.

² Tastar's prebend of Bedwyn in Salisbury, which he held from 1462 until 1467, is omitted by Emden.

³ This connection with the University of Oxford must surely be extremely doubtful. Dr. Emden gives no reason for his supposition.
C. of York and p. of Grindale¹ (1465-67) (le Neve, p.55). He was also a canon of Crediton, dio. Exeter,² and rector of Chinnor, Oxfordshire, dio. Lincoln, at the time of his death.


1479 - 1486


C. of York and p. of Tockrington (1462-67), of Knaresborough (1481-86) (le Neve, pp. 61, 83).

A great pluralist whose fortunes fluctuated with the politics of the late fifteenth century. The Mortons, though originally Lancastrian in sympathy, served Edward IV after his restoration following the Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471, and it was during the following decade that they received most of their preferments.

1. He appears to have moved his preferment from York to Beverley to make way for another Oxford theologian, John Marshall, the future bishop of Llandaff (1477-96) (see Emden, Oxford, ii, pp. 1228-9). Burgh had collation of St. Martin's the day after Marshall received collation of the prebend of Grindale. A Yorkshireman, his name is too common to suggest a place of origin, but he may well have been one of the Burghs of Cowthorpe, nr. Wetherby, in the West Riding.

2. Burgh obviously owed much of his preferment to Archbishop George Neville, who came to Balliol College c.1448, when he was a fellow. Neville became bishop of Exeter, and Burgh received the rectories of Ashprington and Axminster, both in that diocese, in 1462 and 1465 respectively. He had collation of his York prebend a few months after Neville's translation to the archbishoprick in March, 1465. His prebend in Crediton, however, was probably Neville's first gift to him after his consecration. Christopher Burgh, a prebendary of St. Mary and the Holy Angels (1463-68) was probably a relative (Y.A.J., xxxvi, p.238).

3. Morton was actually consecrated on 28 January, 1486/7, and the dates upon which his successors in his various prebends and dignities were appointed suggest that he held them until at least this date, and possibly for a short time afterwards, though such a concession was, of course, highly irregular.
Between 1471 and Edward's death in 1483 Robert Morton was admitted to prebends in Lincoln, St. Paul's, London, Salisbury and St. George's, Windsor, and the archdeaconries of Winchester and Gloucester. In spite of a declaration by Richard III naming him as a rebel outside the king's peace, and sequestrating his Salisbury prebend, he retained all his preferments until his consecration. Like his uncle, the archbishop of Canterbury from 1486, he probably took refuge on the continent during the reign of Richard III, following the abortive revolt of Buckingham, returning to high preferment with Henry Tudor in 1485.

M.A. of Oxford by 1485; Lic.C.L. 1480 (Emden, Oxford, ii, pp. 1320-1, where his preferments are given in full).

1487 - 1499
CARNEBULL, Henry. P. of St. Martin's Altar, coll. 5 March, 1486/7 (Dade, p.5). Vac. on admission to St. Andrew's prebend 25 August, 14992 (Test. Ebor, v, p.28n). Kept Collation for 7 years

For an account of Cambull's career and preferments see Prebendaries of St. Andrew's Altar, above pp. A.60-61.

1499 - 1500
HOOL (HOLE), John. P. of St. Martin's Altar, coll. 25 August, 1499 (Reg. Rotherham, fo.111; Dade, p.5). Vac. on death by 7 November, 1500 (C.P.R. 1494- 1509, p.222).
P fellow of King's Hall, Cambridge (1489/90 - 1496/7) (Emden, Cambridge, pp. 310-311).

1. Dr. Emden does not consider the unusual position of Morton at St. Paul's, London, where it seems that he held the prebends of Consumpta-per-Mare and Chiswick at the same time. He held the former from 1464 and continued to hold it until April, 1481, when he probably exchanged it for the prebend Sanctae Crucis in Lincoln (le Neve, St. Paul's, London, p.32). He had collation of Chiswick in June, 1478, in addition, resigning about the time of his consecration (ibid, p.31). Dr. Emden ignores the former collation, assuming, perhaps, the possession of two prebends in one church most unlikely, but le Neve (p.32) leaves little doubt that only one Robert Morton was involved. Emden also omits mention of Morton's second prebend, Sanctae Crucis, in Lincoln (he had previously held the prebend of Thorngate in that church from 1471 till c.1473). Le Neve, Lincoln, (p.102) shows Morton as holding it from 1481 till 1489, but the latter date is seen to be the date of collation of his next known successor. It is inconceivable that an English bishop should hold a prebend for two years after his consecration.

2. It is noteworthy that, by the end of the fifteenth century it was advantageous to transfer from St. Martin's, once easily the richest prebend, to St. Andrew's.
C. of York and p. of Riccall (1496-97); Archdeacon of Cleveland (1497), of the East Riding (1497-1500) (Le Neve, pp. 21, 23, 76).


B. Cn. L. of Cambridge (ibid).

1500-1502

URSWICK, Christopher. P. of St. Martin's Altar by royal grant 7 November, 1500, the see being vacant, following the death of Archbishop Rotherham (C.P.R. 1494-1509, p.222). Vac. on exchange for the rectory of Hackney, dio. London, 15 November, 1502 (Reg. Savage, fo.20b; Dade, p.5).

Chaplain and confessor to Margaret, Countess of Derby, and later to her son, Henry Tudor, earl of Richmond, whose faithful servant and confidant he was during exile. Appointed King's Almoner in 1485, after Bosworth Field. Declined the bishopric of Norwich in 1499.

C. of York and p. of Tockrington (1488-92), of Masham (1492-94), of Botevants (1494-96), of Fridaythorpe (1503-22). Dean of York (1488-94); Archdeacon of Richmond (1494-1500) (Le Neve, pp. 8, 27, 38, 52, 68, 84); C. of Southwell and p. of Norwell Palishall (1509-22) (Visitations of Southwell, pp. 151-2).

Whereas he is only known to have possessed the solitary rectory of Puttenham, Hunts. dio. Lincoln, before 1485, he acquired vast preferments in the few years following. He had received two deaneries, two archdeaconries, nine prebends and at least four wealthy rectories before the turn of the century. Most of these he held at the time of his death, for though his preferment and public service appear to have ceased rather abruptly with the death of Henry VII (whose executor he was) in 1509, he left vacant prebends in York, Southwell, St. Paul's, London, Exeter, Lincoln, Salisbury, and possibly St. Stephen's, Westminster, the archdeaconries of Wiltshire, Norfolk and Oxford, the chancellorship of Exeter, and several

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rectories, including that of Hackney, where he was buried. (For details see appropriate vols. of le Neve; Emden, Cambridge, pp. 605-6; Oxford, iii, pp. 1935-6). Died 24 March, 1522.  

Of humble origins, being the son of a lay-brother of Furness Abbey, his earlier career was made at Cambridge, where he was a Fellow of King's Hall in 1470/1. B.Cn.L., 1479, Lic.C.L. in 1482, D.Cn.L. Warden of King's Hall 1485-88 (Emden, Cambridge, loc.cit).

1502 - 1512

FOSTER, John. P. of St. Martin's Altar, coll. 15 November, 1502, following an exchange with Christopher Urswick for Hackney rectory, dio. London (Reg. Savage, fo. 22b; Dade, p. 5). Vac. on death between 25 September (when he made his will) and 18 October, 1512 (Emden, Oxford, ii, p. 710; le Neve, Hereford, p. 35).


The bulk of Foster's preferments were widely dispersed in the southern Province, where he died dean of St. Stephen's, Westminster, archdeacon of Huntingdon and a prebendary of St. Paul's, London, and of Hereford. By this time he had resigned all his numerous rectories, which, however, he appears to have held in turn (Emden, Oxford, ii, pp. 709-10).

M.A. of Oxford. Fellow of Merton c. 1471, still in 1476. He appears to have left Oxford c. 1480, when he probably served in the London diocese, where bishops Thomas Kemp, Hill and Savage (later archbishop of York) all furthered his preferment. In 1480/81 he received grace for incorporation in the University of Cambridge (Emden, Cambridge, p. 237).

1. His memorial brass in Hackney church describes him as 'almoner to Henry VII, eleven times an ambassador, dean of York and Windsor, archdeacon of Richmond (all of which he had relinquished long before) and records that he refused the bishoprick of Norwich' (Mill Stephenson, A List of Monumental Brasses in the British Isles, p. 299, where the year of death is construed incorrectly as 1521).

2. He was born in 1448, and was therefore, as his brass states, 74 years of age at death. He obviously derived his name from Urswick-in-Furness.

3. He was archdeacon of London (1490-1502) (le Neve, St. Paul's, London, p. 9).
WITHERS, John. P. of St. Martin's Altar in November, 1512
(Dade, p.5). Vac. on death in September, 1534 (Letters and Papers, Domestic and Foreign, viii, p.476, No. 1223; Emden, Oxford, iii, p.2066).

(Reg. Bainbridge, fos. 1, 2; A. Hamilton Thompson, English Clergy, p.196; Emden, Oxford, loc. cit).

C. of York and p. of South Cave (1509, again 1512-34), of Knaresborough (1512) (le Neve, pp. 43-61); Master of St. Mary's Hospital, Bootham, York (1510-?) (Reg. Bainbridge, fo. 17).

He resigned the prebend of Saltmarsh in Howden on the eve of his receipt of St. Martin's prebend. His death left vacant other prebends in St. Paul's, London, Salisbury and St. Martin-le-Grand, London. His order of preferment suggests that he may have been in the service of Bishop Thomas Langton at Salisbury and Winchester. It may have been Langton who gave him the prebend of Netharavon in Salisbury (date unknown), and it was certainly he who preferred him to the rectories of Fareham (1495) and East Woodhay (1501), both dio. Winchester. He was Langton's executor in 1501 (Emden, Oxford, loc. cit).

M.A., D.Cn.L. (ibid). He was in debt to John Hartley, p. of St. Mary and the Holy Angels, York in 1529 (Test. Ebor, v, p.275), and was a minor creditor of William Melton, Chancellor of York, in 1533 (ibid, p.260). He gave 100s. towards the building of Magdalen College Tower, 1501/2 (Emden, Oxford, loc. cit).

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1. Dade, as always, gives no reference and I have been unable to find it. Emden, Oxford, omits all reference to Wither's prebends both at York and Beverley. His possession of St. Martin's prebend is confirmed, however, by State Papers, 17 - Henry VIII, iv, pt.1, No.2001, where he is shown as holding the prebend in 1525-6.

2. Wither's death was the occasion of an interesting supplication made by Sir J. Russell to Thomas Cromwell in October, 1534 on behalf of his chaplain: "Whereas it pleased you to write to my lord of York for the advouson of the prebend held by Mr. Wythers in the Collegiate Church of Beverley for my chaplain, Macheaster, and my lord replied ..... that you should have the next prebend not much above £40, the same prebend is void by the death of Wythers. Though it is somewhat above £40, I suppose it will fall within the limits of his promise. I beseach you therefore, to remember my chaplain. 2 October, 1534" (Letters and Papers, loc. cit).
1534 - ?

HOLGILL, William. P. of St. Martin's Altar from October, 1534 (Dade, p.5), still in 1535 (Valor Ecclesiasticus, v, p.130).


C. of York and p. of Fridaythorpe (1522), Precentor (1522 - 34), p. of South Cave (1534 - 49) (le Neve, pp. 12, 44, 52).

Archdeacon of Carlisle and Rector of Great Salkeld1 by 1535, still in 1540 (Valor Ecclesiasticus v, p.289; le Neve, Northern Province, p.103); Vicar of Bromfield, dio. Carlisle in 1507 (Test. Ebor, iv, p.262n). He may possibly be identified as Master of the Savoy, London in 1532 (Test. Ebor, vi, p.30).

As vicar of Bromfield he was empowered, with others, to collect goods of Bishop Leybourne in the York diocese in 1507 (Test. Ebor, iv, p.262n).

? - 1548

BROWEN, Henry. P. of St. Martin's Altar c.1548, when he was described in the Chantry Certificate for Beverley as 'of th'age of xii (sic) yeres, whose lyving and promocions we know not and are to us uncerteyne' (Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, ii, p.527). Vac. in 1548 on the dissolution of the college, his prebendal house being surrendered, along with others into the hands of Sir William Stanhope (C.P.R. 1548 - 49, p.38).

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1. The rectory of Great Salkeld was appropriated to the archdeaconry of Carlisle (le Neve, loc.cit).
PREBENDARIES OF ST. MARY'S ALTAR
PREBENDARIES OF ST. MARY'S ALTAR

By 1220 (possibly by 1205) - c.1235

RICHMOND, Roger de. P. of St. Mary's Altar by 4 April, 1220\(^1\), when he witnessed the ratification of a deed relating to an exchange of land at Hessle (Yorkshire Deeds, ix, p.102). Here he heads the list of four canons, suggesting that by this date he was possibly senior member of the chapter, and had therefore held a prebend for some considerable time. He was probably dead when, in 1235, Archbishop Gray made a radical adjustment of the possessions of St. Mary's prebend in Beverley Town (Reg. Gray, p.68)\(^2\).

Official of the archdeacon of Richmond before 1196\(^2\). It was almost certainly as a canon of Beverley that he witnessed a grant of land in Morgate, Beverley, to the Minster c.1220 (B.C.A., ii, p.294).

1. Archbishop Walter Gray 'with the assent of the chapter of Beverley, united to the prebend of Risceby the houses and 'curia' in Beverley belonging to the prebend of St. Mary's there, which Mr. Roger de Richmond held for his life. The houses and 'curia' which belonged to the prebend of Risceby, which Mr. R. Cornubiens', canon of Beverley, held for his life, we annex for ever to the prebend of St. Mary's' (Reg. Gray, loc.cit). For 'the prebend of Risceby' and Richard de Cornubia see Prebendaries of St. Peter and St. Paul, below pp. A.153 - 154.

2. Since a 'Mag.Hamo' appears as official in a charter of the period 1194 - 98, Roger must have vacated the office soon after 1196 (E.Y.C., v, No.302). Sir Charles Clay lists Roger as the first of the early officials of the archdeacon of Richmond, distinguishing the office from that of vice-archdeacon, which designation appears frequently in charters of the archdeaconry between 1168 and c.1190. The last clerk to be described as vice-archdeacon is Mr. Roger de Melsonby (see above, p.A.35), when he witnessed three charters in the period c.1191 - 1203 (E.Y.C., v, pp.vii - viii, Nos. 275, 277, 278). Professor Cheney, after considering the appearances of vice-archdeacons in a large number of English dioceses (C.R.Cheney, English Bishops' Chanceries, 1100 - 1250, pp.143 - 146), concluded that both the vice-archdeacon (or sub-archdeacon) and the later official might act as deputy and assistant as occasion required, and that the change was of title rather than function: "Officialis replaces sub-archidiaconus and vicearchidiaconus as the word which designates both the resident archdeacon's assistant and the absentee's deputy."

All this is of significance here because there does seem a distinct possibility that Mr. Roger de Melsonby, the vice archdeacon, and Mr. Roger de Richmond, the official, are one and the same person. This likelihood is explored by neither scholar, but Professor Cheney hints that they may have been in office at the same time (op.cit., p.146 n3).

Melsonby is a village five miles north of Richmond. It is surely a remarkable coincidence that two 'Mr. Rogers' from the same district should have been assistants of the archdeacon of Richmond in an almost identical capacity at the same time, and that both should occur later as prebendaries of distant Beverley. Moreover, it is to be noted that although Roger the vice-archdeacon occurs in three charters (see above) in only one of them is he actually named Roger de Melsonby. This is a document which was obviously drawn up at Melsonby or thereabouts, in spite of the fact that the land it conveyed was at Kirkby continued on next page
described as such when he witnessed a grant by the archdeacon of a yearly pension of 5 marks to the abbey of Mont St. Michel from the church of Wath, near Ripon, of which the monks were patrons (E.Y.C., v, No.317).

He was almost certainly still official when, in 1196, he was granted the same church of Wath by the abbot and convent of Mont St. Michel (ibid, No.318).

In the later years of the primacy of Geoffrey Plantagenet (1191-1212) there are indications that he had moved the scene of his activities to the East Riding, the probability being that he was either serving the archbishop there or had already received his prebend in Beverley. He witnessed a charter of the archbishop on 5 July, 1205, and two others of the same period which are undated (Reg. Giffard, p.256; Reg. Romeyn, i, p.295; Reg. Corbridge, ii, p.58). In none of them is he designated canon of Beverley, but there are elements in each which link them with the district,1 and since Roger appears rarely, if at all, in charters relating to York2 it seems more probable that this was his true identity in 1205.

One feels nevertheless that there is much more to be learnt of the activities of this man, who, a magister of the twelfth century, was clearly a clerk of experience and ability.

At an unknown date he gave to the monks of Durham a yearly rent charge of one mark for a pittance on the day of his death (Reg. Gray, p.68n).

(n.3 from previous page continued)

Fleetham some miles away, for the signatories are, among others, Alexander de Eppleby, and the rectors of Melsonby and Stanwick, etc. all places within a few square miles just south of the Tees. It could well be that in such circumstances Roger de Richmond revealed more accurately his place of origin (E.Y.C., v, No.278).

1. The first was sealed at Patrington, a church in the Provostry, the witnesses are headed by Alan, provost of Beverley, and Roger himself is followed by Peter de Shirburn, a future provost. The second is the confirmation of a grant made to Lund Priory, near Beverley, whilst the third relates to a grant from Beverley, presumably the Minster chapter, to Killingwoldgraves hospital on the outskirts of the town.

2. See York Minster Fasti, i and ii, where a 'Roger' occasionally occurs as a witness of York charters at the beginning of the thirteenth century - i.e. on pp. 141, 142 in ii.
PENISTON, John de. P. of St. Mary's Altar by 1279 (Yorkshire Deeds, ix, p.12). Vac. on death by 2 April, 1296, when the king granted the prebend to Raymond de Ferrara\(^1\) (C.P.R., 1292-1301, p.186; Reg. Newark in Reg. le Romeyn, ii, p.216n).


M.A. by 1268, when he was granted leave to study theology at Oxford for three years (Reg. Giffard, p.1; Emden, Oxford, iii, p.1456).

Peniston was one of the canons of Beverley present when Archbishop le Romeyn made his ordinance as to residence, 20 June, 1290\(^2\) (Reg. le Romeyn, i, p.386; B.C.A., ii, p.161). He himself, however, seems already to have been keeping satisfactory residence (Reg. le Romeyn, ii, p.50).

FERRARA, Raymond de. P. of St. Mary's Altar, 2 April, 1296, by royal grant\(^3\) (C.P.R., 1292-1301, p.186; Reg. Newark in Reg. le Romeyn, ii, p.216n). Vac. on death by 24 August, 1299, when the prebend was granted to Peter Aymerici (C.P.R. 1292-1301, p.436; B.C.A., i, p.100).

King's clerk (C.P.R. 1292-1301, p.186).

He was overseas in the king's service when appointed. M.A. (probably of Bologna) in 1296\(^4\) (C.P.R., 1292-1301, p.186).

AYMERICI (EMERY) Peter. P. of St. Mary's Altar, 24 August, 1299, by royal grant\(^5\) (C.P.R. 1292-1301, p.436; B.C.A., i, pp. 96, 100). Vac. on death by 6 May, 1309, 'in partibus Gallicanis' (Reg. Greenfield, i, p.31; B.C.A., i, pp. 233, 251).

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1. 'Void by the death of Master John de Penyngeston'. The see of York was then vacant following the death of John le Romeyn on 11 March, 1296.

2. He was the first of six canons named in order of seniority of appointment. Walter de Gloucester, the second named, had collation on 11 November, 1279.

3. The see of York being then vacant.

4. A John de Ferrara, doubtless a relative, had collation of the sacrist's prebend in Southwell on 16 April, 1299, vacating it before 6 May, 1309 (Reg. Newark in Reg. le Romeyn, ii, p.216; Reg. Greenfield, i, p.31). He was also a canon of Orleans and a papal chaplain in February, 1308/9 (ibid, iv, p.49).

5. The see was vacant following the death of Henry de Newark nine days earlier.
King's clerk (C.P.R. 1292-1304, p.436). Constable of Bordeaux

He had no known preferment elsewhere in England. Although he was probably a foreigner, he made at least two appearances in chapter in January, 1304/5 and November, 1305 (B.C.A., i, pp. 26, 101).

1309-1315

EASTDEAN, William de. P. of St. Mary's Altar, coll. 6 May 1309 (B.C.A., i, p. 309; Reg. Greenfield, i, p.31).


2. Aymerici was the centre of dispute both in life and death. His claim to a corrody in the Bedern (due only to residentiaries) though absent, caused consternation in the chapter (B.C.A., i, p.37). It may have been connected with his later demand, supported by the king, for the fruits of his prebend between his appointment and his admission (The period for which the claim was made was from the Feast of the Assumption (15 August) to St. Luke's Day (18 September), and for 4 marks pension from St. Martin's prebend (B.C.A., i, pp.99-101). This was concluded largely in Aymerici's favour, though the chapter conceded nothing of its rights. Understandably perhaps, he never returned to Beverley. He was absent without a proctor at the March convocation in 1307 (ibid, p.188), and a year later was at Canterbury, presumably preparing to go abroad (ibid, p.213). Certainly he was overseas by 11 July, 1308 (ibid, p.219), and about ten months later he died in France, intestate, and without next of kin (ibid, pp. 233, 251, 341-2; Reg. Greenfield, iv, pp.352-3). Under these special circumstances a sharp dispute arose between Archbishop Greenfield and the chapter on the questions of sequestration and probate. Greenfield overrode the sequestration of the chapter, seizing the goods of the prebend, and allowing the Minster a mere 10 marks for the customary choir cope due from each deceased canon's estate (Reg. Greenfield, iv, loc.cit). The chapter appealed to the pope, and the archbishop finally gave way, though it was left to the executors of his own estate to repay to the chapter the value of the goods seized some six years earlier (B.C.A., i, pp. 249, 255-6, 341-2).

3. He had been admitted canon, to await the next vacant prebend, on 27 February, 1307/8, having received executory letters of collation from Archbishop Greenfield four weeks earlier under a faculty from pope Clement V, dated 22 June, 1307, empowering the archbishop to collate to six of his clerks two prebends in the church of York, and one prebend in the churches of Ripon, Beverley, Southwell and Howden (Reg. Greenfield, i, pp.24-25; B.C.A., i, p.213).

On 2 June, 1308, Greenfield commissioned the abbots of Meaux and Thornton to ensure that Eastdean had collation of a prebend (Reg. Greenfield, i, p.25). The reason for this last move, and the obvious urgency which marks it, and one or two subsequent successions to vacant prebends, was the presence of another candidate armed with an expectative grace from Clement V, Nicholas de Bakewell, who had been awaiting a prebend since April, 1306 (B.C.A., i, p.127).

He was unacceptable to the archbishop, and, one is led to suppose, the chapter, on the grounds that even in January, 1310/11, when he contested St. Andrew's prebend with John Sandal, he was still a minor and not in Holy Orders (ibid, pp.273-6). With remarkable persistence he was present at Beverley to contest St. Mary's prebend with Denis Avenel, on Eastdean's death in 1315, when he almost succeeded (ibid, pp.331-4).

Household clerk of Archbishop Greenfield by 28 June, 1306; still 31 January, 1307/8 (Reg. Greenfield, ii, p.4; iii, pp. 5, 122; i, p.25). Appointed Steward of all the archbishop's lands beyond the Trent, 11 September, 1306 (ibid, i, p.176).

He protested his intention to reside during the year following his admission in person (10 May, 1310), and it is likely that he kept at least statutory residence thereafter (B.C.A., i, pp. 292, 307). He was absent, however, in April, 1311, probably because the archbishop required him, along with others, to audit the accounts of the executors of archbishops Newark and Corbridge (Reg. Greenfield, i, pp. 53, 56; iv, p.349). His name links him with Chichester, where Greenfield had been dean (?-1306) (le Neve, Chichester, p.4), and it may have been the archbishop who brought him north (but see A. Hamilton Thompson, Reg. Greenfield, v, p.lx and n).

1. It is just possible that there were two William de Eastdeans in the diocese in 1306. In this year an Eastdean, who always appears as a household clerk, is always magister, whereas the Eastdean who appears as Steward south of the Trent and as canon of Beverley is always dominus. The distinction is probably due to a clerical error in spite of it being often repeated, for our canon of Beverley was certainly a household clerk at the time of his appointment (Reg. Greenfield, i, p.177; ii, p.4; iii, pp. 5, 122; ibid, i, pp. 25, 31, 53, 56, 104, 176 et passim). The Eastdean of the Act Book is always dominus. The possibility cannot be completely dismissed because there was another William de Eastdean alive at the time (Emden, Oxford, i, p.649) who was a canon of Chichester (1313-1333) and archdeacon of Lewes in 1316 (le Neve, Chichester, pp. 13, 55). Whether this is the same man who was connected with Merton College, Oxford, and was rector of Leverington, dio. Ely in 1306, as stated by Emden, loc.cit, cannot be certain.
AVENEL¹, Denis. P. of St. Mary's Altar, coll. 26 February, 1314/15 (Reg. Greenfield, i, p.104; B.C.A., i, p.309). Vac. on death before 24 August, 1343 (C.P.R. 1343-45, p.120).


Archdeacon of the East Riding (1322-43) (le Neve, Northern Province, p.22).


The origin of his name, if derived from a place name, is obscure, but the fact that his earliest known preferments were in Kent, and that others of the same name, who were almost certainly his kinsmen, were active in the south, suggest that he was a southerner. He was probably another clerk known personally to Greenfield prior to his consecration, and was almost certainly brought to York by him. A devoted and trusted servant of the see of York, he appears to have successfully combined much more than statutory residence at Beverley (B.C.A., ii, passim) with an active diocesan life, especially in his archdeaconry. For many years he was obviously a dominant figure at Beverley Minster.

He was a delegate of the University of Oxford at the confirmation by the bishop of Lincoln of the election of the Chancellor in December, 1302 (Emden, loc.cit) D.C.L. (probably of Oxford) by 1315 (Reg. Greenfield, i, p.104).

ROBERT, Aymer. Resigned prebend of St. Mary's Altar by 14 February, 1345/6 (C.P.L., iii, p.199). The fact that he succeeded Denis Avenel in the archdeaconry of the East Riding before 1 August, 1343 (C.P.L., iii, p.112) suggests that he received St. Mary's about this time, when Avenel is known to have died.

¹ The memorial brass of Mr. Britel Avenel at Buxted dated 1408, suggests that this spelling of the name is to be preferred to 'Haverel' as in le Neve, loc. cit. (Mill Stephenson, A List of Monumental Brasses, p.505).

² The prebendal church of Deal had been recovered for the archbishop's table by Pecham in 1290, and Avenel's possession of it may indicate that he was in the service of Archbishop Winchelsea in 1311. Had he been in the Northern Province in that year he would have almost certainly been summoned, as a doctor of civil law, to the Convocation which tried the Templars at York (Reg. Greenfield, iv, pp.364 et seq.).
Cardinal priest of St. Anastasia.


His attorney was arrested by the sheriff of London and banished the country in 1343, in pursuit of Parliament's anti-papal legislation of that year (G. Mollat, The Popes at Avignon, 1305 - 1378, p. 263).

1346 - ?1352

TURVILLE, Ralph de. P. of St. Mary's Altar, on a papal provision¹ dated 14 February, 1346 (C.P.L., iii, p. 199). Vac. by 24 October, 1352, when the king granted the prebend to Alan de Waynflete (C.P.R., 1350 - 54, p. 323).

G. of York and p. of South Newbald (1346)² (le Neve, p. 71); P. of St. Mary and the Holy Angels, York, from 23 March, 1344/5 (Y.A.J., xxxvi, p. 221); Rector of Norton, Yorks. pres. 20 September, 1346, exchanging it eight days later for the prebend of Skelton in Howden³ (Fasti Parochiales, ii, p. 128).

G. of Lichfield and p. of Ufton Decani (1340 - 48) (C.P.L., iii, p. 199; le Neve, p. 62); Rector of Yexley, dio. Lincoln in 1346 (ibid).

Kinsman, probably a nephew, of Philip de Turville who, in addition to holding a prebend in Lichfield (1309 - 1337), was official principal to the bishops of Coventry and Lichfield from 1313 (Emden, Oxford, iii, p. 1918). M.A. (probably of Oxford) by 1346.

1352 -

WAYNFLETE, Alan de. P. of St. Mary’s Altar by royal grant 24 October, 1352 (C.P.R., 1350 - 54, p. 323). Still in March 1357 (C.P.L., iii, p. 585).

Rector of Baldeswell, dio. Norwich by 25 October, 1342, when he received a papal provision to a canonry of Beverley, to await a prebend (C.P.L., iii, p. 59).

¹ To the prebend ‘void by the resignation of Aymar, cardinal priest of St. Anastasia’.

² He failed to make good his possession of this prebend, being supplanted, 1346, by Andrew Offordo.

³ With Adam de Haselbech, sacrist of Beverley by 1331, still in 1333 (B.C.A., ii, pp. 97, 102, 104). He was never a p. as stated by Emden, loc. cit.
1361 - 1367

WYKEHAM, William de. P. of St. Mary's Altar, coll. 24 September, 1361 (C.P.R., 1361-64, p.79) by royal grant. Vac. on elevation to the see of Winchester, i.e. c. 10 October, 1367.

Chirographer in the Common Bench 1361; Clerk of Works at Windsor 1356; Surveyor of royal castles 1359; Keeper of the Privy Seal (1363-67); Chancellor of England (1367-71; 1389-91); Bishop of Winchester (1367-1404).

C. of York and p. of Langtoft (1363), of Laughton (1363-66) (le Neve, pp. 62, 64).

In addition to his Yorkshire prebends he was archdeacon of Lincoln, and a p. of Lincoln, St. Paul's, London, Salisbury, Lichfield, the Royal Free Chapel, Hastings, Aukland, St. Stephen's, Westminster, St. Martin-le-Grand, London, Shaftsbury, Abergivili and Llandewibrefi, at the time of his consecration.

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c.1367 - 1379

LYNTESFORD, Richard de. P. of St. Mary's Altar before February, 1368 (C.P.L., iv, p.72). Estate ratified by the Crown 31 March, 1371 (C.P.R., 1370-74, p.60). Vac. on resignation but possibly on death, by April, 1379, when the prebend was granted to John de Wellingborough (C.P.R., 1377-81, p.330).


Rector of Campsall, nr Doncaster (1370-79/80) (Fasti Parochiales, i, p.60).

C. of Lincoln and p. of Thorngate (1378-80) (le Neve, p.118);

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1. For full biography see J. Tait in D.N.B., lxiii, pp. 3225 - 231. See also G.H. Moberley, Life of William de Wykeham.

2. If the date of the grant to Wellingborough is correct Lyntesford must have resigned the prebend for he was definitely alive and a residentiary of Lincoln at the beginning of 1380 (K. Edwards, English Secular Cathedrals in the Middle Ages, p.352).

3. He probably received Campsall in exchange for St. Cross Hospital, Winchester, though he was formally presented by John, son of the King of England, King of Castile and the duke of Lancaster. For his dispute with the former rector, Roger de Clone see Fasti Parochiales, i, p.60.

4. He was provided to the prebend of Thorngate in 1368, but did not gain possession until ten years later (le Neve, loc.cit).

M.A. probably of Oxford, where he was studying in 1372 (ibid).

1379-1405

WELLINGBOROUGH, John de (the Younger). P. of St. Mary's Altar by royal grant on the authority of pope Urban VI, April, 1379. (C.P.R., 1377-81, p.330). Estate Ratified 20 December, 1400 (C.P.R., 1399-1401, p.363). Vac., probably on death, by 28 June, 1405 (C.P.R., 1405-8, p.73).

King's clerk. Illegitimate son of Guy de Rowcliffe, a prominent king's clerk (North Country Wills, p.248).

He held no other known preferment in the York diocese, though he contested the Provostship of Beverley with Robert Manfield in 1383 (B.C.A., ii, pp.lxxix, lxxi).

His career is difficult to distinguish from that of his elder kinsman of the same name, with whom he exchanged his prebend in Holy Cross, Crediton, for another in St. Stephen's, Westminster in 1380 (C.P.R., 1377-81, p.552). It was the elder Wellingborough who was Treasurer of Chichester in 1362 (le Neve, p.10), but the following benefices may be assigned to the prebendary of Beverley.

Mastership of the Free Hospital of Mitford, dio. Durham in 1377 (Fasti Dunelm, p.138); Rector of Free Chapel of St. John the Baptist, Melton Mowbray, dio. Lincoln in 1374, still in 1400 (Fasti Dunelm, loc.cit; C.P.R., 1399-1401, p.363); C. of St. Paul's, London, and P. of Chiswick (1377-95) (le Neve, p.50); P. of Holy Cross, Crediton (?-1380), P. of St. Stephen's, Westminster (1380-?) (C.P.R., 1377-81, p.552; B.C.A., ii, p.lxxix).

Wellingborough, with Richard de Ravenser2, prebendary of St. Martin's Altar, bore the brunt of Archbishop Alexander Neville's onslaught on the Beverley chapter in 1381. When both men failed to appear at his visitation, ignoring a personal summons, the Archbishop declared them contumacious on 30 March (B.C.A., ii, p.235), and declared them excommunicate on 22 April (ibid, pp. 248-249). There is no evidence, however, as in Ravenser's case, of a successor

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1. Emden omits his receipt of a prebend in Beverley.
to Wellingborough being admitted, and he was restored to his prebend before or after the Archbishop's disgrace. He was one of the canons assenting to Archbishop Arundel's constitutions, albeit by proxy, in July, 1391 (ibid, pp. 265-266). As late as 1400, however, he felt the need to have his possession of the prebend ratified (C.P.R., 1399-1401, p.363).

1405 - 1409
KINGSTON, Richard de. P. of St. Mary's Altar, by royal grant 28 June, 1405\(^1\), the see being vacant following the execution of Archbishop Scrope on 8 June, 1405 (C.P.R., 1405-8, p.73). Vac. by exchange with John de Nottingham for the prebend of Henstridge in Wells, c.10 February, 1408/9 (le Neve, Bath and Wells, p.50).

Treasury clerk.

Archdeacon of Hereford (1380 - 1405), c. of Hereford and p. of Cublington (1391 - 71393), of Bullingthorpe (1393 - 1418), of Norton (1418) (le Neve, pp. 6, 16, 20, 39); C. of St. Paul's, London, and p. of Mapesbury (1405 - 18); Archdeacon of Colchester (1406 - 11) (le Neve, pp. 13, 46); C. of Salisbury and p. of Cherminster and Bere (1406 - 18) (le Neve, p.41); Rector of Barrowby, dio. Lincoln (1411 - ?) (le Neve, St. Paul's, London, p.13).

He died between 14 and 24 November, 1418 (le Neve, Bath and Wells, p.50).

1409 - 1416
NOTTINGHAM, John de. P. of St. Mary's Altar, coll. c.10 February, 1408/9\(^2\), following an exchange with Richard de Kingston for the prebend of Henstridge in Wells (le Neve, Bath and Wells, p.50). Vac. on coll. to him of the prebend of St. Andrew's Altar, 9 October, 1416 (Reg. Bowet, fo.53v).

For biographical notes on this man see Prebendaries of St. Andrew's Altar, above, pp. A.52 - 53.

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1. Earlier in the year he had received a licence to obtain graces at Beverley from the pope (C.P.R., 1405-8, p.2).

2. Dade gives Thomas de Hinley as Kingston's successor (p.27) having collation of the prebend on 23 February, 1408 (which, since Dade did not allow for medieval dating, means 1408/9). I have been unable to trace Dade's source beyond the Torre MS. Since the succession at this point was effected by a straightforward exchange, Hinley can never have gained possession. Is it possible that he was in fact Nottingham's proctor in the matter, and that the date is the true date of the new prebendary's collation (10 February is taken from the Wells records)?
PARKER, Thomas. P. of St. Mary's Altar, coll. 11 October, 1416 (Reg. Bowet, i, fo.59; Y.A.J., xxxvi, p.229). Vac. on resignation by 2 October, 1423 (Reg. Bowet, i, fo.76).

Friend and clerk of Archbishop Scrope.


C. of Lichfield and p. of Dernford (1398 -1400), of Colwich (1400 - ?) (ibid); C. of Lincoln and p. of Carlton Paynell (1405 - 11) (le Neve, p.47).

Parker was one of several clerks who served under Richard le Scrope at Lichfield, and accompanied or followed him on his translation to York in June, 1398. He requested burial in St. Stephen's Chapel in York Minster, close to the grave of his lord, the Archbishop. A munificent patron of the fabrics of both York and Beverley Minsters, he gave one of the fine windows in the north choir aisle at York, and was possibly responsible for the glazing in 1419 of the window above St. Mary's Altar at Beverley.

WIOT (WYOT) Thomas. P. of St. Mary's Altar, coll. 2 October, 1423 (Reg. Bowet, i, fo.76). Vac. on death by March, 1441/2 (Reg. Kemp fo.48).

Household clerk of Archbishop Bowet by September, 1409 (Reg. Bowet, i, fo.42d), and chaplain at the time of the archbishop's death in October, 1423 (Test.Ebor, i, p.400).


1. Parker's resignation was doubtless made in the knowledge of his approaching death which occurred within the week, his will being made and proved on 4 and 5 October respectively (Y.A.J., xxxvi, p.239).

2. For the wealthy rectory of Bolton Percy Parker gave William Cross not only Huggate, itself a substantial benefice, but also his prebend in Lincoln.

3. Otherwise he was to be interred before St. Mary's Altar in Beverley Minster, or in the chancel at Bolton Percy, which he is reputed to have built.

4. See Frederick Harrison, The Painted Glass of York, pp. 89 - 90; for a description of the York window see John Browne, Arms on the Glass in York Minster; for other evidence of his patronage of the arts see Y.A.J. loc.cit.

5. The prebend in St. Mary and the Holy Angels to which he was collated in 1409 was the one which Thomas Parker had just resigned (Y.A.J. loc.cit).
He was probably a kinsman of the well-known clerk, Robert Wiot, who was archdeacon of Middlesex from 1443 until after 1462 (le Neve, St. Paul's, London, p.12; Visitations of Lincoln 1420–36, pp. 196–7).

**1442–1464**

TONE, Richard. P. of St. Mary's Altar¹, coll. in March, 1441/2 (Reg. Kemp fo.48). Vac. on death by 10 March² 1463/4 (Reg. Wm. Booth, fos. 25b, 58).


Archdeacon of the East Riding (1435³–64), C. of York and P. of Tockington (1441–49), of South Newbald (1449–51) (le Neve, pp. 23, 72, 83); C. of Southwell and p. of North Leverton (?–1447); Rector of St. Cross, the Pavement, York (1430–32), of Nunburnholme (1443–44), of St. Saviour's, York (1446), of Carlton-in-Lindrick (1449–51), of Bolton Percy⁴ (1451–64) (Emden, Oxford, iii, p.2223).

Until c.1435 Tone's preferments, with the exception of St. Cross, York, had been exclusively in the Southern Province.

¹ Not St. Martin's Altar, as stated by Emden, Oxford, iii, p.2223. St. Martin's was held by Henry Bowet until November, 1442 (see above, p.A.104). Dr. Emden would appear to have confused Stephen Wilton's succession with that of Tone to St. Mary's (both appear on the same fo. in Kemp's Register). As it happens the error is confirmed as such by the visitation records of June, 1442, three months after Tone's appointment when he is named as prebendary of St. Mary's Altar (Miscellanea, ii, pp. 272–3).

² Though Tone's successors at Beverley and in the Archdeaconry of the East Riding both had collation on 13 March, John Sendale, his friend and former colleague, received of Bolton Percy on 10 March.

³ Mis-printed in Emden, Oxford, loc.cit., as 1415.

⁴ Tone's unexplained resignation of his prebend in York and the rectory of Carlton-in-Lindrick in March, 1450/51, coincides with his receipt of the rectory of Bolton Percy. Together they were not too high a price for this plum - a pearl of a great price to the pluralist throughout the later middle ages. How Tone came to it is uncertain, for it had been the possession of Thomas Kemp until his consecration as bishop of London in February, 1449/50 (Visitations of Religious Houses, Lincoln 1420–36, pp. 197–8). Tone's successor in the prebend of South Newbald was Robert Dobbes, who was widely beneficed in the York diocese, and may well have held Bolton Percy for a short time after Kemp, but he is not recorded as rector of Carlton-in-Lindrick.
Widespread, but not substantial, he parted with them on entering the service of Kemp, or soon afterwards (see Emden, loc.cit., and Miscellanea, ii).

He was a local man, being the son of John Tone, a tanner, of Beverley. His brother, Mr. Robert Tone, was a notary public from 1450 (Test. Ebor, iii, pp. 194-195 and n).


1464-1501

WORSLEY, Thomas. P. of St. Mary's Altar, coll. 13 March, 1463/4 (Dade, p.6). Vac. on death between 11 January, 1500/1, when he made his will, and 27 May, 1501, when it was proved1 (Test. Ebor, iv, p.156n).

Fellow of King's Hall, Cambridge (c.1463/4-1500/1). Son of a niece of the archbishops William and Laurence Booth. His uncle William Worsley was dean of St. Paul's (1479-1499)2 (Emden, Cambridge, p.651).

C. of Southwell and p. of Normanton (1462-64)3 (Test. Ebor, iv, p.156n).


B.Cn.L. of Cambridge, 1466/7. His years as a fellow of King's Hall, Cambridge, coincided almost exactly with his tenure of St. Mary's prebend. Nevertheless he is described on his memorial brass in Wimpole church as a residuary of Beverley, and a benefactor of St. Mary's Chantry there4 (Mill Stephenson, loc.cit).

1501-1516

BOOTH, Charles. P. of St. Mary's Altar, 23 February, 1500/1, by royal grant, the see being vacant following the death of Archbishop Rotherham (C.P.R., 1494-1509, p.223). Vac. on consecration as bishop of Hereford, 30 November, 1516.

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1. It is, however, possible that Worsley resigned shortly before his death in order to ensure the succession of Charles Booth, his kinsman, who was a beneficiary of his will (Test. Ebor, iv, p.156n). If he did, in fact, die in possession of his death must, therefore, have occurred before 23 February when Booth had collation. See also C.P.R., 1494-1509, p.223.

2. For a biographical notice of William Worsley see Emden, Cambridge, p.651.

3. He relinquished his Southwell prebend on receiving collation to St. Mary's in Beverley.

4. His grave is in the north chapel of Wimpole church, where the fine brass which formerly covered it is now mural.
The heading of his episcopal Register gives an admirable summary of his career:

"The register of the reverend father in Christ and lord, the lord Charles Bothe, by divine permission bishop of Hereford, doctor of laws of Bologna, who being first an advocate in the benign court of Canterbury, and then treasurer of the cathedral church of Lichfield and prebendary of Sallow in the same, afterwards chancellor of the reverend father, etc., William Smythe, bishop of Lincoln and vicar general in spirituals depute of the same when on business outside his diocese, and created archdeacon of Buckingham, and thereafter chancellor of the most illustrious prince in Christ and lord Henry VIII, king of England and France and prince of Wales, in the principality and marches of Wales, finally on the 22nd day of the month of April in the year of our Lord 1516, being nominated by the said most illustrious prince to the church and bishopric of Hereford, void by the death of the lord Richard Mayowe of honest memory, bishop of Hereford...... And on the last day of the month of November next following...... he was consecrated bishop of Hereford......"\(^1\).

He died 5 May, 1535.

Probably a son of Sir Robert Booth of Barton-on-Irwell, Lancs., grand-nephew of Archbishops William and Laurence Booth\(^2\), and second cousin of John Booth, bishop of Exeter (1465-78).

Charles Booth's only other preferment in the York diocese appears to have been the rectory of Normanton-on-Soar, Notts. (1493-99).

When elevated to the see of Hereford he resigned the archdeaconry of Buckingham, the treasurership and prebend in Lichfield, his prebends in Lincoln and St. Paul's, London,


The prebend of 'Sallow' in Lichfield referred to is that of Sawley in Derbyshire, which, together with the treasurership, to which it was annexed, was held by the Booth family for three lives (A.Hamilton Thompson, English Clergy, p.25n. For a translation of the above passage, see ibid, pp.36-37).

2. Charles Booth's predecessor in the prebend, Thomas Worsley, was also a grand nephew of the archbishops, and it is probable that his father was brother of Worsley's mother, who was certainly a niece of William and Laurence Booth.
and the rectory of Carlton-in-Lindrick, dio. Lincoln.¹

Pensioner of Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, B.C.L. 1484/5; D.C.L.
of Bologna 1493 (Emden, Cambridge, p.77).

- 1526

TONEY'S, Robert. P. of St. Mary's Altar in 1525/6 (State Papers, 17 Henry VIII, iv, pt.1. No.2001). He had the
collation of St. Katherine's prebend in 1514, and it is
possible, indeed probable, that he transferred to St. Mary's
following the resignation of Charles Booth in November 1516.
He almost certainly vacated the prebend on death, which
occurred before 30 July, 1526 (le Neve, Norther Province,
p.41).


Outside the diocese of York he was:
C. of Salisbury and p. of Oxford (1494 - 99), of Beaminster
Secunda (1499 - ?) (le Neve, p.33); C. of Lincoln and p. of
Welton Brinkhall (1502 - 05), of Clifton (1504 - 05), of
Langford Minor (1505 - 26) (le Neve, pp. 53, 77, 124); C. of
Credton and p. of Credy (? - 1523); Rector of Free Chapel
of Early Whiteknights, dio. Salisbury (1495 - ?).


?1526 - 1548

VANNES, Peter. P. of St. Mary's Altar by 1535 (Valor
Ecclesiasticus, v, p.131). Still c.1548 when he was named
as p. in the Chantry Certificate for Beverley (Yorkshire
Chantry Surveys, ii, p.302). Knowledge of his earlier career
supports the possibility of his securing the prebend on the
death of Robert Toney's in 1526.

A native of Lucca, he was one of a number of Italians,
including his kinsman, Andrea Ammonia, and Polydore Vergil,
who came to England in the early years of the sixteenth
century, and secured rich preferment with English Church.
Quite apart from his work as secretary in turn to Wolsey,
Henry VIII and Edward VI, he shared in the considerable
influence exerted by this group in the field of letters and
the introduction of the spirit of the Renaissance into
English learning of the early sixteenth century.

¹ For details of these and other preferments, which he resigned at an earlier
date, see Emden, Cambridge, loc.cit. It is possible that he retained his
prebend of St. Helen, in the collegiate church of Auckland, dio. Durham,
until his consecration.

² Where Toney's prebends in York, Beverley and Lincoln are omitted.
C. of York and p. of Bole (1535–64) (le Neve, p.36).

Elsewhere he was:

C. of Hereford and p. of Cublington (1527–63) (le Neve, p.20); C. of Salisbury and p. of Grantham Australis (1528–29), of Bedwyn (1529–43), dean of Salisbury (1536–63) (le Neve, pp. 5, 30, 55); Archdeacon of Worcester (1534–64) (le Neve, Monastic Cathedrals, p.63); C. of Wells and p. of Compton Dundon (1534, still in 1556).

B.Th. (probably of a foreign university) by 1527. He was aged 60 in c.1548 (Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, ii, p.526), and was dead by 3 May, 1564 (le Neve, Bath and Wells, p.41).
PREBENDARIES OF ST. MICHAEL'S ALTAR
PREBENDARIES OF ST. MICHAEL'S ALTAR

BECKET, Thomas. According to Simon Russell, writing in the Provost's Book in 1417, Becket held the prebend of St. Michael's Altar as well as the Provostry of Beverley (B.C.A., ii, p.335).

Russell's testimony concerning post-conquest Beverley is generally reliable, and certainly no definite evidence is known to contradict his assertion. A note of caution in accepting it is prompted solely by circumstantial considerations:

It is strange that mention of this, the most illustrious of Beverley prebendaries in medieval eyes, should have come to us only through a fifteenth-century chronicler. Moreover, the name of Becket appears rather incongruous when set against the background of all that we know of the contemporary Beverley chapter. All the indications are that it was still composed to a very large degree of men of local origin and activity, who kept a high standard of residence. Becket's alleged possession of St. Michael's prebend is our only evidence of the intrusion of pluralists of national stature into the chapter at this time.

On the other hand, Becket in later years, was able to counter the reproach of ingratitude towards his king with the claim that he held the archdeaconry of Canterbury, the Provostry of Beverley, numerous livings and several prebends, before he entered the service of Henry II. St. Michael's, Beverley, could well have been one of the prebends.

If this were so Becket is the only prebendary from the twelfth century to whom a definite prebend can be assigned.

1. Hic itaque prebendarius fuit prebende Sancti Michaelis, deinde factus est Archiepiscopus Cantuariensis, ubi pro jure ecclesie passus, glorioso martirio lauriatus est. A.D. 1170. For Becket's tenure of the Provostry, which, according to Mr. Leach, lasted from 1154 until his consecration in 1162, see above under Provosts of Beverley, p.A.12.

2. Leach notes Simon Russell's statement without comment, but since he tends to assume the provosts normally held a prebend one would not expect him to question it (B.C.A., ii, p.xiii). If the question, 'Why St. Michael's prebend?' is asked, in favour of Russell's credibility, the answer could be seen to lie in the latter's own statement: Post cuius translationem (i.e. of Becket) capella S.Thome Apostoli, de qua superius meminimus, cepit in honore huius S.Thome, martiris et confessoris, celebrari et haberi in memoriali viz. perhenni, quod Beatus Thomas Cantuariensis fuerit prebendarius illius prebende cui ipsa capella est annexa (B.C.A., ii, loc.cit).

Such transfer of dedications of chapels and churches was not uncommon when the cult of St. Thomas of Canterbury was at its height. It is conceivable that the association of Becket with a chapel at Beverley led to a tradition which linked him with the prebend to which it was annexed.

Scott, William. Features second among five canons of Beverley witnessing a charter of the period 1234-1242 (B.L. Lansdowne MS 194), and first of three in another, possibly of similar date (B.L. Landsdowne MS 195).

Since a chantry was founded in his memory at the Altar of St. Michael sometime after 1247 (B.C.A., ii, pp. 292-293) he may well be considered a more likely occupant of St. Michael's prebend than Simon de Evesham, his co-witness, as a canon, in Landsowne MS 194.

A D.Cn.L. by 1217, and archdeacon of Worcester in 1225 till his death in 1242, his election as bishop of Durham in 1226 was declared invalid by Gregory IX (Emden, Oxford, iii, pp. 1657-8; below, p.A.134, n2).

Simon de Evesham's long tenure of a prebend, thus brought forward to before 1242, and the association of at least one of his kinsmen with the village of Etton (see above, p. 218 n1), suggest that he succeeded Richard de Cornubia in the prebend of St. Peter and St. Paul (see below, p.A.154).
by 1261 - 1271

EVESHAM, Simon de. In a document dating from the period 1247 - 1261/2 Mr. Simon de Evesham, archdeacon of the East Riding, is the first witness of a grant by Peter Berman, burgess of Beverley, of a house in the town for the founding of a chantry at St. Michael's Altar for the soul of William Scott, sometime archdeacon of Worcester² (B.C.A., ii, pp.292 - 3). About the same time John, heir of Mabel Erre, granted lands in Eastgate, Beverley, to Simon de Evesham, here described as canon of Beverley, as well as archdeacon of the East Riding, probably for the same purpose (ibid, pp.293 - 4). Since William Scott died in 1242 it is probable that these charters originated in the earlier part of this period, i.e. soon after 1247. Evesham, in fact, may well have been a prebendary before this year, being a prebendary of York as early as 1230. Vac. on death by 19 August, 1271 (York Minster Fasti, i, p.93).

He began his career in the York diocese as personal scribe to Archbishop Gray c.1226, and continued as such until 1232 (Reg. Gray, p.10 et passim).

Rector of Weighton from 16 January, 1226/7 (Reg. Gray, p.15); C. of York and p. of Weighton (from c. November, 1230, when Weighton was restored as a prebend of York) (Reg. Gray, pp. 49, 50); Precentor by February, 1240/1 (Rievaulx Chartulary, p.201; Reg. Gray, pp. 191, 195); Archdeacon of the East Riding by 15 October, 1247 (C.C.R., 1242 - 47, p.548; Reg. Gray, pp. 259, 261n; Dugdale Monasticon Anglicanum, iv, p.276); Archdeacon of Richmond by 20 June, 1262, probably till death (C.P.R., 1258 - 66, p.217; Reg. Giffard, p.134); Rector of Easingwold, nr. York by 3 April, 1269 (Reg. Giffard, p.2)³.

His first, and only known benefice outside the York diocese, was the rectory of Teynton, Gloucestershire, which he held from 1225 (Emden, Oxford, i, p.657).

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¹ Mr. Leach in dating this document does not take into account the fact that Robert de Scarborough had succeeded Simon de Evesham in the archdeaconry of the East Riding by March, 1261/2 (York Minster Fasti, i, p.42).

² Archdeacon by 1225 till death in 1242. His only known benefice in the York diocese, apart from his prebend in Beverley, was the church of Skipwith, nr. Selby, in the East Riding (Reg. Gray, p.6n). D.Cn.L. of Oxford by 1217, he was elected bishop of Durham by acclamation in 1226, but the election was declared invalid by pope Gregory IX, following the refusal of royal consent (Emden, Oxford, ii, p.1657). His alias, 'Stichill', may indicate that he and his brother, Robert, originated from the little village of that name north of Kelso in Roxburgh.

³ The best account of Evesham's career is given by Sir Charles Clay in York Minster Fasti, i, pp. 14 - 15; 42, 48; ii, p.12).
Graduate, probably of Oxford, by 7 December, 1225 (Emden, Oxford, loc.cit). Granted to the vicars choral of Beverley a yearly rental of 5s from his tenement in Minster-Moorgate, Beverley (Yorkshire Deeds, ix, p.19).


King's clerk. Constable of Bordeaux 1276 - 80 (C.P.R. 1272 - 81, p.147 et passim; C.C.R., 1279 - 88, p.27).

Rector of Kirkby-in-Kendal by 1267, still in 1272 (Reg. Giffard, p.201; C.P.R., 1266-72, p.639); Rector of Bilton-in-Ainsty from 25 August, 12722 (Reg. Giffard, p.35).

His only known benefice outside the York diocese was the rectory of Tilshead, dio. Salisbury, which he received on 20 June, 1279 (C.P.R., 1272 - 81, p.317).

An M.A. of Oxford from between 1265 and 1267, he was one of the masters who supported the Oxford Franciscans against the Dominicans in the matter of evangelical poverty in 1269 (Emden, Oxford, ii, pp.1362 - 3).


1. There is no doubt that Norfolk and Sleaford were the predecessors of William de Lincoln who held St. Michael's prebend in the early years of the Chapter Act Book (see below).

2. Norfolk probably held both his rectories in Yorkshire until his death, no other rector appearing before 1282 in either case. Norfolk's appointment to Kirkby-in-Cleveland was opposed by the Chancellor and University of Cambridge (Reg. Giffard, loc.cit). Bilton was constituted a prebend of York by Archbishop le Romeyn on 17 November, 1294, Robert de Pickering (see below, pp.A.154 - 157) who was then rector becoming the first prebendarry (Reg. le Romeyn, ii, pp.19 - 22).
C. of York and p. of Osbaldswick (1289 - 1308) (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.378; Reg. Greenfield, i, p.27; le Neve, p.73); C. of Southwell and p. of Normanton (1281, 1286 - 1308) (Reg. Wickwane, p.11; Reg. Romeyn, i, p.361; Reg. Greenfield, i, p.27).

An M.A., possibly of Oxford, by 1281, Sleaford was the illegitimate son of a clerk in minor orders¹ (C.P.L., i, pp. 498, 504). He was the devoted servant of the see of York and of four successive archbishops.²


Household clerk of Archbishop le Romeyn in 1286³, still in 1287 (Reg. Romeyn, ii, pp. 142 - 50, 158 - 62); official of the archdeacon of Richmond 1289/90, 1290/91 (ibid, i, pp. 343, 346). Archbishop's proctor at Rome 1290 (ibid, i, pp. 388, 394).

His only other benefice appears to have been the rectory of Sausthorpe, dio. Lincoln, which he held by November, 1286 (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.358).

Lincoln was almost certainly one of several clerks introduced to the York diocese by Archbishop le Romeyn in 1286⁴, receiving his prebend within months of his arrival. Throughout his master's episcopate his residence can have been at best intermittent, for he continued his work as a trusted household clerk and commissary, representing the archbishop at Rome in two of his most notable disputes. In 1286 he represented Romeyn at the curia in the matter

1. On 26 June, 1289, he was granted a dispensation to hold a benefice besides his prebend in Southwell and to be ordained notwithstanding his illegitimacy (C.P.L., i, loc.cit). A chantry in York Minster was founded for the souls, among others, of Robert de la Forde, his parents John and Lucy, and Robert de la Forde, Senior (York Minster Fabric Rolls, p.290).

2. For a biographical notice see York Minster Fasti, ii, pp. 64 - 65.

3. '..... carum et familiarem clericum nostrum' (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.143).

4. Reginald de St. Albans, who received a prebend in Southwell, Thomas de Boston (St. Botulph), rector of South Dalton, and more than one of the Nassingtons, were other Lincolnshire clerks who made their first appearance in the York diocese in Romeyn's early days. Romeyn had been first chancellor and later precentor and prebendary of Nassington at Lincoln prior to his consecration.
of the right of the northern primate to carry his cross erect in the Southern Province. He was still there, spending lavishly on the archbishop's behalf, at the beginning of 1287 (Reg. Romeyn, ii, pp. 142-50, 158-62). In the years 1289-91 he represented the archbishop in the dispute over possession of the rectory of Kirkby-in-Cleveland, when he was sometimes described as commissary or official of the archdeacon of Richmond (ibid, i, pp. 343, 346). It was probably his knowledge of this case, precipitating as it did Romeyn's clash with Antony Bek of Durham, which took him to Rome for the second time in 1290 (ibid, i, p.388), though, whilst there, he also was used to secure the pope's approval of the archbishop's agreement with the dean and chapter of York concerning his rights of visitation of the Minster (ibid, i, p.394)1.

On his return, certainly on the death of Romeyn in 1296, he appears to have taken up more or less permanent residence at Beverley. In Newark's register he appears but rarely, and then it is clear that he is acting locally at Beverley, usually in conjunction with the rural dean of Beverley (Reg. Newark in Reg. Romeyn, ii, pp. 267, 286). In the Chapter Act Book, i.e. during the final years of his possession of St. Michael's prebend, he occurs frequently as one of three canons2 who must have kept prolonged residence at the Minster, and in October, 1305, it would seem that he was the only canon making chapter (B.C.A., i, pp. 92, 101, 104, 106 et passim). His morals about this time were suspect on more than one occasion (ibid, pp. 87-88, 94-96, 110).

He was a university graduate at the time of his arrival in the diocese, but nothing is known of his earlier career.

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1. The Archbishop followed him to Rome at the end of the next year, spending most of 1292 there. The dispute at Kirkby-in-Kendal was caused by the intrusion of Alan de Easingwold, Antony Bek's official, into the benefice. Easingwold, described by Romeyn as 'ecclesie nostre persecutor acerbus' (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.90), was a mischievous influence in the differences between the archbishop and his suffragen. His part in the quarrel seems only to have embittered further the relations between the two men (C.M. Fraser, A History of Antony Bek, pp. 113-116. For his preferments and place in the Durham diocese see Records of Antony Bek, ed. C.M. Fraser, pp. 5, 6, 24, 27n, 67, 76).

2. The other two were William de Haxby, p. of St. James' Altar till 1305 (see above, p.A.65) and Henry de Carlton, p. of St. Stephen's Altar (see below, pp.174-175).
Lincoln received Melton's prebend of Goodringhill in the church of Westbury-on-Trym, nr. Bristol (in S.W. of the Worcester diocese). He was almost certainly a 'one-prebend man', and it would be interesting to know the reasons which induced him to move so far away from his former haunts. It would be strange if Walter Reynolds, the recently consecrated bishop of Worcester, had not had a hand in the exchange, though it is more likely that he was acting in the interests of Melton, whose friend and former colleague in the Wardrobe he was. Reynolds had been Provost of Beverley prior to his consecration (see above, p. A.20), Melton being his immediate successor (B.C.A., i, p. 228). Melton's letter granting power of attorney in the matter of his admission to the Provostry was sealed also with seal of Reynolds (dated, Windsor, 28 April, 1308, B.C.A., i, pp. 226-228). At about this time Melton appears to have been concerned to consolidate his preferments in the York diocese, using Nicholas de Huggate, who followed him in the Provostry, as his proctor (see above, pp. A.66-68). For Melton the move here in question was a natural one, and it is more likely that he, and not Lincoln, took the initiative in the exchange. There is insufficient evidence to establish that the latter was ever in the service of Reynolds either at Beverley or Worcester.

I have been unable to find Mr. Leach's authority for his statement that Melton was allowed to retain the Provostry and St. Michael's prebend after his consecration (B.C.A., ii, p. lv), but it is highly probable that this was the case, or rather, that he was allowed to gather the fruits of the same. The concession, according to Leach, was made out of consideration of the huge debts incurred by the archbishop whilst seeking consecration at the curia. These same debts prompted him to seek the fruits of the archbishop's corrody at Beverley which had accrued during the vacancy of the see (B.C.A., i, pp. 356-7). On 5 January, 1317/8, some three months after his consecration, and a week before Huggate was admitted to the Provostry, he described himself as 'Custos praepositurae ecclesiae nostrae Beverlacensis vacantis (B.C.A., i, p. 345). His successor in St. Michael's prebend first appears in the Act Book on 3 March, 1318/19 (ibid, p. 359), when he appointed a proctor to receive the revenues of the prebend. It may well be, therefore, that Melton retained actual possession of the prebend for some time after he relinquished the Provostry. At York and Lincoln Melton's prebends were filled within a month of his consecration (le Neve, Northern Province, p. 44; Lincoln, p. 86), whilst at Salisbury he resigned the prebend of Yetminster Prima at the time of his election 21 January, 1316 (le Neve, Salisbury, p. 100).

He spent more than eighteen months at the curia, and his continued tenure of much of his vast preferment throughout this period was undoubtedly the main substance of the concession (W.H. Dixon, Fasti Ebor, p. 400).


Admitted to the prebend in the person of his proctor, William de Carlisle (B.C.A., i, p. 237) Melton is recorded in the Act Book as being present as a canon on only two occasions; He was present in chapter on 5 May, 1312 (ibid, p. 292), and seems to have been in attendance for some weeks in the spring of 1314, when he was in the north on a commission to look to the English Marches against the Scots (ibid, ii, pp. 107, 318).

1. 'Praedilectus clericus et familiaris noster'; ....'Nostrae aetatis primordiis nostris insistebat obsequius' (T.Rymer, Foederæ, ii, pp. 107, 318).

2. Melton and Laurence Booth (see St. Stephen's Altar, below p.A.188) were the only two prebendaries of Beverley to become archbishop of York.

3. Melton's appointment of proctors to act on his behalf in his admission to the Provostry, dated 8 April, 1308, was apparently premature, for he was not admitted until 20 November, 1308 (B.C.A., i, pp. 226-229).

4. He was a representative of the king at the convocation of the clergy held in York in June, 1314, to consider the campaign against Scotland which was to end in disaster at Bannockburn (W.H. Dixon, op cit., p. 398).
He was a local man, originating from the hamlet of Melton, in the parish of Welton, near Howden, where his family possessed modest estate. (W.H. Dixon, Fasti Eboracenses, pp. 397-437, still affords the best account of his life. See also B.C.A., ii, pp.li-lvi, for Mr. Leach's account of him as provost, and L.H. Butler, Archbishop Melton, his neighbours and kinsmen 1317-40, in Journal of Ecclesiastical History, ii, pp.54-67, for his wealth, munificence and financial transactions).


He was always represented at Beverley by a proctor, and though he was in London in March, 1318/19 (ibid, p.359), he had left England, perhaps finally, by the time of the convocation of chapter of May, 1320 (ibid, p.379).

1. ibid, p.397.

2. For consideration of the date of Mala Spina's succession see above p.A.138 n2. There is no reason to doubt Mr. Leach's belief that the disposal of Melton's preferments to Italians, mainly curialists, was part of the price the archbishop had to pay for his consecration. The prebend of Driffield in York and that of Louth in Lincoln both went to Gaucelin Johannis, Cardinal priest or SS Marcellinus et Petrus, who with Cardinal Luke Fieschi, Malaspina's master, were Papal Nuncios in England at the time (ie Neve, Northern Province, p.44; Lincoln, p.36). The nuncios had wide powers of provision in England (C.P.L., ii, p.183), and it is easy to imagine how Mala Spina came by his prebend. Melton's rich rectory of Hornsea, in Holderness, went to Pilufort, Cardinal priest of St. Anastasia, who, from the curia, was to abet the conspiracy of Holderness rectors against the Minster's collection of thraves (B.C.A., ii, pp. 30, 35, 36).

3. About 50 miles down the coast from Genoa. (The see was transferred to Sarzana, adjoining Luna, in 1465).

4. The main purpose of the presence of Cardinals Gaucelin and Luke was to impose, as Papal Nuncios, peace between England and Robert Bruce. They arrived in England early in 1317, and were back in Avignon by November, 1318. Mala Spina must have therefore delayed his return. For an account of the visit of the cardinals, and of the outrageous attack upon them south of the Tees, see G. Mollat, The Popes at Avignon, 1305-1378, pp. 260-61.

5. Thomas de Lucca, a fellow countryman, if not a kinsman (B.C.A., i, p.359).
1323 - 1350  


A curious figure of uncertain nationality3. From June, 1323 onwards he appears to have been in almost continuous residence at Beverley, rarely missing a convocation for which attendance is recorded, and usually being present in chapter on other occasions (B.C.A., ii, p.33 et passim). Though abroad for a period in 1330 he returned to Beverley before the end of the year (ibid, p.91).

II.D. (university unknown) by 1323 (B.C.A., ii, p.28).

1. He was provided 'at the request of Luke, Cardinal deacon of S.Maria in Via Lata, whose auditor and chaplain he is, to the prebend vacant by the consecration of Barnabas de Mala Spina' (C.P.L., ii, loc.cit).

2. This identification of Gropo St. Peter's rectory, apparently his only other English benefice, is accepted here from Emden, Oxford, iii, p.2179, since it is presumably based upon Reg. Burghersh (Lincs.) fo.299, which I have not seen. On the strength of this reference Dr. Emden shows him as having quitted the rectory by February, 1328. This is certainly incorrect, however, for Gropo St. Peter was still described as 'parson of Geytington' in 1330, when he received letters of protection on going overseas (C.P.R., 1327 - 30, p.547). Unless Gropo St. Peter is actually named in the Reg. Burghersh reference the identification of his rectory as that of Cardington, Beds. must be suspect. Geddington, Northants. also in the Lincoln diocese, suggests itself as alternative, if one should be needed.

3. His earlier career, and indeed his nationality remains a matter for conjecture. He may have been an Italian who stayed in England after his master, the Cardinal Luke, returned to Avignon in 1318. It could conceivably be that his name is a latinized version of a place named Hook (of which there were at least four) in which case Hook Norton, where the church is dedicated to St. Peter, suggests itself. Whatever the truth of his origin, it is possible that he studied at Oxford, but it is doubtful whether the evidence justifies his inclusion even in the Appendix of Dr. Emden's Register.
1350¹ - 1379

BEVERLEY (alias SIGGLESTHORNE), Robert de. P. of St. Michael's Altar by papal provision 18 May, 1350 (C.P.L., iii, p.344; C.Pap.Pet. i, p.197). Vac. on death, probably in 1379, when his successor was appointed² (Fasti Dunelm, p.21).


¹ C.P.R., 1348 - 50, p.538, records that in 1350 Philip de Beauchamp, son of Roger de Beauchamp, kt., and a godson of Queen Philippa, was presented by the king to St. Michael's prebend. He obviously failed to secure it, for in 1353 he was still only a canon holding an expectative grace (C.P.L., iii, p.478; C.Pap.Pet., i, p.239). Born c.1339, he was only eleven years of age in 1350, and twenty-four when proposed by the king (but rejected by the pope) for the see of Bath and Wells (see Emden, Oxford, i, pp. 136 - 7).

² He was certainly alive in 1377 (B.C.A., ii, p.lxviii; C.P.R., 1377 - 81, p.32). That he died as a prebendary before 1381 is made certain by the dispute over his will in that year (B.C.A., ii, p.213).

³ No doubt his appointment to Cherry Burton was in fulfilment of a papal provision, made on 22 October, 1343, to a benefice worth 40 marks in the gift of the Provost of Beverley (C.P.L., i, p.108; C.Pap.Pet., i, p.24).

⁴ But see Y.A.J., xxxvi, pp. 221 - 222.

⁵ The chancellorship of Lincoln was worth only ten marks a year, and since ancient statute required that its holder should be a D.Th., or at least B.Th., it is hardly surprising to learn that it had been vacant for three years in 1352 (C.P.L., iii, p.470). Beverley was dispensed from needing the necessary academic qualification, and, permitted to hold it with Cherry Burton, probably held it until death, c.1379. His position as chancellor, however, cannot have been fully recognised, even though his title to the fruits of the dignity was accepted, for a papal bull of 2 December, 1379, stated that the chancellorship of Lincoln had been vacant for over thirty years because its revenues were so small that none would accept the office (le Neve, Lincoln, p.23). This fits with the statement that the dignity had been vacant for three years in 1352 (which in itself suggests that Beverley, who was called chancellor in 1351, was not regarded as a competent holder of the title). It also helps to confirm the date of his death, which for other reasons may be supposed to have been in 1379. Neither William Exeter nor William Thorpe, his immediate predecessors, was a D.Th. or B.Th. (le Neve, loc.cit).
D.Cn. and C.L. by 1351 (C.P.L., iii, p.363). In October, 1377, described as a king's clerk, he with Richard de Ravenser¹ and Walter de Skirlaw², further endowed the recently founded chantry of St. Michael in Beverley Minster. It is significant that another endowment made in October, 1380, came only from Ravenser and Skirlaw. Beverley was almost certainly dead. His will was one of the occasions of dispute between Archbishop Alexander Neville and the Chapter in 1381 (B.C.A., pp. 213, 225).

?1379 – 1381

BIRSTALL, William de. P. of St. Michael's Altar in 1379 (Boutflower, Fasti Dunelm, p.21). Still on 26 March, 1381, when, with the rest of the chapter, he was cited to appear at Neville's visitation of Beverley Minster. A.F. Leach assumes that he died before 8 September, 1381, when his successor as Master of the Rolls was appointed (B.C.A., ii, p.lxxx).

Master in Chancery by 1350; Master of the Rolls (1371 – 81) (B.C.A., ii, loc.cit).


An absentee from Beverley, he is not known to have taken any active part in the dispute between Archbishop Neville and the chapter in 1381, and is believed to have died in the autumn of that year.

?1381 – 1397

MANFIELD, Robert de. P. of St. Michael's Altar probably from 1381, succeeding William de Birstall. Although he first appears as p. on receiving a royal grant of St. Michael's on 12 June, 1387 (C.P.R. 1385 – 89, p.312), he had held the Provostry since 1381³, receiving a ratification of his


estate in it on the day following the grant of St. Michael's (C.P.L., iv, pp.459-60; C.P.R., 1396-99, pp. 38, 286; B.C.A., ii, pp.lxxi-lxxxiv). In view of this, and the fact that several other prebendaries, at Beverley and York, also received regrants of their prebends in order to clarify their position after the turmoil of Neville's primacy, it is probable that Manfield had held the prebend of St. Michael for some time before 1387, especially as no other claimant appears in the records. Vac. on exchange with Adam Penrother for St. James' prebend 15 November, 1397 (C.P.R. 1396-99, pp. 252, 255).

For a biographical notice of Manfield see Prebendaries of St. James' Altar above, pp. A.73-74.

1397 - 1411


G. of Ripon and p. of Nunwick (1403¹-11) (Memorials of Ripon, ii, pp.194, 238); Rector of Stokesley in Cleveland (1391-?) of Catton, nr. Thirsk (?-1411) (Test.Ebor, iii, p.35n).

Elsewhere he was Rector of Gateshead, dio. Durham (1364-1376); Master of St. Edmund Bishop Hospital, Gateshead (1366-1376).

In 1376 he exchanged both of these for the church of All Hallows in the Ropery, dio. London (Memorials of Ripon, ii, p.238; Fasti Dunelm, p.45).

1411 - 1463


¹. See above p.A.74 n2.

². Dade, whose calculation of the year in medieval dating requires adjustment throughout, gives 1410. Apart from this, his date may be accepted with confidence, since Scrope appears to have received a block grant of Fenrother's Yorkshire preferments on the latter's death: the rectory of Catton 13 March, 1410/11, the prebend of Nunwick in Ripon 12 March, 1410/11 (Memorials of Ripon, i, p.135; ii, pp.194-5).

In addition to his prebends in Beverley and Ripon, and his rectory of Goldsborough, Scrope held at the time of his death Greatham Hospital and probably a prebend in Darlington, both in the Durham diocese. (For details of these, and other preferments which he relinquished before death, see biographical notices in Visitations of Religious Houses, Lincoln, 1420 - 1436, p.185; Test. Ebor, iii, p.35n; Emden, Oxford, iii, pp.1660 - 1; Fasti Dunelm, p.116).

Born c.1394, and thus about 17 years of age when appointed prebendary of St. Michael's, he held the prebend for 52 years - the longest time of any canon. He is said to have kept residence at both Beverley and Ripon (Visitations of Religious Houses, Lincoln, loc.cit), and so far as is known his career was undisturbed by the tragedies which befell his family in the early fifteenth century: the execution of his uncle Archbishop Scrope, in 1405, and of his brother Henry, Lord Scrope, in 1415, both for treason.


1. Mr. John Osbaldwick who was presented to West Witton in December, 1428, had been instituted to the rectory of Catton in February, 1427/8 (Y.A.J., xxv, p.212 n9). It is not clear what, if anything, Scrope received in return.

2. A sinecure of little value to which he was initially presented by his mother, Margery.

3. Emden is in error in stating that he exchanged St. Leonard's Hospital, the richest of his preferments, in September, 1448. His successor on 24 January, 1455/6, was George Neville, shortly to be provided to the see of Exeter, and finally to be translated to York (C.P.R., 1452 - 61, p.277).

4. The revised edition of le Neve (Northern Province, p.113) has shown that, contrary to what was formerly supposed, Scrope had vacated the archdeaconry of Durham at least ten years before death. For, by 15 April, 1452, George Neville had succeeded him in this office also (C.P.L., x, p.118). The reasons which induced Scrope to part with his two most important pieces of preferment to Neville are not obvious.

5. Though he was never himself a member of the York Chapter William Scrope was buried with other members of his house in St. Stephen's Chapel in York Minster (F.Drake, Eboracum, p.504).
CLIFTON, Robert. P. of St. Michael's Altar, coll. 28 May, 1463 (Reg. Wm. Booth, fo.56a). Vac. on death before 17 June, 1467 (le Neve, Northern Province, p.23; Test. Ebor, iv, p.65n).

Nephew of Archbishop William Booth, being the son of his sister Alice who died in 1470 (Test. Ebor, iv, p.65n).


It seems unlikely that he was the Robert de Clifton who was vicar of Hampton, dio. London (1457 - 60), and of Sunbury, same dio. (1460 - 63), and who was probably the Oxford clerk of Emden, Oxford, i, p.448. The prebendary of St. Michael's in Beverley was almost certainly the Cambridge man who was admitted B.Cn.L. in 1465 (Emden, Cambridge, pp.143 - 4 - where the two London vicarages are included among his preferments). Clifton, who predeceased his mother and left no will, obviously died suddenly early in his career.

BLOXHAM, Thomas. P. of St. Michael's Altar in 1467, doubtless succeeding Robert Clifton c.June of that year (Reg. G.Neville fo.56). Vac. on death between 21 April 1473 and 25 May, 1473, when his will was made and proved respectively (Reg. Neville, fo.1, Emden, Oxford, i, p.205).


St. Michael's prebend was Bloxham's only preferment in the Northern Province. He may well have come to it through an acquaintance with Archbishop George Neville, who had been his contemporary at Oxford, and who was translated from Exeter to York in 1465.  

All his other benefices, none of them substantial, were grouped in Oxfordshire and the West Country (for details see Emden, Oxford, i, loc.cit).


1. Emden omits Clifton's Beverley and Southwell prebends.

2. Listed by Dade (p.7), but without dates.


4. He was Oxfordshire born and bred, remembering Bloxham church affectionately in his will.
1474 - 1490  
24 December, 1474 (Reg: G. Neville, fo.1). Vac. on death  
by 14 February, 1489/90 (Reg: Rotherham fo.103; Dade, p.7).  
Portioner in Osmotherley, nr. Northallerton (? - 1490)  
(Emden, Oxford, ii, p.1030).  
Another southern clerk, who had been a contemporary of  
Archbishop Neville at Oxford.  
He died subdean of Salisbury and rector of Hambleden, dio. Lincoln (ibid).  
B.C.L. Oxford 1457 (ibid).

1490 - 1492  
LASCY, John. P. of St. Michael's Altar, coll. 14 February,  
1489/90 (Dade, p.7). Vac. on resignation by 1 September,  
1492, when Geoffrey Blythe had collation (ibid, p.7).  
C. of Wells and p. of Combe Septima (1472 - 79), of  
Whitelackington (1479 - 93) (le Neve, pp.29, 76).  
He died before 16 April, 1493 (le Neve, loc.cit), and was  
not a university graduate. He is therefore to be  
distinguished from Mr. John Lascy of Emden, Oxford, ii,  
p.1083.

1492 - 1493  
BLYTHE, Geoffrey. P. of St. Michael's Altar, coll. 1 September,  
1492 (Dade, p.7). Vac. on resignation by 10 April, 1493  
(Reg: Rotherham, fo.105).  
Nephew of Archbishop Rotherham and brother of John Blythe,  
bishop of Salisbury (1493 - 99); Lord President of the  
Council of Wales (1512 - 24); bishop of Coventry and  
Lichfield (1503 - 1530).  
C. of York and p. of Strensall (1493 - 1503), archdeacon of  
Cleveland (1493 - 97), dean of York (1497 - 1503) (le Neve,  
pp. 8, 21, 82); Rector of Headon, Notts. (1494 - ?)  
(Emden, Cambridge, p.67).

1. Neville perhaps more than any other fifteenth century archbishop, showed the  
strongest bias towards his old university in his collations to prebends in all  
four collegiate churches. He was chancellor of Oxford from 1453 to 1457,  
and again from 1461 till 1472, and took an active interest in the affairs  
of the University, his own college, Balliol, in particular, until his death  
in 1476.

2. le Neve, Salisbury, p.7; see also W.H. Jones, Fasti Ecclesiae Sarisberiensis,  
p.441.

3. Dade in error calls him Wilfred.
In addition to the deanery of York and his prebend in that church his consecration left vacant the archdeaconries of Salisbury and Gloucester and the prebend of Sneating in St. Paul's, London (le Neve, Salisbury, p.13; Monastic Cathedrals, p.61; St. Paul's, London, p.62). M.A., B.Th. 1497/8 of Cambridge, where he was fellow of King's College (1486-94), dean 1492-93). He was also Warden of King's Hall (1486-1528) (Emden, Cambridge, loc.cit).

**1493 - 1503**

TROTTER, Hugh. P. of St. Michael's Altar, coll. 10 April, 1493 (Reg. Rotherham, fo.105). Vac. on death between 31 August, 1503, when he made his will, and 28 September, 1503, when his successor had coll. of prebend (Test. Ebor., iv, pp.219-221; Reg. Savage fo.24).

One of four Vicars General appointed by Archbishop Savage on his translation to York in April, 1501 (Reg. Savage, fo.2).

PROVOST OF BEVERLEY (27 March, 1493 - c. September, 1503) (B.C.A., ii, pp.xxiii - xxiv; see also above, p.A.27);

A fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge, (1484 - 89) Trotter was introduced to the York diocese by Archbishop Rotherham, himself an early fellow of King's College. He was an active and greatly trusted servant of both Rotherham and his successor, Savage, being one of a small and able group of clerks who virtually ran the diocese on behalf of the normally absent archbishop.

B.Th. of Cambridge 1481/2; D.Th. 1488. He left the fine sum of £333 6s 8d for the foundation of a Yorkshire fellowship at Queen's (Test. Ebor., iv, pp.219 - 221).

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1. Few of his contemporaries owed more to their kinsmen in their preferment than did Blythe. Just as his uncle, Archbishop Rotherham, ensured his rise in the York chapter so did his brother John at Salisbury (see le Neve, Salisbury, pp. 13, 20, 45, 90), whilst his prebend in St. Paul's appears to have been inherited from another of the family, Robert Blithe.

2. Beverley benefitted little from Trotter's will. He requested burial in York Minster.
28 September, 1503 (Reg. Savage, fo.24). Vac. on resignation by 28 November, 1504¹ (Reg. Savage, fo.28).

Fellow of Merton College, Oxford (1484 - 1492); Warden of Merton (1509 - 21)². Chaplain to Henry VII; Almoner to Henry VII and Henry VIII. Bishop of St. David's (1523 - 36).

Subdean of York (1504 - 07), archdeacon of Cleveland (1507 - 23) (le Neve, pp. 17, 21).

In addition to the archdeaconry of Cleveland his elevation to the see of St. David's left vacant the archdeaconry of Huntingdon, prebends in St. Paul's, London, St. George's, Windsor, and St. Stephen's, Westminster, possibly the prebend of Skipwith in Howden³, and also the rectories of St. Martin's, Ludgate, and St. Mary Woolnooth, in the diocese of London (Emden, Oxford, iii, pp.1551 - 2).


28 November, 1504 (Reg. Savage, fo.28)⁴. Vac. probably on death, by 11 July, 1531⁵ (le Neve, Salisbury, p.36). Emden believes him to have died by February, 1531 (Emden, Oxford, ii, pp.981 - 2).

A kinsman of Andrew Hulse, archdeacon of York (1442 - 70), and a well-known agent at the Roman curia, who became keeper of the Privy Seal in 1450 (Y.A.J., xxiv, p.241 n1)⁶.

C. of Salisbury and p. of Ratfyn (1489 - 98), of Bitton (1498 - 1531) (le Neve, pp. 36, 82). He also held in the dio. Salisbury, at the time of his death, the Wiltshire

1. Dr. Emden gives October as the month of resignation but November is supported by Professor Hamilton Thompson (Y.A.J., xxiv, p.240, n6); the entry in Savage's Register relates, of course, to his successor's appointment, not to Rawlings' departure.

2. In 1521 he was ejected from the wardenship by Bishop Warham of Lincoln, at the request of the majority of the fellows, for neglect and maladministration (Emden, Oxford, loc.cit; see also G.C. Brodrick, Memorials of Merton College, pp.162 - 3).

3. He received his Howden prebend in 1506, but how long he held it is uncertain.

4. The reference given by Dr. Emden (loc.cit) is probably a slip for Reg. Savage, fo.28 where the collation of Holes is definitely recorded.

5. There is no recorded evidence of Holes holding St. Michael's at the time of his death, but since he is listed as holding it in 1525/6 (State Papers, 17 Henry VIII, iv, pt.1, no.2001), Professor Hamilton Thompson is almost certainly correct in assuming that he did retain the prebend till the end.

rectories of Dinton, Staunton, and Wishford Magna. He may also have retained to the last the rectory of Tackley, nr. Oxford, dio. Lincoln, for which he had probably given Copford, dio. London, in 1499.


1532-1546


A Dominican friar, Hogeson was consecrated on a papal provision 8 August, 1520, receiving at the same time a papal dispensation to hold two benefices with his bishoprick. These were:

(i) the rectory of St. Laurence, Winchester (1521) (ii) of Burghclare, Hants. (1521-46).

He resigned the former within three months, presumably replacing it with the rectory of Havant, Hants. (by 1522), which, it seems probable, he exchanged for Chilbolton in June, 1522.1 (Emden, Oxford, ii, p.942).

His work as suffragan in the York diocese can only be dated with certainty from early 1532 i.e. soon after the consecration of Archbishop Lee on 10 December, 1531. He was admitted c. of York and p. of Grindal 17 January, 1532, but resigned by 3 October, 1534, because of unsatisfactory title (le Neve, p.56). It is probable, however, that St. Michael's prebend in Beverley was found for him as early as 1531/2 as an alternative, since this last date refers not to Hogeson, but the collation of his successor in the prebend of Grindal. Hogeson also received, probably at the same time as he had collation of St. Michael's, the mastership of Killingwoldgraves Hospital near Bishop Burton by Beverley. This he vacated by January, 1544 (Y.A.J., xxiv, pp.240-242).

William Hogeson has been the subject of a fascinating piece of detection and scholarship on the part of Mr. John Bilson2, and Professor Hamilton Thompson3, who, in their

1. He was admitted to the vicarage of Horley, Surrey, dio. Winchester, 16 April, 1522 (Emden, loc.cit).
findings published in Y.A.J., xxiv, (1917), prove beyond doubt that he is the prebendary of Beverley buried at the east end of the south choir aisle of Beverley Minster under a slab inscribed:

"Of your charite pray for ye soule of William sometyme byssop of dariens and prebendary of thys churche".

Mr. Bilson, having disproved the claim of Bishop G.F. Browne¹ to have found here the resting place of William Senhouse (Sever), bishop of Durham (dorime), and established the correct reading of the see to be DARIENS², Professor Hamilton Thompson has shown that occupant of the tomb was William Hogeson!

Hogeson, who was thus the only regular to become a prebendary, shares with William Rokeby, archbishop of Dublin,³ the distinction of holding a Beverley prebend for any length of time when a bishop.

1546 - 1547

GILES, William. P. of St. Michael's Altar by royal grant 10 December, 1546 (Letters and Papers, Henry VIII, xxi (2), p.339. No.648 (31)); January 1546/7 (C.P.R., 1547 - 48, p.170). By the time of the Chantry Certificate (c.1547/8) the prebend was, like St. Andrew's, 'in thandes and possession of Sir Mychaell Stanhope, knight, chief gentleman of the Kynge's Majesties Prevy Chamber' (Yorkshire Chantries Surveys, ii, p.527⁴).

King's Chaplain.

1. Recollections of a Bishop, p.207.


4. Where St. Michael's is called St. Nicholas' prebend by mistake.
PREBENDARIES OF THE ALTAR OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL
PREBENDARIES OF THE ALTAR OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL

by 1220 - CORNUBIA, Richard de. C. of Beverley and p. of 'Risby' by 4 April, 1220. Vac. on death c.1234 (Yorkshire Deeds, ix, No.236; Reg. Gray, p.68).

c.1234

1. Referred to below as the prebend of St. Peter's Altar.

2. C.T. Clay, 'Early Precentors and Chancellors of York', Y.A.J., xxxv, p.138, translates his name as Cornwall, but notes 'the faint possibility that he came from Cornouaille in Brittany'. He is called Cornwall by Dr. Emden (Oxford, i, p.490) who distinguishes him for a canon of Lincoln of the same name. It seems inaccurate as well as unnecessary to translate his name 'Hornblower' as in Yorkshire Deeds, ix, loc.cit. We believe his name to be derived from the village of Cornwell, on the border of the Oxford-Worcester dioceses.

3. The single reference to a Beverley prebend by a place name has strangely escaped comment from all historians of Beverley, including Mr. Leach in his Introduction to the Beverley Chapter Act Book. The full abstract in Archbishop Gray's Register (p.68, no.ccxciv) is given under Prebendaries of St. Mary's Altar, above p.A.116 n2.

The identification of the prebend of Risby with that of St. Peter's Altar is prompted by evidence which, though strong, is suggestive rather than conclusive:

(i) In 1425 an Inquisition was held to investigate the liability of Beverley town for payment of a subsidy levied on every parish containing more than ten householders. The findings, recorded in the Town Minute Book, 1420-1470 (B.C.A., ii, pp.339-343, give details of prebendal income which was here closely linked with parochial responsibility. St. Peter's prebend appears as one of three which had no parishioners in the borough, but the specific mention of rents in the Wills of Etton and Risby almost certainly implies parochial charge of these places. Other prebends are known to have possessed assets there, but they find no reference in this Inquisition, which was concerned with the disposition of parishioners.

Etton, which lies north-west of Beverley, whereas Risby is some four miles south-west, is also relevant to the identification. In November, 1233, Richard de Cornubia disputed the advowson of the church of Etton with Nicholas de Stutteville (Reg.Gray, p.64). The most obvious explanation of this is that he had prebendal rights there.

(ii) In the Chantry Certificate for Beverley Thearn and its chapel, close to Risby, are said to be in 'the Parish of St. Peter in Beverley, i.e. served by the vicar of St. Peter's Altar (Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, ii, p.537).

(iii) It may be pure coincidence that on 13 November, 1230, the church of Wawne, almost adjoining Thearn, but across the boundary of the Provostry, was annexed by Archbishop Gray to the chancellorship of York, then occupied by Richard de Cornwall (Reg. Gray, p.52; Reg. Giffard, p.166).

by 1242 - 1271 EVESHAM, Simon de. His possession of a prebend for a period probably well in excess of thirty years almost certainly identifies Evesham with the stall of St. Peter and St. Paul. No gap of sufficient length is left in the succession to other prebends. This being so, he is likely to have succeeded Richard de Cornubia c.1234 (see above, p.A.154).

Archbishop Giffard's household clerk by February, 1267/8 (Reg. Giffard, pp. 124, 14, 30, 92, 115).

He held no other preferment in the York diocese, and like many household clerks of the period was supported by a single prebend in one of the daughter churches. On 16 May, 1270, he was made custodian of the church of Barnby-in-the-Willows, nr. Newark, and of its newly-appointed rector, who was probably a minor (Reg. Giffard, p.64, see also pp. 62, 69 - 70).

He appears to have entered the service of the Archbishop's brother, Godfrey Giffard, bishop of Worcester, after the former's death in 1279. He was archdeacon of Gloucester by 29 April, 1284, when he witnessed the profession of obedience of the prior of Finchale for the church of Giggleswick in Craven (Reg. Wickwane, p.39).

He was, however, a Yorkshireman, Fangfoss being ten miles due east of York, close to the archbishop's manor of Bishop Wilton.


1. His death was wrongly reported in Beverley in January, 1322/23 (B.C.A., ii, pp. 24 - 5).


His only known preferment in the Southern Province was the prebend of Decem Librarum in Lincoln (1306-27) (le Neve, p.59). He also held, however, the prebend of Barnby in the Durham peculiar of Howden from 1303 to 1305, and was archdeacon of Northumberland for a short time in 1312 (le Neve, Northern Province, p.113).

D.C.L. by 13 September, 1281, when he and the subdean of York were appointed commissaries in connection with the pending visitation of the prior and convent of Durham. He had studied both at Oxford and abroad, and the source

1. From August, 1311, until August, 1312, Greenfield was absent from the diocese attending the Council of Vienne. In June and July, 1315, the archbishop was visiting the peculiar of Churchdown (Reg. Greenfield, v, pp. 317-18, 327).

2. For the detailed record of Robert de Pickering's election to the deanery see Reg. Greenfield, i, pp. 69-78.

3. The two villages, Hutton and Cranswick, are some twelve miles north of Beverley on the road to Driffield.
of his doctorate is uncertain.\(^1\)

Anyone seeking an example of the medieval clerk at his best should consider the career of Robert de Pickering. Learned, astute, pious and greatly respected, not least by successive archbishops, he gave outstanding service to the church of York for half a century, under no less than six primates.\(^2\) Elected to the deanery of York on the death of his equally eminent brother, William, he emerges from the archbishops' registers as the most distinguished of many able men who administered the diocese in the earlier fourteenth century.

Although he is occasionally described as a king's clerk\(^3\) he represents a caution against the frequent assumption that this designation necessarily implied a full-time professional occupation. His absence from the diocese, the true scene of his life's work, appear rather as interludes. He was sent as an envoy to treat for peace with France in 1302 (C.P.R., 1301–7, pp. 56–57), to the curia concerning a crusade in 1305 (ibid, pp. 387–8), and was one of the negotiators of the marriage of Edward II with Isabella two years later. In later years he was involved also in Scottish affairs (C.P.R., 1324–7, p.46), and represented the northern clergy at parliament on numerous occasions.\(^4\)

In spite of his many commitments he appears to have maintained statutory residence at Beverley throughout most of his 44 years as a prebendary\(^5\), and to have kept a close watch on the affairs of the chapter. He succeeded Walter de Gloucester as president of the chapter probably before

\[^1\] Item racioni meriti est dictus magister Robertus alii preferendus, nam juris civilis professor existit, primo in civili sapiencia solempnitur regendo tam in cismarinis quam ultramarinis partibus famous ubilibet divulgatus, ac postmodum citra in pertractandis negociis ecclesiasticis exercitatus diuicus et expertus. Sic patet quod dictus magister Robertus racione numeri, Zeli et meriti est alii preferendus' (John de Nassington on the occasion of Pickering's election to the deanery of York. Reg. Greenfield, i, p.76).

\[^2\] Wickwane, Romeyn, Newark, Corbridge, Greenfield and Melton.

\[^3\] i.e. B.C.A., i, p.205; C.P.R., 1301–7, p.56.

\[^4\] i.e. in 1304/5, 1306/7 and 1328 (B.C.A., i, pp. 62, 186; ii, p.83).

\[^5\] In the Chapter Act Book he is recorded as being present at ordinary meetings of chapter and at convocations in the years 1305, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1311, 1312, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1318, 1320, 1321, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1331 (B.C.A., i and ii, passim).
the latter's death in 1310. Numerous references indicate the reliance, even dependence, placed by the residentiary body on his judgment, important decisions being postponed on account of his absence, and urgent requests being made for his counsel. In his later years he must have been a venerable figure indeed, having far outlived his generation. The fact that he was D.C.L. by 1281 must have meant that he was approaching at least eighty years of age when he died some fifty years later.

In 1307 he gave eight shops, recently built on his prebendal estate between the High Street and Fishmarket Gate in Beverley, for the foundation of a chantry at St. Peter's Altar for the welfare of Archbishop Greenfield, himself and his family. In an undated licence Thomas, Abbot of St. Mary's York, allowed Sir William le Brus to found a chantry in Pickering church for the benefit of the souls of 'Masters William and Robert de Pickering, Adam le Brus, and Matilda his wife'.

1. The president was normally the senior residentiary by order of appointment. Gloucester, however, was incapacitated by blindness some years before death, and took less part in chapter business. Pickering first heads the list of attendance on 5 January, 1310/11 (B.C.A., i, p.268).

2. B.C.A., i, pp. 61 - 62, 197, 238 - 9, 386.

3. Pickering contracted a serious eye infection in the autumn of 1315, but although it prevented him going to Gascony in the king's service in that year, it certainly did not prevent him leading a very active life in subsequent years (Cal. Chancery Writs, i, p.422).

4. Ad inveniendum unum capellanum divina singulis diebus in praedicta ecclesia celebraturum imperpetuam, pro mei et venerabilis patris Domini Willelmi de Grenefeld, Dei gratia, Eboracensis Archiepiscopi, Angliae primatis, ac Magistri Willelmi de Pykering, Archidiaconi Notingham, fratri mei germani, statu salubri, et animabus patris mei, matris meae, Adeae fratris mei et Celiciae sororis meae et antecessorum et successorum meorum ... (B.C.A., i, p.206)

5. George Frank, Ryedale and North Yorkshire Antiquities, pp. 172 - 3. See also W.H. Dixon, Fasti Ebor, p.4172, where the chantry is stated to have been founded 'for the souls of himself (William le Brus) and Matilda his wife, Adam and Matilda, his parents, Mr. William and Mr. Robert de Pykering, his ancestors and heirs, his uncles and aunts, and William and Alexander de Burgh'. The Pickerings were probably uncles of William le Brus, not cousins as stated by Dixon, their brother Adam being his father. Their own father was also called Adam le Brus, and their mother, Maud, was a member of the Ughtred family of Scarborough, to which Robert de Scarborough, dean of York (1279 - 90) and p. of St. Stephen's Altar (see below pp.A.173 - 174) also belonged. It is possible that Maud and he were cousins (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.2092; Clay, York Minster Fasti, i, p.10).
FERRIBY, Richard de. P. of St. Peter's Altar by 13 October, 1333\(^1\) (B.C.A., ii, pp.102-3), having been a c. of Beverley 'awaiting the next vacant prebend' from before 24 July, 1325\(^2\) (ibid, p.74). Vac. on resignation, shortly before death, 6 October, 1349 (C.P.L., iii, p.317).


He was a member of that great family of ecclesiastics which claimed kinship with Archbishops Melton and Thoresby, and was closely associated with Nicholas de Huggate in the royal household. North and South Ferriby are villages on opposite banks of the Humber, five miles above Kingston-upon-Hull.\(^4\)

OFFORD, Andrew. P. of St. Peter's Altar, 6 October, 1349, by papal provision, the prebend having been resigned to the pope in the lifetime of Richard de Ferriby (C.P.L., iii, pp.317, 345, 605\(^5\)). Vac. on death by 18 November, 1358 (C.Pap.Pet, i, pp. 309, 310; C.P.L., iii, p.605; C.P.R., 1361-64, p.2).


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1. He almost certainly received the prebend shortly after Pickering's death on New Year's Eve, 1332.

2. He was first granted a provision to a prebend in 1320 (C.P.L., ii, p.202). In July, 1325, he and two others unsuccessfully contested St. Katherine's prebend which went on that occasion to William de Abberwick (B.C.A., ii, p.74; and see below, pp.A.203-204). In 1329 Ferriby was described as a canon of York and Lincoln, but in neither church does he appear to have secured a prebend (Lettres Communes, loc.cit).

3. Having succeeded Nicholas de Huggate, who held this benefice from 1310 (see above, p.A.67).

4. The Ferriby family belonged to the north bank. North Ferriby and Melton, the archbishop's birthplace, are barely one mile apart. For the connection with Nicholas de Huggate see above pp.A.203-204 and above pp.A.67-68 for a biographical notice.

5. C.P.L., iii, p.605, implies that Ferriby was already dead when Offord received the prebend.
Brother of John Offord, archbishop designate of Canterbury (1348-49).

C. of York and p. of South Newbald (1346-49), of Masham (1349-58)² (le Neve, pp.66, 71).

At the time of his death he held, in addition to his two Yorkshire prebends, the archdeaconry of Middlesex, the provostship of Wells with prebend of Combe Duodecima³ in that church, and the wealthy rectory of Over, Cambs., dio. Ely (le Neve, St. Paul's, London, pp.11, 12; Bath and Wells, p.34; Emden, Oxford, loc. cit).

M.A., (Oxford) by 1325; D.C.L. by 1337.

For a summary of Offord's diplomatic activities in the service of the Crown, which occupied him almost continuously from 1343 until 1358, when he died at the curia, see Emden, Oxford, loc. cit.

SOUTHWORTH, Richard de. Dade (p.8) lists a clerk of this name next after Richard de Ferriby, but gives no dates. He certainly did not succeed Ferriby (C.P.L., iii, p.517), but may well have followed Offord as p. of St. Peter's Altar.

A gap of rather more than two years occurs in our list, i.e. between the death of Offord in November, 1358 and the appointment of John de Blewbury on 22 March, 1360/61 (see below).

The ravages of the Black Death in these years make the continuity of succession particularly uncertain. The fact that Andrew Offord died at the curia would normally have given the pope the right of appointing his successor, but the apparent need to establish Offord's provision by Clement VI after that canon's death suggests that it was disputed (C.P.L., iii, p.605).

No clue to the identity of Southworth appears in records to hand, and, unless his name is a variant of Susworth, a village on the Trent in north Lincolnshire, his place of origin is equally obscure.

1361-1368


1. John Offord was provided to the archbishoprick, the pope setting aside the election of Bradwardine. He died of the Black Death on 20 May, 1349, before consecration.

2. His royal grant of the subdeanery of York in 1348 was revoked in the following year (le Neve, p.15).

3. Combe Duodecima was united to the provostship in 1344 (le Neve, Bath and Wells, p.34 n.i). For the position and function of the provosts of Wells see K. Edwards, English Secular Cathedrals, pp.241-2.
Vac. on resignation by 4 June, 1368, when Thomas de Orgrave had collation of the prebend (Dade, p.8).

King's clerk.

C. of Wells and p. of Warminster al Luxville (1354-63), of Litton (1363-66) (le Neve, pp. 56, 68); C. of Salisbury and p. of Netherbury (1358-72) (le Neve, p.75); C. of St. Paul's, London, and p. of Totenhall (1362-63) (le Neve, p.63); C. of St. Stephen's, Westminster (1363-?) (ibid); C. of Llandewy Brefy and p. of Caron by 1366 (Reg. Langham, loc.cit). Rector of Withern, dio. Lincoln, by 1366 (ibid).

He was dead by 13 October, 1372 (C.P.L. iv, p.181) Blewbury, Berks. is half way between Reading and Oxford.

ORGRAVE, Thomas de. P. of St. Peter's Altar, coll. 4 June, 1368 (Dade, p.8). Vac. on resignation c.25 August, 1368, when he exchanged the prebend with Richard de Chesterfield for the prebend of Oxton Prima in Southwell.¹

C. of Southwell and p. of Oxton Prima (1368-?) (Fasti Dunelm, p.148; Dade, loc.cit); C. of York and p. of Fridaythorpe (March-May, 1377) of Ampleforth (March-November, 1386) (le Neve, pp. 28, 50).

Archdeacon of Cornwall³ (1371-77) (le Neve, Exeter, p.16); P. of Exeter (by 1372, still in 1376/7) (ibid); C. of Wells and p. of Combe Prima (?-1377) (le Neve, p.23).

He probably took his name from the hamlet of Orgreave, near Rotherham.


2. There is no record of this exchange, but it may be assumed to have taken place since both Orgrave and Chesterfield are known to have held these particular prebends about this time (Fasti Dunelm, pp. 25, 148; Dade, p.8; le Neve-Hardy, iii, p.447; C.P.L., iv, p.62).

3. Orgrave exchanged his archdeaconry and his prebend in Wells with Robert de Braybrooke for the prebend of Fridaythorpe in York on 3 March, 1376/7 (le Neve, Northern Province, p.50). His immediate predecessor in the archdeaconry may well have been Richard de Harewell (though disputed succession in the previous decades makes this uncertain), who probably succeeded John de Blewbury in his prebend of Warminster in Wells (le Neve, Bath and Wells, interposes John de Cricklade - p.56). There is no evidence that Harewell was ever p. of St. Peter's Altar in Beverley, but it is just possible that he took it over together with Blewbury's prebend in Wells in 1366 and parted with it to Thomas de Orgrave in 1368.
CHESTERFIELD, Richard de. P. of St. Peter's Altar, coll. 25 August, 1368, following an exchange with Thomas de Orgrave, who received the prebend of Oxton Prima in Southwell (Dade, p.8 and see above under Orgrave). Vac. on death by 17 January, 1404/5 (Dade, loc.cit).

King's clerk by 1360 (C.P.R., 1358 - 61, p.492); Treasury clerk in the receipt from April, 1362 (Emden, Oxford, i, p.408).

C. of Southwell and p. of Oxton Prima (1365 - 68) (Reg. Sudbury, London, i, p.247; Fasti Dunelm, pp. 25, 148; le Neve - Hardy, iii, p.447); Rector of Flintham, near Newark, Notts. (1360 - ?)2.

In 1364 he was charged with misappropriation and other irregularities by the two chamberlains of the receipt, but, after two inquiries, he was declared innocent in 1365, and his accusers dismissed (Emden, loc.cit). Nevertheless this occurrence probably caused him to leave royal service, for in the months following he exchanged his London prebends for others in the north of England: in 1365 he exchanged his prebend of Wildland in St. Paul's, London, for Oxton Prima in Southwell3 and his prebend in Darlington, dio. Durham4 was probably obtained for the one he had held in St. Stephen's, Westminster, the exchange taking place in October, 1366. Three years earlier he had received a royal grant of the rectory of Brancepath, dio. Durham5, a living which he retained until 1384.

Apart from his Beverley prebend, the only preferment which he is known to have retained until his death was the prebend of Norton Episcopi in Lincoln, which he had acquired as early as 1363.6

In 1381 he was the third canon of Beverley to submit to Archbishop Alexander Neville when the latter visited the Minster. He and Henry de Snaith were then said to have kept better residence than the rest of the prebendaries,

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1. When Richard de Connington had collation of the prebend. His successor at Lincoln had collation on 19 January (le Neve, p.97).
2. Fasti Dunelm (p.25) also makes him rector of St. Michael, Bread Street, and of Hanwell, both in the diocese of London. Both these and Flintham are omitted by Dr. Emden.
3. le Neve, St. Paul's, London, p.66.
4. Fasti Dunelm, loc.cit.
5. C.P.R., 1361 - 64, p.280.
6. le Neve, Lincoln, p.97.
though it was nevertheless below the standard required by statute.\(^1\) The fact that he submitted probably indicates his greater dependence upon the revenues of this prebend. Following the death of Richard de Thorne in 1391 he became an active president of the chapter,\(^2\) in spite of the fact that he also kept canonical residence at Lincoln from 1383 onwards.\(^3\)

1405-1413/4

CONINGTON (CONYNGSTON) Richard de. P. of St. Peter's Altar, coll. 17 January, 1405 (Reg. Scrope fo.11; C.P.R., 1405-8, p.42). Vac. on death between 28 December, 1413, when he made his will and 4 January, 1413/14, when his successor in his prebend in York had collation (le Neve, Northern Province, p.65).


1. B.C.A., ii, pp. 245-6, 248.
2. He was senior prebendary in order of appointment, and headed the list of canons in chapter (B.C.A., ii, p.266, where he is next after Thorne among the canons assenting to Arundel's Constitutions in 1391; Y.D., ix, p.20).
4. Conington is sometimes described as official and at others as the archbishop's chancellor, and, as in our own day, it is almost certain that both referred here to the same office (see A. Hamilton Thompson, English Clergy, p.52).
5. ibid, p.191.
6. For this preferment (omitted by Dr. Emden) Conington gave his prebend in St. John's Chester (Reg. Scrope, fo.11).
Conington's other preferments were all in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield; C. of Lichfield and p. of Wolvey (1393–94), of Hansacre (1394–1409) (le Neve, pp. 43, 69); P. of St. John's, Chester (1398–1405) (Y.A.J., xxxvi, loc. cit).

Having served Archbishop Neville as Official from at least 1381, when he took part in the latter's celebrated visitation of Beverley, Conington took up similar employment in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield under Richard le Scrope. He returned to York in 1398 on Scrope's translation to the archbishopric, continuing to serve as his official. Apparently he was required to convince the king of his loyalty following the execution of his master on 8 June, 1405, for two days after the tragedy he received a 'pardon for all treasons'. No doubt his closeness to the archbishop had compromised his estate, for on 9 August, 1405, he was re-presented by the crown to his Beverley prebend, and was ratified in possession of his prebend in York on 19 October.

His preferments were substantially intact when he died eight years later. He was buried, as he requested, in Southwell Minster.


1413/14 – 1415

BOWET, Richard (Robert) P. of St. Peter's Altar, coll.
5 January, 1413/14 (Reg. Bowet, fo. 48d, Dade p. 87). Vae. on resignation, following an exchange with William de Skirwith for the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, Ripon, 7 June, 1415 (Reg. Bowet, fo. 53; Memorials of Ripon, ii, p. 145). Exchange reversed three days later – 10 June, 1415 (Reg. Bowet, fo. 53d, and see below).

2. Consecrated bishop of Coventry and Lichfield in 1386, translated to York 1398.
3. C.P.R., 1405–8, p. 19.
4. ibid, pp. 42, 262.
5. Emden, Oxford, iii, p. 2164, has 1386, but Conington was a doctor of law at the time of the Beverley Visitation of 1381.
6. There is some confusion in the registers as to his Christian name. Richard Bowet had collation of St. Peter's prebend in 1413/14, and exchanged it, in 1415, for St. Mary's Hospital, but it was Robert Bowet who exchanged the Hospital for St. Peter's three days later, so that there seems to be no doubt that the so-called Richard and Robert were identical.
7. Dade here gives his name as Henry, which is certainly wrong, but has Robert succeeding Skirwith.
SKIRWITH, William de. P. of St. Peter's Altar, coll. 7 June, 1415, having exchanged for it St. Mary Magdalen's Hospital, Ripon (Reg. Bowet fo.53; Memorials of Ripon, ii, p.145). Exchange reversed 10 June, 1415 (ibid).

Master of the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, Ripon (1408 - 1415, 1415 - after 1423) (Reg. Bowet fo.53; le Neve, Bath and Wells, p.50; Memorials of Ripon, ii, p.145).

C. of Wells and p. of Henstridge (? - 1408) (le Neve, loc. cit).

Skirwith may well have had some family connection with the Bowets. The village of Skirwith is only about six miles from Penrith, where Archbishop Bowet's father is buried. Moreover, Skirwith had collation of his prebend in Wells when Henry Bowet was bishop, and it is most unlikely that he had any other connection with the Church in the West Country.

The reason for the almost immediate reversal of the exchange is not obvious, but it may be suggested in the terms of Bowet's will (1423). There it is stated that the fruits of Skirwith's benefices, valued at £120.6.8d, had been in the hands of the archbishop for the past eight years, i.e. from 1415, the year of the Beverley transaction. Whether this was a cause or a consequence is uncertain, but it seems likely that the two actions were connected.

BOWET, Robert (Richard) (see note 6 - previous page) P. of St. Peter's Altar, 10 June, 1415, when mandate to induct was issued (Reg. Bowet, fo.53d). Vac. on death before 20 February, 1430 (Reg. Kemp, fo.8).

Illegitimate nephew of Archbishop Henry Bowet.


1. The Bowets were a knightly family which moved from Westmorland to Lincolnshire. (see T.F. Tout on Archbishop Henry Bowet in D.N.B.).

2. Test. Ebor., iii, p.82. Skirwith must therefore have held at least one benefice in addition to those stated.

B.Ch.L. and B.C.L. by January, 1418/19 (Emden, loc.cit).

1430 - 1451

FELTER, William. P. of St. Peter's Altar, coll. 20 February, 1429/30 (Reg. Kemp, fo. 8d) estate ratified 24 May, 1430 (C.P.R., 1429 - 36, p.36). Vac. on resignation by 28 January, 1450/51, when his successor had collation (Reg. Kemp, fo.71).


Archdeacon of York (1435 - 36), Dean of York (1436 - 51), C. of York and p. of Apesthorpe (1441 - 51), of Driffield (1451) (le Neve, pp. 8, 18, 30, 45); Rector of Almondbury, W.Riding (1430 - 51) (Test.Ebor, iii, pp. 115 - 117).

Felter's other preferments, listed in Dr. Emden's biographical notice of him, were largely concentrated in the West Country, the best of them being acquired whilst in the service of Bubwith. In the two years following the latter's death the fact that he received preferment in Kent suggests that his activities had shifted to the diocese of Canterbury. However, in 1426 Felter came north as chancellor to the recently elected archbishop John Kemp. Though there is little evidence of Felter's earlier connections with Kemp in his previous dioceses of Rochester, Chichester and London, it is significant that both men were contemporaries at Merton College, Oxford, in the first decade of the century. Both were fellows in 1406 - 7, and Felter must have been a student for much of the time since 1395 when Kemp gained his fellowship.

Felter resigned his Beverley prebend over two months before his death, which occurred on 10 April, 1451. This was

1. He was c. of Wells and p. of Wedmore Secunda from 1323, exchanging this prebend for that of Whitelackington later in the year (le Neve, Bath and Wells, pp. 70, 76; Emden, Oxford, ii, pp. 675, 676).
2. He was admitted to the rectory of Frittenden, dio. Canterbury, on 16 May, 1425 (Emden, Oxford, loc.cit).
3. Professor Hamilton Thompson believed that he had been introduced to the diocese by Bowet who was translated from Bath and Wells in 1407, but this certainly cannot have been the case (A.Hamilton Thompson, English Clergy, p.89).
5. Miscellanea, ii, p.295, is therefore wrong in stating that he vacated the prebend only on death.
probably in order to facilitate the smooth succession of his friend and colleague in the service of Kemp, John Latham, the archbishop's Secretary. He remembered St. Peter's Altar in a pious will, dated 6 April, 1451, and proved on the day of his death (Test. Ebor, iii, pp. 115-117). He was buried in the choir of York Minster where a chantry was founded in his memory at the Altar of the Cross, St. Anne and St. Anthony (F. Drake, Eboracum, p. 514; C.P.R., 1452-61, pp. 200-201; Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, i, pp. 16, 40 and n.).

M.A. (Oxford); D.Ch.C. by January, 1422 (Emden, loc.cit).

1451 - 1476

LATHUM, John. P. of St. Peter's Altar, coll. 28 January, 1450/51 (Reg. Kemp, fo. 71; Test. Ebor, iii, p. 173a). Vac. on death by 8 August, 1476, when his will was proved (Test. Ebor, iii, p. 178).


C. of Southwell and p. of Norwell Palishall (1442-51); Rector of Kneeshall, Notts. (1435-41), of Thorner, nr. Leeds (1443-?), of Betham (1446/7), of a moiety of Treswell, Notts. (1448-?); Dean of the Royal Free Chapel in Pontefract Castle in 1445; Master of Holy Trinity Alms Houses and College, Pontefract (1448-51) (Emden, Cambridge, loc.cit).

His earlier preferments were mainly in the diocese of Durham where he was Vicar of St. Oswald's, Durham (1435-45), Rector of Gateshead (1435-36), and Master of Greatham Hospital (1441-47) (Fasti Dunelm, p. 77)1.

In his will dated August, 1476, he remembered with special generosity the small nunnery of Appleton Roebuck, nr. York, and its prioress, Joan Ryther, who was possibly a relative (Test. Ebor, iii, pp. 174-175). Latham himself was a beneficiary by the will of William Felter, dean of York, and his predecessor at Beverley2. His name links him with the ancient family of Latham in Lancashire and Cheshire.

B.Ch.L. and B.C.L. of Cambridge by 1535 (Emden, Cambridge, loc.cit).

1. It is possible that he also possessed for a time the rectory of Alford, Cheshire, dio. Coventry and Lichfield, but this benefice may have belonged to another John Latham who existed at the same time, and is known to have had connections with that diocese.

POTMAN or POTEMAN, William. P. of St. Peter's Altar, coll. c. August, 1476. Vac. on death between 8 February, 1492/3, when he made his will, and 27 March, when his successors in both the prebend and the provostry were appointed.¹ (Test. Ebor, iv, pp. 78, 119n; B.C.A., ii, p.xciii; C.P.L., xii, p.703).


PROVOST OF BEVERLEY (30 March, 1466/7 - c.March, 1492/3) (B.C.A., loc.cit. see above p.A.26); C. of York and p. of Weighton (1467 - 70), of Barnby (1470 - 75), of Strensall (1475 - 93); Archdeacon of Cleveland (1470 - 85), of the East Riding (1485 - 93)² (le Neve, pp. 21, 23, 32, 81, 89); C. of Ripon and p. of Nunwick (1478 - 93) (Memorials of Ripon, ii, pp. 196 - 197; iii, pp. 166, 256, 261); C. of Hemingbrough and p. of 2nd Prebend (1466 - 7, 1476 - 93); Rector of Settrington, nr. Malton (1466 - 70); Master of St. Mary Magdalen's Hospital, Ripon (1479 - 85).

For details of Potman's benefices outside the York diocese see Dr. Emden's biographical notice of him (Oxford, iii, pp. 1506 - 7). He had relinquished all of these long before his death, most of them, including prebends in St. Paul's, London, and Lincoln, before or shortly after his appearance in the Northern Province.

A lawyer of distinction, Potman's career is an excellent example of the influence of university connections on the progress of many leading ecclesiastics in the fifteenth century. His position at All Souls' brought him the college livings of Standlake, dio. Lincoln³, Emley, dio. Canterbury⁴, and Tring, dio. Lincoln.⁵ Whilst warden of All Souls' he served as official of Richard Andrew, the first holder of that office, who was then, among other things, archdeacon of Buckingham. Andrew, who was also dean of York from

1. His successor in the archdeaconry of the East Riding was appointed on the same day (le Neve, Northern Province, p.23).
2. He was never archdeacon of Richmond as stated by Leach (B.C.A., ii, p.xciii).
3. 1457 - 66.
4. 1460 - 65.
5. from 1467.
1452 until 1477, may have been partially responsible for bringing Potman North in 1464/5. His rapid and extremely lucrative promotion in the York diocese, however, was obviously the work of George Neville, and following closely on the latter's translation from Exeter to York in 1465. Neville was chancellor of Oxford when Potman was at the height of his university career, and this is almost certainly the background to the confidence which the new archbishop placed in him throughout his primacy.

His will suggests that he was a residentiary of Beverley, as well as of York. In it he left £10 for the customary cope, and a further £5 for the fabric. Richard Brindholme, prebendary of St. Katherine's Altar, and John Sharprow, the Sacrist of Beverley, were his executors (Test. Ebor., iv, pp. 76–81; B.C.A., ii, p.xciii).


C. of York and p. of Fridaythorpe (1483–85), Treasurer (1485–94), Dean (1494–96), p. of Tockerington (1494–96) (Le Neve, pp. 8, 14, 51, 84); Warden of St. Mary's Hospital, Bootham, York (1486–96).

At the time of his death Sheffield also possessed the archdeaconry of Stow, dio. Lincoln, and the rectory of Chesterford Magna, dio. London (Test. Ebor., iv, pp. 118–20).

1. Neville was chancellor of Oxford University 1453–57; 1457; 1461; 1463–72 (Emden, Oxford, loc.cit).
4. In succession to William Potman.
5. Associated then with Robert Booth and William Potman.
6. He was also c. of Lincoln and p. of Marston St. Lawrence (1463–77), of Caistor (1477), before becoming archdeacon (Le Neve, Lincoln, pp. 19, 49n, 88).
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The head of an ancient Lincolnshire family, he was the son of Sir Robert Sheffield, kt. Much of his early preferment had been in the Lincoln diocese, from whence he was introduced to York by Archbishop Rotherham, following the latter's translation in 1480. In 1487, and again in 1491, he was an envoy to seek a truce with Scotland (Test. Ebor, iv, p. 119n).


Natural son of Cardinal Wolsey.


Elsewhere he was:

C. of Lincoln and p. of Melton (1522-29) (le Neve, p. 92); C. of Salisbury and p. of Bedwyn (1522-29), Chancellor (?-1530) (le Neve, pp. 18, 30); C. of Wells and p. of Litton² (1526), Dean (1525-29) (le Neve, pp. 6, 56); Archdeacon of Norfolk (?-1530), of Suffolk (1526-?) (le Neve, Monastic Cathedrals, pp. 30, 34); Archdeacon of Cornwall (1537-43) (le Neve, Exeter, p. 17); Rector St. Matthew's, Ipswich, in 1526.

Although still in his mid-teens, when he had collation of St. Peter's, the value of his preferments was already in excess of £2,000, a figure which rose to £2,700 in the few years following. Though educated at Paris and in Italy his academic attainments are unknown. His later years are equally obscure, for he disappears from view on resigning

¹ Possibly he had collation of St. Peter's in 1522, the year in which he received his prebends in York, Southwell and Lincoln. It may also be that he resigned the prebend in 1528, when he relinquished those in York and Lincoln, in expectation (it has been alleged) of the see of Durham, which was never realised.

² His possession of this prebend is uncertain.
his two remaining major preferments, the Provostry of Beverley and the Archdeaconry of Cornwall, in May–June, 1543.¹

before 1535–1541


Receiver General and Temporal Chancellor of Cuthbert Tunstall, bishop of Durham.


Dean of Auckland (Fasti Dunelm, p.125).

One of the Strangeways of Whorlton in Teesdale, Osmotherley and Mount Grace, he was a kinsman of Sir James Strangeways, kt. a prominent figure in the North Riding in the first half of the century.³

B.Cn.L. and B.C.L.

1541–? 1545

BLENNERHASSET, Thomas. P. of St. Peter's Altar, coll. 9 May, 1541 (Dade, p.8). Vac. probably on death before 5 February, 1544/5 (le Neve, Coventry and Lichfield, p.8).

Precentor of Lichfield (1538–45) (le Neve, Coventry and Lichfield, p.8).

A member of the noted Norfolk family, which still flourishes, and which rose to prominence in the service of the dukes of Norfolk in the sixteenth century. Many of his kinsmen have their memorials in the church at Frenze in Norfolk.

M.A.


² He probably succeeded Thomas Winter c.1528–9.

BABTHORPE, Robert. P. of St. Peter's Altar, probably had coll. following the death of Thomas Blennerhasset c. 5 February 1544/5, though there is no record to certify this. He had surrendered the prebend into the hand of Sir Michael Stanhope by mid-1548.¹

Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge in 1524 (Venn, Alumni Cantabrigienes, i, p.63).

C. of York and p. of Givendale (1544-48), Subdean (1548-70); Rector of Kirk Deighton (1537-70).²

Son of William Babthorpe of Babthorpe.³


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¹ C.P.R., 1547-48, p.170.

² In the Chantry Certificate Robert Babthorpe, doctor of dyvynytie, is described as 'beyng of th'age of xlix yeres, having over and besides the said prebende (of St. Peter's) other lyvinges to the value of xxii li. (Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, ii, p.525).

The fact that he was at hand to give details of his other income suggests that he kept a degree of residence. He had obviously not at this time received the sub-deanery, which was worth much more than £22. He was a residentiary of York in 1552 (York Cathedral Statutes, p.70).

³ He features in the will of his kinswoman, Isabel Craike of Bishop Burton, nr. Beverley (Test.Ebor, vi, p.272).
PREBENDARIES OF ST. STEPHEN'S ALTAR
PREBENDARIES OF ST. STEPHEN'S ALTAR


C. of York and p. of Grindal (?-1279), of Knaresborough (1280), of Husthwaite (1280-90); Archdeacon of the East Riding (by 1262/3-1279); Dean of York (1279-90)\(^3\) (Reg. Wickwane, pp. 1, 2, 5, 258; Reg. Romeyn, i, p.385; B.C.A., ii, pp. 160-1); Rector of Adlingfleet\(^4\) (1269-90) (Reg. Giffard, p.30; Reg. Romeyn, i, p.385), of Foston-on-the Wolds (before 1286-?) (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.197).


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1. He had long been a prominent figure in the York diocese when he first appeared in extant records as a canon of Beverley in 1279. Indeed it was in this year that he was elected dean of York. The evidence of his other preferments suggests the primacy of Godfrey de Ludham (1258-65) as the most likely period for his admission to the Beverley Chapter. Scarborough was a co-executor of Ludham's will, and it was at his hands that he received the archdeaconry of the East Riding. He prospered no less, however, under Walter Giffard, to whom, as a chancery clerk, he must have been well known, for Giffard was a former Chancellor. Incidentally, another former Chancellor of England, John Chishull (app.1263), was provost of Beverley from 1269 till 1274.

2. The identity of Scarborough's prebend is made certain by the knowledge that it was offered to Henry de Carlton who appears as p. of St. Stephen's altar throughout the great part of the period covered by the Chapter Act Book (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.381).

3. Scarborough was never Chancellor of York as stated by Mr. William Brown (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p. xix).

4. South of the Humber Estuary close to its confluence with the Trent.
He was one of the Oughtreds of Scarborough, who had marriage ties with the Brus family of Pickering, to which William and Robert de Pickering belonged. Normally an absentee, his frequent appearance in the York registers, and his local origins, conceal the fact that much of his career was pursued in London or overseas.¹ His personal fortune must have been considerable, for, in 1381, he lent 300 marks to Archbishop Wickwane, and 1000 marks to le Romeyn at the time of his enthronement in 1291 (Reg. Wickwane, p.319; Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.153).

For a full account of his bitter quarrel with Archbishop le Romeyn see Reg. Romeyn, ii, pp. xix - xxii. He was dead by 10 March, 1290/1 (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.109).

M.A. (university uncertain) by 1262.

CARLTON, Henry de. P. of St. Stephen's Altar, coll. c. 8 May, 1290, when Robert de Scarborough finally resigned the prebend. His first definite appearance as a prebendary was on 20 June, 1290, when he was present in chapter to witness Archbishop le Romeyn's Ordinance on Residence (B.C.A., ii, pp. 160-161). On 3 January previous, however, Romeyn, apparently anticipating Scarborough's resignation, commissioned Mr. Robert de Pickering 'to offer to Master Henry de Carlton the prebend in the church of Beverley which had belonged to Master R. de Scarborough', "et predicto magistro H. juxta vires provisionis sue auctoritate apostolica in eadem debitam".³ (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.381).

1. He visited the curia in 1282/3 and later Ireland in the royal service (C.C.R. 1279-88, p.235; C.P.R., 1281-92, pp. 24, 290). As dean of York, he received letters dimissory to be ordained priest from Archbishop Wickwane in 1279/80 (Reg. Wickwane, p.90). Absenteeism was given as the reason for his deprivation and excommunication by Romeyn (B.C.A., ii, pp. 149, 153-4).

2. On 26 September, 1287, Archbishop le Romeyn issued a mandate to the chapter to induct Boniface de Augusta to the prebend made vacant by Robert de Scarborough's deprivation, Boniface having been presented by the king under apostolic letters (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.369; B.C.A., ii, p.154). It is most unlikely that he ever gained corporal possession of the prebend (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.58), for the vacancy was not recognised by all parties, quite apart from Scarborough himself, until 1290 when Carlton had collation. By this time Boniface had been admitted to the richer prebend of St. Martin's Altar. (See above, pp.A.90 - 91).

3. The less attractive aspect of Romeyn's character is revealed throughout his quarrel with Scarborough, whom he prosecuted with a vigour as vindictive as it was relentless. His anticipation of the final settlement may well have been necessary under the circumstances, and there is no reason to doubt that it was prompted by a wish to appoint a prebendary who would keep satisfactory residence. Yet in this and in other similar dealings it is difficult to escape the conclusion that Romeyn did not stop short at underhand dealing in order to get his way.
Vac. on death before 23 October, 1325 (Reg. Melton, fo.85).

So far as is known he held no other preferments in the diocese or elsewhere. A Mr. Henry de Carlton was rector of Costock, between Nottingham and Loughborough, from 1268 till 1280, but it would be rash to assume that this was the same man (Reg. Giffard, p.85; Reg. Wickwane, pp. 69, 70). An uneventful and undistinguished life is suggested by the records of the Act Book. Apart from a few short absences, mostly occasioned by visits to Carlton, he seems to have been in almost continuous residence at Beverley throughout his 35 years as a prebendary (B.C.A., i, pp. 154, 263, 368; ii, pp. 173, 174). His place of origin was probably Carlton between Selby and Goole, though Carlton-in-Lindrick is also a possibility. He was an M.A. in 1290, but his identification with the rector of Costock would mean that he lived for at least fifty-seven years after graduation.

1328/9 - 1361

OTTRINGHAM, Richard de. P. of St. Stephen's Altar, coll. 15 March 1328/9 (C.P.R., 1354–56, p.178). Vac. on exchange with Richard de Thorne for the prebend of Pipa Parva in Lichfield, 4 April, 1361 (le Neve, Coventry and Lichfield, p.50).

Probably a household clerk of Archbishop William Melton, having previously been his vicar choral in Beverley Minster (B.C.A., i, p.361; ii, p.106; Memorials of Ripon, ii, p.111).

Vicar choral of the prebendary of St. Michael's Altar in Beverley (14 October, 1310 - 6 July, 1318) (B.C.A., i, pp. 267, 361); Rector of Kneeton, Notts. (1318 - ?) (ibid, p.361), of Kirkby Overblow, nr. Wetherby (1323 - 47) (Reg. Melton, fo.100); P. of St. Mary and the Holy Angels, York (1322 - ?) (Y.A.J., xxxvi, p.218); Warden of St. Mary Magdalen's Hospital, Southwell (1362)² (le Neve, Coventry and Lichfield, p.50).

C. of Lichfield and p. of Pipa Parva (1361–62 (le Neve, loc.cit).

¹ For a consideration of the angry disputes which surrounded Ottringham's appointment and his long tenure of the prebend see the special note, below, pp. A.177 – 181.

² It is extremely doubtful whether Ottringham ever took possession of the warden-ship. In the spring of 1362 he is recorded as having exchanged his prebend in Lichfield for it with Henry de Barton (le Neve, Coventry and Lichfield, loc.cit). Yet although Barton took possession of the prebend he appears to have retained the hospital, for on 20 November, 1363, he exchanged it for the prebend of Welton Brinkhall in Lincoln with Roger de Nassington, who had recently relinquished the prebend of St. Martin's Altar in Beverley (see above p.A.99, and le Neve, Lincoln, p.123).
If our prebendary is to be identified as the Richard de Ottringham who founded a chantry at Ottringham in 1293, as Mr. Leach suggests (B.C.A., ii, pp. xxxiii-xxxiv) then he died a very old man. This would be just possible if the founder were of tender years at the time, but this does not appear to have been the case. The latter is much more likely to have been Mr. Richard de Ottringham who was rector of Shelford, dio. Ely, in 1294, and Official and keeper of the spirituality of Ely in 1298 and 1310 (Emden, Cambridge, p. 437). There are good grounds for believing, however, that he was the Richard de Ottringham who was admitted to the vicarage of St. Michael's Altar on 14 October, 1310, on the appointment of William de Melton, the future archbishop, who then held that prebend (B.C.A., i, p. 267). This would make him the only vicar choral of Beverley who is known to have graduated to a prebendal stall in that church. That he was able to do so was almost certainly due to the personal interest of his illustrious patron in his progress. Evidence of this is not lacking. On 6 July, 1318, shortly after Melton's consecration, the chapter was ordered to admit a more humble William de Melton to the vicarage of St. Michael's Altar, "vacant by the promotion of our beloved clerk Sir Richard de Ottringham to the church of Kneeton in our diocese" (ibid, p. 361). This and other references of a later date (see above), suggest that the newly consecrated archbishop had taken him into his household. Four years later, on Melton's collation, he received a prebend in the Chapel of St. Mary and the Holy Angels, York, and in 1329, as prebendary of St. Stephen's Altar, he was one of the very few members of the Beverley Chapter nominated by the archbishop personally, nearly all other vacancies occurring during his long primacy being filled by papal provision.

Ottringham's first appearance in the Chapter Act Book as a prebendary does not occur until 6 November, 1330, and though he would seem to have kept at least statutory residence in the years which followed he probably remained in the archbishop's service. In June, 1334, Melton requested the chapter to excuse Ottringham's absence from Beverley and to allow him his corrody as if he had been present (B.C.A., ii, p. 106). This was granted, as it had been to John de Nassington, Archbishop Greenfield's official, in 13061 (B.C.A., i, p. 136).

1. Such a concession was not lightly granted by the chapter, and the fact that it was made in this instance gives almost conclusive support to the belief that Ottringham was a member of the episcopal household. As Greenfield pointed out when making his request on behalf of Nassington 'Cum per sedem apostolicam favorabiler sit statutum, quod ecclesiarum collegiatarum Canonicorum, episcopi sui obsequis insistentes suarum fructus integre percipere debeant praebendarum, nec quod de communitatis sibi debitum beneficiuo quicquam eis subtrahi debeat, vel auferri, quia absentes eos duci non convenit set praeentes, qui in sui praelati et ecclesiae servitio commorantur ..........
(loc.cit).
Only in its references to the difficulty which Ottringham experienced in gathering his thraves does the Act Book give a hint of the angry disputes which beset him for much of his 32 years tenure of the prebend (B.C.A., ii, pp. 129, 132).

Ottringham derived his name from a village not far from Patrington, some 20 miles distant from Beverley. He may have been a member of the family which had built up a considerable estate there, as Mr. Leach implies (ibid, p. xxxiv). Throughout the middle ages it was the centre of a manor of the Provostry, and Richard may well have had an intimate connection with the Minster, and perhaps its Grammar School, from early childhood.

Whether he was the Richard de Ottringham whom the Minster sent to Ripon for ordination as an acolyte in September, 1309, is uncertain (B.C.A., i, p.253). Since he became a vicar of the Minster in the following year this seems unlikely, but, providing he was of canonical age, it was possible for a man to proceed from acolyte to priest's orders within a year.¹

**NOTE ON THE DISPUTED TENURE OF ST. STEPHEN'S PREBEND BY RICHARD DE OTTRINGHAM 1329 - 1363**

Disputed admissions to prebends, and the endless litigation attendant upon them, were commonplace at Beverley in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. St. Stephen's prebend was, throughout the fourteenth century at least, a special source of contention. Earlier it had been the possession of the unfortunate Robert de Scarborough, and during the century which followed his formal resignation in 1290 only his immediate successor, Henry de Carlton, was permitted to enjoy it in peace and security.

Never was it more fiercely contested than in the years following his death in 1325. An account of the angry controversy which surrounded his successor is attempted here as illustrating the kind of dispute which so often marked the change of tenure of a wealthy prebend.

¹ Normally a year had to elapse before a clerk could proceed to a higher Order. In practice, however, it was possible to shorten this period considerably. For instance, Andrew Grimston and others were made deacon two months earlier than normal, i.e. in March, 1320, and were ordained priests on 29 September in the same year (B.C.A., i, pp. 372, 378). Thomas de Beningholme was ordained subdeacon on 4 June, 1327, deacon on 16 March, 1327/8, and priest on 21 September, 1328 (B.C.A., ii, pp. 78, 82, 85). In both cases the time was shortened by special licence of Denis Avenel, presumably acting in his capacity of Archdeacon of the East Riding.
In the present case the successful candidate was Richard de Ottringham whose career is outlined above, but his fortune involved him in at least two major disputes, both of which are implied in the following document:

'20 February, 1355. Notification that the king, wishing to be certified on what day and in what year the prebend of St. Stephen's Altar in the church of Beverley was collated to Richard Ottringham, lately commanded John, archbishop of York to certify him thereon, and he has signified in the chancery that, on search of the register of William de Melton, late archbishop of York, it is found that in 1329 on 15 March the prebend was collated by the archbishop to the said Richard, and that on 17 March on the mandate of the same the said Richard was admitted to the same prebend by the chapter, and that he has held the same ever since' (C.P.R., 1354-58, p.178).

At the same time the king (Edward III) required to know the date of the death of William de Melton the archbishop, and was informed in the same notification that he died on 5 April,¹ this being certified from the account roll of Antony de Lucy, 'late guardian of the temporalities'.

Ottringham was thus one of only two prebendaries of Beverley who are known to have been nominated by Melton personally (the other was William de Abberwick, prebendary of St. Katherine's Altar). They probably owed their appointment to a papal faculty granted to Melton in January, 1327/8, permitting him to collate to an unspecified number of prebends in York, Southwell, Beverley, Ripon and Howden (C.P.L., ii, p.268). All other vacancies in the Beverley chapter occurring in this archbishop's long primacy were filled by direct papal provision.

The investigation of 1355 represented a stage in the second dispute which centred around conflicting claims to patronage of the prebend, but clearly Ottringham's possession of it was then being attacked on grounds arising from the prolonged struggle which followed his appointment 26 years earlier.

¹ As a matter of interest Melton's obit was observed on 4 April - the date given in the Handbook of Chronology (p.178). On 6 April, however, the dean and chapter of York sent William de la Mare and two others to the king to tell him that the archbishop had died on the 5th, and to ask leave to choose a successor (W.H. Dixon, Fasti Eboracenses, p.435, note p).
In this earlier dispute the root of the confusion lay in the indiscriminate grants of expectative graces by the papacy, in particular by John XXII, who is known to have made at least seven such provisions in his first two years alone.¹ When Henry de Carlton died in 1325 all the recipients of these were eagerly awaiting the next vacant prebend. They had already been twice disappointed, and doubtless persistence had grown with impatience. When Roger de Northburgh had been promoted to the see of Coventry and Lichfield in 1322 all seven had contested his prebend of St. Andrew's Altar, but this had finally gone to an eighth provisor, Benedict de Paston.² A few years later several of them were in the field for the less valuable prebend of St. Katherine's Altar, but here William de Abberwick, the precentor of York, Melton's nominee, was successful (B.C.A., ii, p.74). If we recall that in September, 1321, the Nassington-Northburgh factions had contrived to keep the plum prebend of St. Martin's Altar from their grasp by arranging for the succession before John de Nassington's resignation we may well imagine the frustrations of these holders of expectative graces in 1325 (ibid, i, pp. 393-4). It was certainly not to be expected that the more persistent of them would allow the substantial St. Stephen's prebend to escape them without a struggle.

The dispute obviously began immediately after Henry de Carlton's death, but we know little of its earlier stages, and are left to assume that it accounted for the delay in the collation of the prebend to Ottringham. John de Crosby, for whom the earl of Pembroke had obtained an expectative grace from John XXII in 1317 (C.P.L., ii, p.144) appears to have been initially successful, but he was supplanted by a veteran provisor, Robert de Riston, rector of Market Rasen, who had also been promoted by Pembroke (ibid, p.146). When, in the course of the contest, John de Crosby died, a protege of Queen Isabella, Thomas de Boynton, rector of St. Mary's Gateshead, was provided to the prebend, Riston's claim being pronounced groundless (ibid, p.360).

This was in the autumn of 1331, more than two years after the prebend had been collated to Ottringham, whose existence would seem to have been temporarily ignored at the papal court. Nevertheless it was he who was in corporal possession, and recognised as lawful prebendary at Beverley, for he is recorded in the Chapter Act Book as being present in chapter

¹ See C.P.L., ii, passim. Most of the provisors involved are listed, however, in B.C.A., i, pp. 399-400; ii, p.14.


³ Queen Isabella had also given support to a second provisor in the person of James de Berkhampstead (B.C.A., i, p.400; ii, pp. 14, 74).
for the convocations of 6 November, 1330, 26 June, 1331, and 20 October, 1333 (B.C.A., ii, pp. 91 - 92, 97, 101). On the first of these occasions he spoke in a somewhat indelicate manner for the junior canon, but nevertheless on behalf of the rest of the chapter, on the matter of the constitutional position of the prebendary of St. Katherine's Altar, the so called '8th canon' (ibid, p.94).

He was not undisturbed by his rivals, however, for in the month following this incident he complained to the king that he had been besieged in his prebendal house by a number of local men, some of them burgesses of Beverley, who, in addition to assaulting his servants, demanded 253 marks as the price of raising the siege (C.P.R., 1330 - 34, p.61).

As was usually the case in such contests actual possession proved to be nine-tenths of the law, especially if the occupant had the backing of his bishop. Although Melton and other fourteenth century archbishops were usually sorely restricted by papal powers of provision in the exercise of their episcopal right of collation, their support of a prebendary, once he had gained possession, made his position well nigh invincible. So it was in the case of Richard de Ottringham. A papal judgment in favour of Thomas de Boynton availed him little, and the statement in the findings of 1355 that Ottringham had retained the prebend ever since is borne out by references in the Chapter Act Book which record him collecting debts for non-payment of thraves in 1339 (B.C.A., ii, p.132).

It is impossible to say whether Ottringham's difficulties in this last matter had anything to do with continued questioning of the legality of his estate in the prebend. What is certain is that much later his tenacity was put to an even sterner test. This time the attack came from another quarter.

The first notice of the second major controversy comes with the royal grant of the prebend of St. Stephen's Altar to Michael de Northburgh

1. NORTHBURGH, Michael de. Received royal grant of the prebend of St. Stephen's Altar, 30 May, 1353, it being in the king's gift by reason of the late voidance of the archbishoprick (C.P.R., 1350 - 54, p.443).


C. of York and p. of Dunnington (1350 - 53), of Strensall (1353 - 55) (le Neve, pp. 46, 80); C. of Ripon and p. of Monkton (1352/3 - 55) (Memorials of Ripon, ii, pp. 226 - 7; C.P.R., 1350 - 54, p.383); Dean of the royal free chapel in Pontefract Castle till 1339.

His uncle, Roger de Northburgh, assured his early promotion in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, first in the collegiate church of St. John, Chester, the deanery of which he resigned in 1329, and later in Lichfield where he held in succession no less than seven prebends and the precentorship between 1330 and 1354. The same nepotism brought him the deanery of St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, in 1339, and the archdeaconry of Chester in the following year. Royal favour, however, was responsible for equally lucrative preferment elsewhere, so that in addition to his prebends in York, Beverley, Ripon and
on 30 May, 1353, it being allegedly 'in the king's gift by reason of the
late voidance of the archbishopric' (C.P.R., 1350-54, p.443). Northburgh
was at this time keeper of the Privy Seal, and enjoyed the favour which
had in past years been shown to his uncle, Roger, bishop of Coventry and
Lichfield (1322-59). A noted pluralist, he was also engaged in a similar
quarrel over the prebend of Netherbury in Salisbury (le Neve, Salisbury,
p.73).

The vacancy of the see to which the notice of his royal grant refers
was presumably the one which followed the death of William de la Zouch
in July, 1352, but, since the enquiry of 1355 suggests that Ottringham's
original title provided the king's claim to the patronage of the prebend,
the long interregnum which followed Melton's death in 1340 may have been
also in mind.

The dispute did not end with the consecration of Northburgh as
bishop of London in 1355, for his claim was taken up by another king's
clerk, of lesser stature, Richard de Thorne. It was on the latter's
behalf that Edward III instituted the enquiry of this year. Thorne
received a royal grant of the prebend on 12 May, 1354, five days after
Northburgh's provision to London. Archbishop Thoresby rendered his
findings to the king some eighteen months later.²

The obvious inference of the notification is that the royal claim
rested, at least in part, on the belief that Ottringham had in fact
acquired the prebend after Melton's death, and could not therefore
claim valid collation. The nearness of the relevant dates (i.e. days

(Continuation of n.1 from previous page)

Lichfield, he relinquished at the time of his consecration others in St.
Paul's, London, Hereford, Chichester and Lanchester, dio. Durham, as well
as the deanship of St. Stephen's, Westminster. He died of the Black Death
on 9 September, 1361. M.A. (Oxford) by 1329; D.C.L. by 1336. For details
of these, and of benefices which he relinquished earlier in his career see the
biographical notices in Memorials of Ripon, ii, p.226-7, and Emden, Oxford,
ii, pp. 1368-70.

². We hear little of the activities of papal provisors regarding St. Stephen's
prebend at this later stage. These years saw a fresh flood of expectative
of graces for Beverley prebends: two were awarded in May, 1352 (C.P.L., iii,
p. 425, 436), and no less than five in 1353 (ibid, pp. 478, 479, 497, 498, 500).
The appearance of one such provisor strikes an ominous note: this was Elias
de Peligrini (an Italian, and near kinsman of Hugh de Pelegrini, the papal
collector in England 1349-1368) whom Northburgh was seeking to oust from
his prebend in Salisbury (le Neve, Salisbury, p.73). We may suppose that he
took more than a passing interest in his rival's fortunes at Beverley.
and months) supports the view that there were grounds for doubts: Ottringham, it was said, had collation of the prebend on 15 March, and was admitted on 17 March (1329), whereas Melton died on 5 April (no year given). The difficulty is that this supposes an extraordinary mistake on the part of the enquirers concerning the year of the archbishop's death, for he did not, of course, die in 1328/9, but 1339/40. It is equally curious that Thoresby, a kinsman and former servant of Melton, did not point this out, but merely omitted the year altogether. If a not uncommon misreading of the medieval dating has somewhere occurred, taking 1329/30 as 1328/9, then Melton's death has been brought forward exactly ten years. Melton, great man that he was, had only been dead fifteen years, and such a mistake is as inconceivable as the claim would appear ingenuous, so perhaps it is more likely that enquirers had put the date of Ottringham's appointment back by a decade. If this were not the case the whole point of the enquiry ceases to be obvious.

Whatever their purpose Thoresby's answers appear to have made little difference to the controversy, which continued unabated. Thoresby himself supported Ottringham, his predecessor's nominee, and, as might have been expected vigorously opposed a royal claim to supplant him two years after his translation to York. By means not obvious Ottringham obtained royal ratification of his estate in St. Stephen's prebend in 1356 (C.P.R., 1354-58, p.416). This can have meant nothing at all for on 15 February, 1357/8, the king appointed a commission 'to arrest and bring before the council all persons prosecuting appeals in derogation of the judgment of the court of Common Bench whereby the king recovered his presentation to the prebend of St. Stephen's Altar in the Church of Beverley against John, archbishop of York, by reason of the temporalities of the archbishoprick being lately in the king's hands (C.P.R., 1358-61, p.68). This was followed five days later by a re-grant of the prebend to Richard de Thorne (ibid, p.16). Ottringham, however, persisted, and in 1358 obtained a further ratification of his estate in the prebend (C.P.R., 1358-61, p.16).

It was not until 4 April, 1361, that the dispute was finally resolved. Then, litigation having failed, and the king's backing having availed nothing, Thorne obtained the prebend by an exchange with Ottringham for the prebend of Pipa Parva in Lichfield (le Neve, Coventry and Lichfield, p.50).
1361 - 1391

THORNE, Richard de. P. of St. Stephen's Altar, coll. following an exchange with Richard de Ottringham for the prebend of Pipa Parva in Lichfield, c. 4 April, 1361 (le Neve, Coventry and Lichfield, p.50). He had previously received a royal grant of the prebend on 12 May, 1354, and a regrant of the same, 30 February, 1357/8, but had failed to secure possession (C.P.R., 1354-58, p.75; 1358-61, p.16, and see above p.A.181). Vac. on death between 28 July and 30 November, 1391, when his successor was granted the prebend1 (B.C.A., ii, p.266; C.P.R., 1388-92, p.511).

King's clerk in 1354 (C.P.R., 1354-58, p.75). Described also as a papal chaplain (C.P.L., v, pp. 266-7).

C. of York and p. of Holme Archiepiscopi (1360-91) (le Neve, p.56; Fabric Rolls of York Minster, pp. 123, 126); Warden of Bawtry Hospital, nr. Doncaster (1366-?) (C.P.R., 1364-67, p.329).

C. of Lichfield and p. of Pipa Parva (1360-61) (le Neve, p.50); C. of Chichester and p. of Wisborough2 (by 1363-66) (le Neve, p.50); Rector of Barton-le-Clay, dio. Lincoln3 (?-1360) (le Neve, Northern Province, p.56). Thorne and Nicholas de Louth4 were the only canons, apart from Richard de Chesterfield5 (who arrived later), to appear at Archbishop Alexander Neville's visitation of 1381. The visitation began on 26 March, and the canons came before the Archbishop on 3 April, purging their earlier contempt and acknowledging his right to visit (B.C.A., ii, pp. 230-33, 237). His submission was probably expedient, because, as in the case of Chesterfield and Louth, his richest preferment in 1381 lay in the York diocese, and within the grasp of the archbishop. Nevertheless he had to confess to an unsatisfactory record of residence (ibid, p.248).

On 28th July, 1391, he was first in order of the canons assenting to Archbishop Arundel's Statutes for the Minster, confirming the belief that, as the longest-standing prebendary, he was by then president of the Chapter (ibid, pp.265-66). Thorne, from which he derived his name, is halfway between Doncaster and Goole.

1. That he died at this time is made almost certain by the fact that his successor in the prebend of Holme in York had collation on 25 November, 1391 (le Neve, Northern Province, p.56).

2. His exchange of this prebend with Saladin de Fallecis for the prebend of Hurstbourne and Burbage in Salisbury in 1363, was revoked (le Neve, Salisbury, p.63; Chichester, p.50).

3. In 1360 he exchanged the church of Barton for his prebend in York (le Neve, Northern Province, p.56).


1. With the death of Richard de Thorne St. Stephen's prebend once again became a centre of dispute. Middleton's rival was a man of local origin, Nicholas de Riston or Risshton, described in 1399 as a papal chaplain and auditor, and doubtless a kinsman of Robert de Riston who had litigated for the prebend almost half a century earlier (see above p.A. 179).

The present quarrel, however, seems to have had little to do with earlier contests, for both parties recognised the title of the deceased prebendary, Thorne. It reflects rather the resistance of the English crown and parliament to papal claims to provision at the end of the century and the antagonism which issued in the second Statute against Provisors and the 'great' Statute of Praemunire. (For the text and a commentary on these see Edmund Gibson, Codex Juris Ecclesiastici Anglicani, pp. 83 - 87; see also A. Steel, Richard II, pp. 185 - 186, 199 - 200; May McKisack, The Fourteenth Century, pp. 281 - 3).

When Archbishop Arundel collated St. Stephen's prebend to Middleton at the instance of the king in 1391 the pope provided Riston, who was then a student of law at Bologna. Further to establish Middleton's title Richard II took advantage of the vacancy of the archbishoprick following Arundel's translation to Canterbury in 1396 by re-granting him the prebend in the following year, and having him re-instituted by the new archbishop, Robert Waldby (C.P.R., 1396 - 99, pp. 106, 492; C.P.L., v, pp. 266 - 7).

Riston's claim appears to have rested upon the contention that since Richard de Thorne had been a papal chaplain the appointment of his successor rested with the pope, who had already granted him an expectative grace to a prebend in Beverley. A papal commission found no difficulty in coming to a similar conclusion, and ordered Middleton to resign the prebend forthwith and to make restitution to Riston of all fruits he had received whilst in possession.

More effective, however, was the response of the Crown outlawing Riston for having pursued the matter at the papal court. The result was an abject withdrawal of his claim, and on 26 August, 1399, on the ground that he had found he had no right in the prebend, he secured a papal annulment of the processes passed in his favour (C.P.L., v, loc. cit). He was released from outlawry soon afterwards (C.P.R., 1396 - 99, p. 492), and, on 27 October, Middleton's estate was ratified (ibid, p. 25). Four days later a royal grant of the prebend was made to Robert de Wolveden (ibid, p. 62). Dade (p. 9) is probably right, however, in giving 25 September, 1399, as the date of Wolveden's succession, for about this time the mastership of St. Nicholas' Hospital, York, passed from Wolveden to Middleton, suggesting that an exchange had taken place (Test. Ebor, iii, p. 91n; Emden, Oxford, ii, pp. 1276 - 7). The royal grant of the following month would thus be in the nature of a ratification. Part of this transaction appears to have been reversed shortly afterwards, for in May, 1400, Middleton is still found as prebendary (C.P.L., v, p. 294), though retaining the mastership of St. Nicholas'. Middleton probably had other dealings with Wolveden. Dr. Emden, it would seem, is in error in assuming that it was another John de Middleton who received

Continued on next page
exchange with Robert de Wolveden for St. Nicholas' Hospital, York, c. 25 September, 1399. Although he retained the hospital he apparently regained possession of St. Stephen's, dying in possession c. 22 March, 1428/9 (Reg. Kemp fo. 7v).


Rector of Settrington, E. Riding, from 1396; Master of St. Nicholas' Hospital, York (c. 1399-1427/8) (Emden, loc. cit. Test. Ebor., iii, p. 91n).

(Note 1 continued from previous page)

the archdeaconry of Norwich by royal grant on 17 November, 1395 (C.P.R., 1396-99, p. 465), for it is almost certainly more than a coincidence that his successor in the dignity in or by 1406 should be Robert de Wolveden (C.P.R., 1405-08, p. 265). (This is not to ignore John de Darlington, who was also interested in the archdeaconry).

Whatever the circumstances of Wolveden's tenure of St. Stephen's, it was certainly of short duration, for in May, 1400, Middleton's title was once again being attacked by Nicholas de Riston. Following the deposition of Richard II, Middleton's chief support, and whose physician he was, Riston's courage appears to have returned. He re-instituted proceedings at the curia, claiming that, following his provision by the pope, John de Middleton, of the diocese of Durham, had unlawfully intruded himself, and, with the aid of powerful men, had forced him to renounce his claim. On these grounds he secured an annulment of his renunciation and his re-instatement in the prebend. By the same judgment Middleton was deprived of all his benefices (C.P.L., v, p. 294).

The effect of this on the position of both litigants appears to have been very little. Riston certainly never gained possession of any prebend in Beverley, and Middleton, who seems to have remained secure in his other preferments, held the prebend till his death in 1429, when William Duffield had collation of it (Reg. Kemp fo. 8v).

For a biographical notice of Nicholas de Riston see Emden, Oxford, iii, pp. 1619-20.

1. Emden (Oxford, ii, p. 1276) states, on the basis of Reg. Kemp fo. 7v, where the collation of the prebend to William Duffield is recorded, that Middleton relinquished St. Stephen's only on death.
Elsewhere Middleton was p. of St. Patrick's, Dublin, from 1396, of St. David's and Abergvili from 1397. He held a prebend in St. Martin-le-Grand, London, until 1414, when he appears to have exchanged it for the prebend of Thorpe in Howden. Dr. Emden is probably mistaken in distinguishing him from the John de Middleton who was archdeacon of Norfolk (1390-99), and who contested the archdeaconry of Norwich in 1395 (Oxford, ii, loc.cit; le Neve, Monastic Cathedrals, pp. 27, 29).

M.A. of Oxford by 1383 (Emden, loc.cit).

1399-? Wolveden, Robert de. P. of St. Stephen's Altar, coll. 25 September, 1399¹ (Dade, p. 9). Received royal grant of the prebend 31 October, 1399 (C.P.R., 1396-99, p. 62). Vac. on exchange with John de Middleton in 1399-1400, on the initial exchange by which he acquired the prebend proving ineffective.²

C. of York and p. of Thockrington (1400-1401), of South Newbald (1401), of Knaresborough (1401-8) of Wetwang (1408-26), Treasurer of York (1426-32) (le Neve, pp. 14, 60, 72, 83, 90); C. of Southwell and p. of ?, and p. of St. Mary and the Holy Angels, York,³ at the time of death (Test. Ebor, iii, p. 92); Master of St. Nicholas' Hospital, York, till c. 1399 (see above).

Precentor of Lichfield (1390-1426), Dean of Lichfield (1426-32) (le Neve, Coventry and Lichfield, pp. 6, 8). Archdeacon of Norwich 1406-7) (le Neve, Monastic Cathedrals, p. 27). P. of St. George's, Windsor (Test. Ebor, loc.cit).

Wolveden was one of several clerks close to Archbishop Scrope who accompanied him from the Coventry and Lichfield diocese following his translation to York in 1398, though he continued to hold high office at Lichfield, taking active part in the affairs of that church until his death. Like numerous other treasurers of York in the fifteenth century he was a generous benefactor of the Minster fabric. His arms are in the window of the north transept immediately behind the tomb of Archbishop Greenfield, and in the corresponding window of the south transept. His name is repeated in the west Window of the north choir aisle, and

¹ Probably following an exchange with John de Middleton for St. Nicholas' Hospital, York. (See above, p. 184 n1).
² Although Middleton regained St. Stephen's prebend Wolveden never again took possession of St. Nicholas' Hospital.
³ He is not, however, included in Professor Hamilton Thompson's list of prebendaries in Y.A.J., xxxvi, pp. 214-248.
he is depicted at prayer, with the words 'A beate Willme ora pro tui famuli aia Roberti (wolveden)', in the ninth compartment of the St. Cuthbert window.

In his will he left £20 to the fabric fund of York Minster (Fabric Rolls of York Minster, p.49), and lesser sums to Southwell and Lichfield. The fact that he bequeathed nothing to Beverley Minster, or to a vicar there, is, in the case of such a benefactor, some assurance that he had long since severed his connection with the church (Test. Ebor., iii, pp. 91 - 92).


Fellow of Merton College, Oxford (1398 - 1422), 3rd bursar (1409 - 10); Senior Proctor of the University (1407 - 08) (Emden, Oxford, i, p.601; Brodrick, Memorials of Merton College, p.220). Custodian of the temporalities of the see of Rochester in 1419, and of Chichester in 1420, in both cases prior to John Kemp's entry into possession. Chaplain to Archbishop Kemp from 1426, still in 1438 (C.P.L., vii, pp. 472, 544; ix, p.10).


Duffield was for a time a contemporary of John Kemp at Merton College, the latter being a fellow by 1395, and first bursar in 1403 - 4. His preferments mark his patron's steps towards Canterbury. It was to Kemp that he owed the rich rectory of Copford, dio. London, in 1422, and the archdeaconry of Colchester in 1425. He came north early in Kemp's primacy at York, exchanging his archdeaconry for Wistow in York, in 1433, the archbishop adding the archdeaconry of Cleveland in the following year. Duffield and John Barningham\(^2\) were together keepers of the temporalities of Rochester on Kemp's behalf following the latter's provision in 1419. They and Stephen Wilton\(^3\) were close friends and colleagues throughout Kemp's time at York, and bore much of the administrative burden of the see on his behalf. Duffield left £5 to the fabric fund of Beverley Minster (Test. Ebor., iii, pp. 125 - 152). M.A. of Oxford.

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1. The compartment was originally under the figure of St. William in the west window of the south transept.

2. See Prebendaries of St. Andrew's Altar, above p.A.54.

BOOTH, Laurence. P. of St. Stephen's Altar, coll. 11 March, 1452/3 (Reg. W. Booth, fo.29; B.C.A., ii, p.xc; Dade, p.9). Vac. on resignation c. 1 June, 1457, when Roger Radcliffe had collation of the prebend (Dade, p.9; Reg. W. Booth, fo.36v).


Both the Booth step-brothers owed much in their advancement to the favour of Margaret of Anjou, whom they served in turn. Laurence, of course, was not neglected by his brother William at Coventry and Lichfield⁴, and at York. In addition to the preferments listed above Laurence Booth relinquished at the time of his consecration the deanery and a prebend in St. Paul's, London, and a prebend at Lichfield (For a list of his preferments see Emden, Cambridge, pp. 78-9). He died on 19 May, 1480. For his will see Test. Ebor, iii, pp.248-50.

M.A. of Cambridge, B.C.L. by 1448, Lic.C.L. by 1450.

1. Booth did not receive provision to the bishoprick of Durham until 22 August, and the reasons for his resignation are uncertain. It is possible that he transferred to St. Martin's prebend. Stephen Wilton died in the early days of June, and his next known successor in St. Martin's was Thomas Booth, a nephew of the step-brothers. The latter had collation on 26 July, and it is possible that his uncle, Laurence Booth, resigned in his favour, anticipating his elevation to Durham four weeks later. This, however, is no more than supposition, and there is no written evidence to hand to support it. It is prompted by knowledge of the rapacity of the Booths and their kind. It is almost certain that Booth received nothing in return from Roger Radcliffe, ruling out the possibility of an exchange, and since no Booth relinquished a source of income lightly, another prebend falling vacant at the time of his resignation naturally suggests itself as an inducement. The succession of a nephew of the Booths serves to strengthen the suspicion. Moreover, since Laurence Booth continued to hold the Provostry, it is unlikely that he would forfeit his place in Chapter.

2. Wistow had also belonged to Duffield, and Booth received it on the same day on which he had the collation of St. Stephen's, Beverley.

3. For his register as archdeacon of Richmond see Y.A.J., xxx, pp. 112-120.

4. William Booth was bishop of Coventry and Lichfield from 1447 till 1452. For the Booths' service to Margaret of Anjou see A.R. Myers, 'The Household of Margaret of Anjou', in Bulletin of John Rylands Library, xl, pp. 81-82.
RADCLIFFE, Roger. P. of St. Stephen's Altar, coll. 1 June, 1457 (Dade, p.9). Vac. on resignation by 2 July, 1459\(^1\), when Vincent Clement received collation of the prebend (Reg. W. Booth, fo. 48v).


C. of BEVERLEY, and p. of ST. JAMES' ALTAR (26 August, 1464 - 23/29 July, 1471 (see Prebendaries of St. James' Altar, above p.A.77); C. of York and p. of Masham (1459 - 71) (le Neve, p.68); Master of Manchester College (1459); Rector of Adbolton, Notts. from 1459 (Emden, Cambridge, p.469).

In addition to his two Yorkshire prebends his death in 1471\(^2\) left vacant the deanery of St. Paul's, London, the prebend of Ealdland in that church, and the archdeaconry of Salisbury (Emden, Cambridge, loc. cit).

Lic.C.L. of Cambridge by 1452; D.C.L. by 1452 (ibid).


Papal subdeacon and chamberlain by 1442, orator of Henry VI and Duke Humphrey of Gloucester at the curia in 1440 and 1442; proctor of Archbishop Stafford at the curia in 1443; Papal Nuncio in England 1444. King's Councillor and President of the Camera Comptorum, Rouen, 1447; collector-general of the papal camera in England from 1450, re-appointed 1455, 1458, deposed 1460, reinstated 1469. Orator of Edward IV at the curia 1454 (Emden, Oxford, i, pp. 432 -433).

A man of vast preferment both in England and abroad, St. Stephen's appears to have been his only preferment in the York diocese. Elsewhere, however, he was, at the time of his death, archdeacon of Winchester and Huntingdon,

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1. The reason of Radcliffe's resignation is not obvious. It coincided with the collation to him of the wealthy prebend of Masham in York, though there is no suggestion of any exchange taking place.

2. His will is dated 23 July, 1471, and was proved on 29 July, 1471.
treasurer of Lichfield and Lincoln, a prebendary of Wells,\(^1\)
Hereford, Lincoln and Wingham, dio. Canterbury, and rector
of the wealthy living of Olney, Bucks., dio. Lincoln.
Abroad he also held the provostry and a prebend in Valencia,
Aragon, his birthplace.

Incorporated M.A. of Oxford in 1433, and D.Th. in 1441, at
royal request (Emden, Oxford, i, pp. 432-33).

BAROWE, Thomas.\(^2\) P. of St. Stephen's Altar, coll. 4 March,
1474/5 (Reg. G. Neville, fo.7v). Vac. on death between
23 June and 10 July, 1499, the dates upon which his will
was made and proved\(^3\) (Test. Ebor, iv, p.117; Emden,
Cambridge, p.40).

King's Scholar, Eton, c.1451-56; scholar of King's Hall,
Cambridge, 1456-57; fellow 1458-73. Examiner in the
court of York from 1482. A much favoured clerk of Richard,
duke of Gloucester, whose chancellor he was from 1483, and
who promoted him Master of the Rolls on his accession later
in that year. He held this office until 1485, when he was
appointed Keeper of the Privy Seal, three weeks before
Richard's death at Bosworth. Thereafter he lost influence,
but managed to preserve his numerous benefices intact
(Emden, Cambridge, loc.cit).

C. of York and p. of Langtoft (1476-99) (le Neve, p.63);
P. of St. Mary and the Holy Angels, York (1475) (Y.A.J.,
xxxvi, p.239); Sacrist of Southwell (1475) (Reg. G. Neville,
fos. 3b, 7b); Rector of Cottingham (1472-99) (C.P.R.,
1467-77, p.369; Emden, Cambridge, loc.cit).\(^4\)

1. Omitted by le Neve, Bath and Wells, but he certainly had collation of Combe
Sexta in Wells on 15 January 1444/5 \(\textit{Reg. Bekynton}\) (Somerset Record Society)
i, p.22; ii, p.431, and the fact that Richard Mayhew had collation on
6 September, 1475, suggests that he held the prebend until his death earlier
in that year \(\textit{Reg. Stillington and Fox}\) (Somerset Record Society) p.106.\(^7\)
There is a gap for these years in the revised le Neve list of occupants of
the prebend (le Neve, Bath and Wells, p.28).

2. Dade's list (p.9) gives John Barne, Ll.D., as receiving collation of St.
Stephen's on 4 March, 1474 (i.e. 1474/5 - since Dade consistently made no
allowance for medieval dating) and omits Thomas Barowe. Since the dates are
thus identical, and no clerk of the name of Barne appears elsewhere, the
obvious explanation is a simple misreading on the part of Dade.

3. Since Martin Collins received the prebend on 9 July it is probable that
Barowe died towards the end of this period.

4. I have not been able to find Emden's authority for asserting that Barowe
held Cottingham rectory until his death.
Besides his York and Beverley prebends Barowe also held others in Lichfield, Lincoln, St. Stephen's, Westminster, and Wells (in conjunction with the Provostship of Wells), along with the archdeaconry of Colchester and the rectory of Coningsby, dio. Lincoln, at the time of his death.

Under the terms of his will he left the magnificent sum of £240 towards the building of Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, and £10 to King's Hall (Test. Ebor., iv, loc.cit).

B.C.L. of Cambridge, 1460; Lic.C.L. by 1475 (Emden, Cambridge, loc.cit).

1499 - 1503


Principal of Burden Hostel, Cambridge, in 1488-89 (Emden, Cambridge, p.152). President of Lincoln Consistory Court under Bishop Russell from December, 1486; Official Principal to Archbishop Rotherham at York by 1499; to Archbishop Savage from 1501 till death in 1508. Vicar General of Archbishop Savage from 1501 (Reg. Savage, fo.2)4. Re-appointed Official by Archbishop Bainbridge, but no longer Vicar General (Reg. Bainbridge, fo.1b)4.

C. of York and p. of Apesthorpe (1494 - 95), Bugthorpe (1495 - 96), Precentor of York (1496 - 1503), Treasurer of York (1503 - 09) (le Neve, pp. 12, 14, 30, 41); C. of Southwell and p. of Norwell Palishall (1505 - 09) (Reg. Savage, fo.29); Rector of Wilford, Notts. (1494 - 1509), of Barton-in-Fabis, Notts. (1496 - 1509); Vicar of Leeds (1499 - 1500); Master of St. Mary's Hospital, Bootham, York (1500 - 1509); Rector of Kirkby-in-Cleveland (1503 - 09) (Emden, Cambridge, loc.cit).

1. The prebend of Combe Duodecima in Wells, which was collated to Barowe in 1493 and which brought with it the provostship of Wells (the provost administered the estates and fruits of the unique prebend of Combe - see K. Edwards, English Secular Cathedrals, p.241), was the only preferment he is known to have acquired after the death of Richard III. He may well have owed it to the influence of his former colleague in high places, John Gunthorpe, dean of Wells (1472 - 98), his predecessor in the office of Keeper of the Privy Seal.

2. He also received Vincent Clement's rectory of Olney, Bucks, on the latter's death, but this he had resigned in 1488.

3. He may well have come to the office in 1494/5, following the death of Bishop Russell.

4. See A. Hamilton Thompson, English Clergy, pp. 194 - 196. He was not, however, Treasurer of York in 1501, as implied here.
Collins is known to have held only two minor benefices outside the York diocese. These were both in the Lincoln diocese, acquired by him whilst in the service of bishops Rotherham and Russell. He appears to have rejoined Rotherham at York in 1494, following the death of Russell, for it is in that year that he received his first preferment in the diocese. Collins with Hugh Trotter¹ and Henry Cambull² virtually administered the York diocese on behalf of Rotherham and Savage. All three were generous patrons of church building, in particular of the embellishing of the fabric of York Minster (York Fabric Rolls, pp. 216, 309; Test.Ebor, iv, pp. 277-82, where Collins is seen to have possessed an exceptionally fine library).


1503-1504


King's clerk and chaplain. Employed by Henry VIII on numerous diplomatic missions on the continent, but especially in Scotland, being at that time treasurer of the northern armies. He was the surveyor and receiver general of the council of the North from 1525.

Archdeacon of the East Riding (1504-50) (le Neve, p.23³); Sacrist of St. Mary and the Holy Angels, York (1504-47) (Y.A.J., xxxvi, pp. 242-4); Master of St. Leonard's Hospital, York (1529-39), and of the Hospital and College of Sibthorpe, Notts. (1503-c.1548); Rector of Sessay (1497-1550), of Kirkby-in-Cleveland⁴ (1509-1550), of Bedale in 1535; Vicar of Kendal in 1535 (Valor Ecclesiasticus)⁵.

2. See above, pp.A.60-61, 110.
3. The year of his vacation of the archdeaconry is here given as being 1551, but, as his memorial brass shows, he died in August, 1550.
4. Kirkby-in-Cleveland was also left vacant by the death of Martin Collins.
5. According to the Valor Ecclesiasticus the total value of his benefices in the York diocese was £681 14s 2½d (A.G. Dickens, English Reformation, p.44 has £814), and the total annual income from all his benefices certainly well exceeded £800 (see A.Hamilton Thompson, English Clergy, p.122, n2, where the fruits of Magnus' prebend in St. George's, Windsor, are not in a total income of £769 17s 6¾d). Even this enormous figure appears small when set besides the £2,000 of Thomas Winter's preferments (see above, pp. A.169-170).
C. of Lincoln and p. of North Kelsay (1521 - 22), of Corrington (1522 - 49) (le Neve, pp. 55, 100); C. of St. George's, Windsor, (1520 - 49) (le Neve-Hardy, iii, p.392; S.J. Ollard, Fasti Wyndesorienses, p.100). In 1535 he was shown in the Valor Ecclesiasticus as being, in addition to the above, dean of St. Mary Magdalen, Bridgenorth; C. of Llandewi Brefi and p. of Llandabarn Odwyn, dio. St. David's, and rector of Whipstrode and of Claverley, dio. Winchester and dio. Coventry and Lichfield respectively.

Born at Newark-on-Trent, where he founded the Grammar School and a song school, Magnus was a protege of Thomas Savage. He and Thomas Dalby were the archbishop's executors in 1507 (Test.Ebor, iv, pp. 308 - 23). It was at the hands of Savage and his successor Christopher Bainbridge, whose confidence he also enjoyed, that Magnus received most of his preferment, though he appears to have been more engaged in the service of the crown than of the diocese. Magnus appears to have graduated abroad, and claimed to hold a doctorate of a foreign university; it is possible that this was at Bologna or Padua, where Savage had studied law, and that this was the initial connection between the two men. He was one of the leading ecclesiastics in the Northern Province throughout the Henrician Reformation. A staunch servant of the crown he was largely responsible for the acceptance by the Convocation of York of the royal divorce of 1533.

Though he is alleged to have had dealings with the rebels in the Pilgrimage of Grace little definite information is known of his attitude, apart from the fact that he continued to enjoy royal favour. He survived too the fall of Wolsey, from whom he was careful to disassociate himself at the end.

Although Magnus requested burial in the parish church of Newark-on-Trent, where he had 'receaved the holie sacrament of baptisme', or in York Minster 'as nigh as convenientlie maye be to the tombe of my lord Savage, who was my singler goode lorde and maister', his final resting place was his church of Sessay, not far from Coxwold in the North Riding.

1. H.D. Eshelby, 'The Episcopal Visitations of the Yorkshire Deaneries of the Archdeaconry of Richmond in 1548 and 1554', Y.A.J., xiv, pp.390 - 421, describes Magnus as 'D.D. Oxon (1520)' (p.410), but gives no authority for it. Dr. Emden, in omitting him from his Biographical Register, apparently discounts the assertion. In 1521, however, Magnus did petition for an Oxford doctorate on the ground that he was a doctor beyond the sea. There is no evidence to show that his request was granted, and the date makes it certain that he held no such degree in 1520 (see Y.A.J., xxxvi, p.243).

2. Part of his will, which is dated 8 March, 1549/50, is printed in Y.A.J., xiv, p.410.
Here his tomb is marked by a pleasing brass with the inscription, 'Here lyeth Master Thomas Magnus Archdeacon of th'est Riding in the metropolitan Churche of Yorke and parson of this churche which died the xxviii day of August A dm mcccccol. whose soule God pardon'.

1504

MAYEW, Richard. P. of St. Stephen's Altar, coll. 12 June, 1504 (Reg. Savage, fo.26v) following an exchange with Thomas Magnus for the archdeaconry of the East Riding. Vac. by 27 October, 1504, when he was consecrated bishop of Hereford.

A summary of his career and attainments is given in the heading of Episcopal Register:

'The register of the reverend father in Christ and lord, the lord Richard Mayhew, professor of sacred theology, by divine compassion bishop of Hereford, of all and sundry the acts or deeds given and granted by him and by his vicars-general while he was on business in distant parts, in the year of his consecration, which was on the 27th day of October in the year of our Lord 1504, and in the first, second and third years of the same consecration; who previously, having been created and appointed president of Magdalen college, Oxford, ruled the same college for 27 years and more, and was at the same time archdeacon of Oxford and elected chancellor of the same benign university and for very many years almoner and councillor of the most illustrious lord king Henry VII; and then by apostolic authority and by nomination of the abovesaid most illustrious king Henry, was called, after he had completed

1. For a description of this brass see Mill Stephenson, 'Monumental Brasses of the North Riding', Y.A.J., xvi, pp.310-14. The figure is not a portrait brass in the sense that it attempted a facial likeness of the subject, as suggested by Mr. A.G. Dickens, The English Reformation, p.45. The same features are reproduced on numerous contemporary brasses almost certainly emanating from the same workshop. The main interest of the composition is not its quality, which is of no great merit, but rather the fact that it portrays a leading ecclesiastic in full processional vestments in 1550, with its bearing upon the interpretation of the Ornaments Rubric in the Book of Common Prayer.

2. 'Should one wish to sense in one life the inwardness of the Henrician revolution, one should study Thomas Magnus rather than Thomas More'. A.G. Dickens, op.cit.

He was a conservative in religion and Foxe records how he had set up in the choir (of St. George's, Windsor) "a certaine foolish printed paper in meteer, all to the praise and commendation of our Ladie, ascribing unto her our justification, our salvation, our redemption, the forgiveness of sins, etc., to the great derogation of Christ". Ollard, Fasti Wyndesorienses, loc.cit.
the 64th year of his age, to the church of Hereford... 1

Archdeacon of the East Riding2 (1501-04) (le Neve, p.23).

In addition to St. Stephen’s, Beverley, he resigned the
archdeaconry of Oxford, prebends in Wells and Salisbury,
and the rectory of Brightwell, dio. Salisbury, when he
became a bishop.

M.A. of Oxford by 1467, B.Th. by 1475, D.Th. by 1478
(Emden, Oxford, ii, pp. 1247-49). Was granted grace,
while king's almoner, to incorporate as D.Th. at Cambridge,
1499/1500 (Emden, Cambridge, p.398). He died on 18 or 19
April, 1516.

The succession to St. Stephen's prebend after the resignation
of Richard Mayew, c.27 October, 1504, is uncertain. The next
holder of the prebend of whom there is definite evidence is
Peter Carmelian, who first appears in possession in 1525/6.3

Two possible successors to Mayew may be suggested, with
confidence that one or the other occupied the prebend for
the greater part, if not all of the 21 intervening years.

(i) Peter Carmelian himself. Most of his preferments were
acquired in the first decade of the century, the prebend
of Ampleforth in York being among the first in 1501.
There is certainly no evidence to rule out the
possibility that St. Stephen's prebend came to him at
this early date.

(ii) Thomas Dalby, who is known to have held St. James'
prebend in 1525 (see above pp.A.84-85).

Dalby was Provost of Beverley from September, 1503, till
January, 1525/6, but is unlikely that he gained possession
of St. James' prebend before November, 1517, when the
previous occupant, William Lichfield died. He had been

1. The main dates in his career are: Fellow of New College, Oxford (1459-71),
Principal of Hart Hall (1468-71), President of Magdalen College (1480-1508),
Chancellor of the University (1503-06); Chaplain to Richard III in 1484, to
Henry VII in 1491, King's Almoner by May, 1497; Bishop of Hereford (1504-16),
(Emden, Oxford, ii, pp. 1247-49). The translation from Mayew's Register
given above is from A.Hamilton Thompson, English Clergy, p.36.

2. He was never Archdeacon of York as stated by Dr. Emden (Oxford, ii, loc.cit).

3. Records of collations in episcopal registers being notoriously unsatisfactory
during this period, we have to rely upon odd references, which occasionally
occur in most unexpected places. The list of clergy of the East Riding
compiled by Brian Higdon, dean of York, in February, 1525/6, is therefore
invaluable. It affords a complete list of the clergy of Beverley Minster at
a time which is particularly poorly documented. It is printed in State
treasurer to Archbishop Savage, and, with Thomas Magnus, was his executor in 1507. It is in this connection that Mr. Leach implies that he was a canon of Beverley in 1509 (B.C.A., ii, p.xciv). Whether this was an assumption on the part of Leach, based on the belief that the Provost necessarily held a prebend (which was in fact without foundation), or whether he had some definite, but undisclosed, evidence to this effect is uncertain. In any case he is almost certainly right, for if Dalby had no place in chapter for about 13 years of his provostship he is quite unique among the later Provosts of Beverley.

During this period there is a gap of sufficient length in only two of our lists of prebendaries: those of St. Peter's prebend (from the death of William Sheffield in 1496 until the first appearance of Thomas Winter in 1525), and of St. Stephen's prebend (from 1504 till the first reference to Peter Carmelian, also in 1525). Thomas Dalby, however, as we have seen, most probably vacated his first prebend for St. James' in 1517, at which time Winter could have been no more than nine years old - an early age even for the son of the Cardinal. There was no such impediment in the way of Carmelian. The most that can be said, however, is that if, as seems likely, Dalby held a prebend in 1509, it was probably St. Stephen's.

? - c.1527

CARMELIAN, Peter. P. of St. Stephen's Altar in 1525/6 (State Papers, 17 Henry VIII, vol. iv, pt.1, No.2001). See the preceding note for a consideration of possible dates upon which he entered upon the prebend - he almost certainly had collation in 1504 or 1517. It is reasonable to suppose that he continued to hold St. Stephen's until his death early in 1527.


Carmelian's death also left vacant the archdeaconry of Gloucester, prebends in Hereford, Salisbury and possibly in Wells and St. Stephen's, Westminster, and the rectory

1. Carmelian's possession of St. Stephen's is omitted by Dr. Emden.
2. le Neve here shows Carmelian holding the prebend until 1528, but Dr. Emden is certainly correct in believing him to have been dead by May in the previous year. Peter Vann, his successor in his Hereford prebend had collation on 4 June, 1527 (le Neve, Hereford, p.20).
A wandering humanist scholar from Brescia who arrived in England in 1481. After associating with the Oxford printer, Rood, and with Caxton, he found a patron in Henry VII, and later Henry VIII. He was granted letters of denization on 23 April, 1488 (C.P.R., 1485–94, pp. 189, 232), and took Holy Orders shortly afterwards. There is no evidence that he ever studied at Oxford, though he may have lectured there in an unofficial capacity (Emden, Oxford, i, pp. 358–9).
S.T.D. by 1529 - 30 (For a biographical notice see D.N.B., xxii, pp. 135 - 6; see also Venn, Alumni Cantabrigienses and Jasper Ridley, Thomas Cranmer, pp. 16, 23).


M.A. and D.Th. of Oxford. He was dead by 16 March, 1543 (le Neve, Lincoln, p.14).

RUDD, John. P. of St. Stephen's Altar, coll. February, 1541/2 (Dade, p.9). Vac. on resignation in 1548, when the prebend was surrendered into the hand of Sir Michael Stanhope, Kt., 'Chief gentleman of the Kynges Majesties Prevy Chamber' (C.P.R., 1548 - 49, p.38).

Chaplain of Edward VI.

Vicar of Dewsbury (1554 - 70), of Romaldkirk in Teesdale (1570 - ?) (Y.A.J., xiv, p.402n). (Stokes, Mirror Reader, Borthwick,\(^3\))


In the Chantry Certificate for Beverley he is described as "bacheler of dyvynyte, prebendary of the said prebend (i.e. St. Stephen's), beyng of th'age of lvi yeres\(^2\) or thereabouts, havnyng dyverse other promocions which we known not"... (Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, ii, p.526). Rudd was deprived of his canonries in Durham and Winchester, following his divorce from Isobel Weldon, but was restored at Durham in 1559 on letters from the bishop of London and the Vicar General of Winchester testifying to his penitence.

Probably a scholar of Clare College, Cambridge, in 1515. Fellow of St. John's College and M.A. 1520, B.D. 1530/31 (Venn, Alumni Cantabrigienses, iii, p.496).

\(^1\) See also Diocesan Visitations of Lincoln, ii, p.91n.

\(^2\) If this is correct he must have lived to a very great age, being about 78 years of age at the time of his move to Romaldkirk.
PREBENDARIES OF ST. KATHERINE'S ALTAR
PREBENDARIES OF ST. KATHERINE'S ALTAR
(The so-called 8th Prebend)

? - 1279

CALVERLEY, William de. P. of St. Katherine's Altar at the
time of his death, which occurred before 1 August, 1279,
when William de Louth had collation of the prebend (C.P.R.,
1272-81, p.323; Yorkshire Deeds, ix, p.12).

Household clerk of Archbishop Gray by 1246 (Reg. Gray,
pp. 97-98 et passim).

Pres. to a mediety in the ch. of Beeford in 1249 (ibid, p.106).

1279 - 1290

LOUTH (LUDA), William de. P. of St. Katherine's Altar,
1 August, 1279, by royal grant, the see being vacant
following the death of Walter Giffard (C.P.R., 1272-81,
p.323). Vac. presumably on restoration of the temporalities
of the see of Ely of which Louth was bishop elect, 30 May,
12901 (C.P.R., 1281 - 92, pp. 354, 357).

King's clerk, Cofferer to Thomas Bek, keeper of the
Wardrobe, whom he succeeded in the office in 12802. Bishop
of Ely 1290 - 98.

C. of York and p. of Ampleforth (1287 - 90)(Reg. Romeyn, i,
p.364)3.

In addition to his two Yorkshire prebends Louth's consecration
left vacant others in Lincoln, Wells and St. Paul's, London,
as well as the archdeaconry of Durham,4 and possibly the
deanery of St. Martin-le-Grand, London.5

1. Although Louth was not consecrated until 1 October, 1290, his prebend was
obviously deemed vacant in early August of that year, when Odo de Conti had
the collation 'of the prebend in the church of Beverley, which had belonged
to Master W. de Luda' (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.389). As will be seen Odo's bid
was thwarted by a royal candidate, Charles de Beaumont, who received
collation later in the month.

2. i.e. when Bek was promoted to the bishoprick of St. David's; Louth also
resigned the Wardrobe on consecration.

3. William de Louth almost certainly had no intimate connection with the York
diocese. His appointment, on 30 October, 1281, as custodian of the
sequestration of Appleton-le-Steeet in Ryedale may well have come to him
through his former colleague, Thomas Bek, who had very recently (18 September)
received authority to ordain in the diocese (Reg. Wickwane, pp. 127, 280).

4. Probably he also owed the archdeaconry to the Bek connection. He occurs as
archdeacon in July, 1286 (See C.M. Fraser, Records of Antony Bek, p.xi);
Antony Bek was elected bishop of Durham on 9 July, 1283, though he was not
consecrated until 1285. As bishop of Ely Louth was associated with Bek on
numerous occasions (ibid, pp. 25, 47(2), 52(2)).

5. He had been granted the deanery on 30 January, 1283 (C.P.R., 1281 - 92, p.54).
Louth's undisputed tenure of a Beverley prebend is a reminder of the impotence of the chapter, or for that matter, of the archbishops, to apply the ancient statute requiring prebendaries to be in priest's Orders, when faced with the royal appointment of a highly placed official. Louth was only ordained to the orders of deacon and priest in the year of his consecration (1290). Throughout the middle ages the statute was invoked frequently, and with good effect, against less influential claimants.


1290-1301

BEAUMONT (BELLO MONTE), Charles de. P. of St. Katherine's Altar, coll. 30 August, 12901, at the request of Queen Eleanor, 'cui in consanguinitate linea attinere dignoscariis' (Reg. Romeyn, i, pp. 390-1; Taxation of Pope Nicholas, p.302). Vac. on resignation by 13 April, 1301, when William de Soothill had the collation of St. Katherine's (Reg. Corbridge, ii, p.9).

Beaumont is the only prebendary known to have had a blood relationship with royalty. The Beaumonts were viscounts of Beaumont in Maine, and were connected with several illustrious houses. Charles was obviously a near kinsman of Lewis de Beaumont, bishop of Durham (1317-33), and his brother, Henry, a favourite of Edward II2, who were grandsons of John de Brienne, the Latin Emperor of Constantinople (1229-37), and who were related to the royal houses of France and Sicily. They and Charles de Beaumont were probably related to Queen Eleanor through her mother, Joan of Ponthieu.3

1. On 6 August, 1290, Odo de Conti, 'son of Sir Adenulf, son of the late Sir Matthew de Papa of Anagni' had collation of the prebend (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.389), presumably at the request of James, Cardinal Deacon of S.Maria in Via Latia. In the previous year the cardinal had made representations to Archbishop le Romeyn on Odo's behalf. Romeyn in a revealing letter dated 16 September, 1289, pleaded the numerous papal provisions, and the force of ancient statutes requiring residence of prebendaries, as reasons for his delay in obliging him (ibid, pp. 380-81; B.C.A., ii, pp. 156-57). Sir Matthew, like Adenulf de Anagni, who held the prebend of St. James' Altar till his death in 1289, was a nephew of Pope Gregory IX (Reg. Giffard, p.84; Reg. Romeyn, i, p.380n; and see above, p.A.65). Adenulf the prebendary was thus Odo's great uncle, and it was probably his death which prompted the latter's bid (see above p.65 n1). We may be sure that it was only the powerful connections of Beaumont which brought it to nothing.


3. Sir Charles Clay, however, states: 'Louis, afterwards bp of Durham was first cousin once removed of qn Eleanor, his paternal grandmother, Berengaria of Castile, being her aunt (York Minster Fasti, ii, p.6n3).
Although he is described as a canon of York, St. Andrew's and Wells in C.P.R., 1292 - 1301 (pp. 121, 188), Beaumont is never recorded as ever having secured a prebend in any of these churches. He was a portionary in the church of Ponteland, Northumberland, in 1304¹ (Records of Antony Bek, p.105) but, so far as is known, held no other preferment in the diocese of Durham. His main interests were probably in France, and he had certainly disappeared from the English scene by 1317, when his kinsman became bishop of Durham at the request of Queen Isabella.

1301 - 1325


Clerk of Archbishop Newark's household in 1298 (Reg. Newark in Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.206), and of Archbishop Corbridge in 1300 (Reg. Corbridge, ii, p.6).


He held all the above preferments in 1307 when, as the natural son of a clerk, John de Sachilis of Soothill, he received a dispensation on account of his illegitimacy (C.P.I., ii, p.26). He appears to have maintained a high standard of residence at Beverley throughout his long tenure of the prebend, although he was warned to reside in 1321, and seemingly complied with reluctance.³ In 1313 he was actively involved, as rector of Mirfield, in the great dispute in the deaneries of Doncaster and Pontefract, which centred around the brothers George and Boniface de Saluzzo and the benefices of Almondbury, Campsall, Penistone and Womersley⁴ (Reg.

1. Fasti Dunelm, p.11, gives the dates of tenure of Ponteland as 1297 - 1310, but omits references.

2. In the archdeaconry of Richmond. The name is often spelt Sadberge in the registers, but it is unlikely that it refers to the village of Sadberge, north of the Tees, especially since Soothill had no other connection with the Durham diocese.


Greenfield, ii, pp. 133n, 142, 146). Though never allowed to forget the inferior status of his prebend,¹ the chapter was glad to appoint him as their proctor in matters of importance, and it was whilst representing the church in its dispute with the clergy of the East Riding concerning thraves that he died suddenly in London² (B.C.A., i, and ii, passim).

ABBERWICK (ALBURWICK), William de. P. of St. Katherine's Altar by 14 October, 1327 (B.C.A., ii, pp. 81, 91), a reference to him in 1330 (ibid, p.94), implying that he was William de Soothill's immediate successor. Vac., probably on death, by August, 1349 (Emden, Oxford, i, p.18).


C. of the royal free chapel of Hastings and p. of Malrepast until May, 1341.⁵

D.Th., of Oxford by 1325. He succeeded Robert de Ripplingham in the chancellorship of York, and appears to have been resident there (B.C.A., ii, pp. 103 - 4), no doubt maintaining the Chancellor's Theological School in accordance with Cathedral Statutes as his predecessor had

¹. See above p. 179.
². He was corresponding with the chapter up to early July, 1325 (B.C.A., i, p.71), and his goods were placed in sequestration on 24 July, 1325 (ibid, p.73).
³. The recent revision of le Neve rejects the assertion of earlier editions that Abberwick held the prebend of Botevant in York in 1321 (le Neve, Northern Province, p.37n).
⁴. He probably retained this prebend until his death, no one else appearing in possession of it before that date.
⁵. When he exchanged it for the prebend of Sharow in Ripon (C.P.R., 1340-43, p.346).
certainly done. His residence at Beverley was probably barely adequate, and he appears to have received an anything but cordial welcome from the chapter when present.

He may well have been a nephew of Robert de Abberwick who was provost of Beverley from 1304 until his death in 1306. Both men presumably hailed from Abberwick, near Alnwick, in the Durham diocese, where Robert had been Antony Bek's official.

1. There is ample evidence that York made a genuine response to the decree of the fourth Lateran Council (1215) requiring metropolitan churches to support a theologian to instruct priests and others in holy writ and pastoralia. At York, as at most churches where a theology school (as distinct from a grammar school) was established, the duty of lecturing fell to the chancellor. The earliest recorded statutes of York (1307) stipulated that Cancellarius, qui antiquitus magister scholarum dicebatur, magister in Theologia esse debet, et juxta ecclesiam actualiter legere (York Cathedral Statutes, p.6). In the two centuries which followed the appearance of Thomas de Corbridge as Chancellor in 1281 all but two of the fourteen clerks who held the dignity possessed a degree in theology (all but one of these being doctors). Moreover, in the late thirteenth and earlier fourteenth centuries, at least, there is evidence to show that they actually taught their subject (Reg. Romeyn, i, pp. 2, 3, 385-6; Historians of the Church of York, iii, p.220). Ripplingham, among numerous benefactions to educational establishments, left his professorial chair (cathedra) and his desk of office to his successors in the office (A.F. Leach, Early Yorkshire Schools, i, p.18), and Simon de Beckingham, who succeeded Abberwick in 1349, and was one of the two chancellors without a theological degree, bequeathed a robe to his servant 'in scolis meis Theologiae'. It is reasonable to suppose that Abberwick, who spent much time in the diocese after leaving Oxford, was equally assiduous in the teaching side of his dignity.

2. When present at the convocation of chapter of November, 1330, it was pointed out in forcible terms that as 'eighth canon' he attended purely 'by grace of the chapter', and not as of right (B.C.A., ii, pp. 92-94). It may be significant that this humiliating experience was meted out by the last appointed, and therefore the junior prebendary. With so eminent a clerk occupying the inferior pretend it was no doubt necessary for a newcomer to establish his position by making the latter's status abundantly clear. Abberwick absented himself from the next recorded convocation (October, 1333), pleading the call of the archbishop's business at York (ibid, ii, pp. 101-02).

by 1351 - 1355

MEAUX, Richard de. P. of St. Katherine's Altar by May, 1351, when a papal mandate was issued conferring the prebend on him 'if no one has a right to it' (C.P.L., iii, p.416)\(^1\).

Vac., probably on death, before 23 July, 1355, when Nicholas de Louth had collation of St. Katherine's.\(^2\)

King's clerk in 1351 (C.P.R., 1350 - 54, pp. 32, 236).


Meaux obviously originated from the vicinity of the wealthy Cistercian house of that name, which lay just outside the eastern borders of the Provostry, and which was in constant dispute with the Beverley chapter.

1355 - 1383

LOUTH, Nicholas de. P. of St. Katherine's Altar, coll. 23rd July, 1355\(^3\) (Dade, p.10 ; Y.A.J., xii, p.206). Vac. on death 3 June, 1383 (Inscription on monumental brass; Y.A.J., xii, loc.cit; Mill Stephenson, p.545).

King's clerk. Cofferer of the household of Queen Isabella at the time of her death, 1358\(^4\) (Tout, Chapters, v, p.248).

1. His interest in Beverley, however, began long before 1351. On 18 September, 1343, he was granted a papal provision to a prebend (obviously an expectative grace) (C.P.L., iii, p.134), and in May, 1350, described as a canon of Beverley, he received an indult to study, or for absence in the service of Henry, Earl of Lancaster (ibid, p.350, where his name is spelt 'Meany'). Whether he had secured St. Katherine's by this latter date is uncertain, but it is more than likely that he was disputing it, for in 1351, when the prebend was formally conferred upon him, he was said to have been litigating for it with a certain John de Aula of Shipeden (ibid, p.416). It does seem certain, however, that he was Abberwick's immediate successor.

Who John de Aula was I do not know, unless he was John de Hull, who also received a provision in 1343 (ibid, p.131), and who was at this time contesting the prebend of Clifton in Lincoln with Stephen de Ravenser (le Neve, Lincoln, pp. 52 - 53).

2. In August, 1351, Meaux was granted an indult to choose a confessor with powers of plenary remission, and in May, 1352, received permission to have a portable altar (C.P.L., iii, pp. 436, 453) - concessions which may indicate infirmity. There can be little doubt that he was dead when Louth succeeded him in the prebend.

3. Mr. Leach (B.C.A., ii, p.lxxx) and Mr. A.S. Harvey (Y.A.J., xl, p.272, citing C.P.R., 1364 - 67, p.8) give the date of collation as 22 April, 1363, but this, in spite of appearances, was almost certainly a re-grant of ratification.

4. At which time he drew up a list of the queen mother's possessions.
Clerk of the Exchequer by 1363; king's treasurer for Ponthieu by April, 1363, still in 1367 (C.P.R., 1361-64, pp. 390, 423; 1367-70, p.70). From c.1360 he was closely associated with Edward the Black Prince, in later years holding office in his retinue.

Rector of Cottingham, near Hull (1362-83) (C.P.R., 1361-64, p.218; Y.A.J., xii, p.206; xl, p.271; Mill Stephenson, loc.cit).


Unlike his much beneficed co-canons, Ravenser and Wellingborough, who withstood Archbishop Neville's onslaught on the chapter's privileges in 1381, Louth's main preferment lay within the grasp of the primate. This may explain his appearance and qualified submission at the latter's visitation, when he was found not to be among the most assiduous residents (B.C.A., ii, pp. 208, 231, 237, 239, 244, 245, 248). He seems to have exercised a conciliatory influence in the quarrel, but died long before it was resolved. Louth built or rebuilt the fine chancel of Cottingham church in which his remains lie buried. The restored marginal inscription surrounding his full length brass effigy is generally recognised as defective. The following was suggested by Charles Jackson as a possible rendering of the original:

On the presentation of the Black Prince who held the Wake fee, including the lordship of Cottingham by virtue of his marriage to Joan Plantagenet (Lady Wake and Countess of Kent) his cousin. The many armorial bearings in the chancel doubtless bear witness not only to the Prince's connection with the church but also with Louth who built that part of it (See 'Cottingham Church and its Heraldry' by A.S. Harvey, Y.A.J., xl, pp. 265-297).

Though he was granted provision of this prebend in 1363 he inherited only a claim, which he made good in 1365 by exchanging his prebend in St. Asaph for his rival's interest in Salisbury. Louth's epitaph indicates that he died in possession of Horton in Salisbury.

The Diary of Abraham de la Pryme, the Yorkshire Antiquary, ed. Charles Jackson (SS54).
Huius erat rector domus hic Nicolaus humatus
Factor et erector, de Luda, quaeo beatus.
Porro vices Christi gestans dedit ecclesiarum
Praebendas isti Beverliaci, quoque Sarum.
Familicos pavit rixantes pacificavit
Nudos armavit faenoratam rem geminavit,
Sed quia labe carens sub coelo nullus habetur
Natum, Virgo parens, animae pete propicietur. 1

Nicholas de Louth's brass is the only effigy of a clerk who was first and foremost a prebendary of Beverley (apart, of course, from the effigy on the tomb in the north transept of the Minster, which probably commemorates Provost Nicholas de Huggate, a prebendary of St. James' Altar - see above pp. A.66-68). It is also the only local brass of a canon and therefore deserves notice. It is certainly not a portrait of Louth, for the facial structure and expression, and the general draughtsmanship, mark it as belonging to an austere family of brasses which obviously emanated from a single workshop, if not from a single craftsman, in the latter part of the fourteenth century. Better known examples of this group are the brasses of John Trilleck, bishop of Hereford (d. 1360 - though the brass is later), Peter de Lacy d. 1375 (Northfleet, Kent), and, perhaps the best of them all, John de Campeden d. c.1410 - though the brass was almost certainly executed during his lifetime (St. Cross Hospital, Winchester).

The effigy of an unknown canon at Watton in Hertfordshire is very similar to the one at Cottingham; both figures are vested in cassock, surplice almue and choir cope of the plainest design (all of the group depend on boldness of line for effect, rather than on ornamentation). Indeed, the austerity of the Nicholas de Louth brass led H.J. Clayton (The Ornaments of the Minsters as shown on English Monumental Brass - Alcuin Club Collections, xxii, p.162) to suppose that the effigy was that of an Augustinian canon (Cottingham had been the home of an Augustinian community recently removed to nearby Haltemprice). The effigy cannot therefore be taken as a representation of Louth himself, nor the choir cope as typical of the sort worn at Beverley, for these were normally of rich design (B.C.A., i, pp. 392-393).

The present inscription is not the original, and there is reason to suppose that it differs somewhat from the hexameters it replaced as part of the unfortunate restoration of the brass in 1855. The following is a metrical paraphrase of the inscription by the Rev. C.G.R. Birch, printed in Y.A.J., xiv, p.508:

This church's rector Nicholas of Louth doth buried lie
Founder and builder also he, I pray now blest on high,
Working the works of Christ, while here, as Prebendary he
Held stalls in Beverley hard by, and Sarum's distant see.
The hungry he fed and those who quarrelled brought to peace,
He clothed the naked, and the pledge, doubled, did he release.
But since, unstained by sin, 'neath heaven, no man his life can lead
0 Virgin Mother, pray thy Son, to aid him in his need.

In the course of restoration the brass was completely relaid in a new stone, and no indent appears of the shield or shields now lost. The antiquary,

Continued on next page.
1384 - 1387

STAUNTON, James de. Had coll. of an unidentified prebend in Beverley, probably St. Katherine's, 30 January, 1383/41 (Reg. A. Neville, fo. 48v). If so, vac. on resignation in 1387, when John de Boynton or Burton had coll. of St. Katherine's (C.P.R., 1385-9, p. 275).

(Note 1 continued from previous page)

Dodsworth, visiting the church in 1620, noted such a shield bearing 'Sable a Wolfe rampant or, in the sinister part of the shield a cross crosslet fitchy or' which he identified as the arms of Louth. The tinctures were presumably taken from a similar shield which Dodsworth found in the east window, but which is now also missing (Roger Dodsworth Yorkshire Church Notes, ed. J.W. Clay (Y.A.S. Record Series, xxxiv).

1. It is impossible to be entirely happy about this identification. St. Katherine's was vacant at the time, and it is difficult to suggest an alternative. In the 1380's, however, Beverley Minster was passing through the most turbulent period of its history. Neville deprived at least two members of the chapter, and whereas the position of Richard de Ravenser's prebend of St. Martin's is fairly clear, no replacement of John de Wellingborough, who also temporarily lost his stall (St. Mary's), is named — it could have been Staunton. The succession to St. Michael's prebend is also never made explicit, though it is probable that Robert de Manfield the Provost, held it from 1381 onwards. The remaining prebends may be ruled out, since their occupants are known.

Unease is increased by the knowledge that Staunton is recorded as having exchanged his rectory of Hathern in Leicestershire in the same month as he received his Beverley prebend (Emden, iii, p. 1768). The object of this may have been the rectory of Staunton, Notts., which he secured on 1 February, 1384, but if a prebend of Beverley were involved it is difficult to see how it could have been St. Katherine's, unless an unknown canon succeeded Louth in the previous year to provide the other party. However, no known prebendary secured Hathern in 1384.

On balance St. Katherine's seems the most likely stall for Staunton in January, 1384. In any case it may be assumed that he gained no lasting possession. He either resigned, or was ejected in 1387 - 8, as were other of Neville's men, on the disgrace of that primate.

C. of Southwell and p. of Halloughton (by 1371, still in 1395) (ibid); Rector of Staunton, Notts.¹ (1364 - after 1393) (ibid).

Rector of Bassingham, dio. Lincoln in 1361, and of Hathern, Leicestershire, same dio. till 1384 (ibid).

M.A. of Oxford by 1361.

1387-1394


C. of York, but it is doubtful whether he ever secured the prebend of Warthill which he was contesting in 1393 (le Neve, p.87); Rector of Huggate in the East Riding in 1371 (Reg. Thoresby, fo.163).

He held the wardenship of Broseley Chapel, Salop, till 1383, when he exchanged it for the prebend of Taunton in Wells, which in turn he exchanged for Langford Eccles in Lincoln in 1390. Three years later, he exchanged this prebend for another in the royal free chapel of Hastings (le Neve, Bath and Wells, p.65; Lincoln, p.74). During the same periods he acquired prebends in Darlington (1390), Bangor (1389), and St. Paul's, London (1393), and the rectories of Fenstanton, dio. Lincoln (by 1390) and Over, dio. Ely (1389) (le Neve, Welsh Dioceses, p.13; St. Paul's, London, p.37; North Country Wills, p.247).

He assented by proxy to the Statutes of Archbishop Arundel, 28 July, 1391 (B.C.A., ii, p.266).

¹ Presumably his place of origin. Simon de Staunton was admitted to the rectory in 1321, and the Rev. G.W. Staunton resigned the same benefice in 1963, after an incumbency of 37 years. The family, the head of which continues to hold the patronage of the living, still occupies Staunton Hall.

² There is little doubt that John de Boynton of C.P.R., 1385-89, p.275, was the same person as John de Burton (ibid, pp. 405, 448).

³ The temporalities of the see were then in the king's hands following the flight of Neville.
WESTON, Roger de. P. of St. Katherine's Altar from before 1397 - 1416/17.

Before 1397 - 1416/17, when his estate in the prebend was ratified (C.P.R., 1396 - 99, p.203). He probably succeeded John de Burton three years earlier, but was refused admission by Archbishop Arundel, only gaining full possession after the latter's translation to Canterbury in 1396.1 Vac. on death before 25 January, 1416/17, when John Woodham had collation (Reg. Bowet, i, fo.60; Y.A.J., xxxvi, p.225).


He was granted a papal indult to have a portable altar on 26 November, 1393 (C.P.L., iv, p.491).

WOODHAM, John. P. of St. Katherine's Altar, coll. 25 January, 1416/17 (Reg. Bowet, i, fo.60). Vac. on resignation, 22 December, 1418, when he transferred to St. Andrew's prebend.

For a full account of his career see Prebendaries of St. Andrew's Altar, above p.A.53.

Little is known of Roger de Weston. He was probably a kinsman, possibly brother, of Thomas de Weston, chancellor of Walter de Skirlaw, bishop of Durham, in 1391, who was archdeacon of Durham (c.1393 - 1408), and held prebends, among others, in York, Southwell and Howden (Emden, Oxford, iii, p.2025).

The reason for supposing that Roger followed immediately after John de Burton and had to wait three years for admission, lies in the difficulties he experienced in the matter of his appointment to the sacristry of St. Mary and the Holy Angels, York. When John de Waltham was elevated to the See of Salisbury following the triumph of the Lords Appellant in the Merciless Parliament of 1388, Weston received a royal grant of the sacristy thereby vacant. This grant took no account of the fact that Arundel had been translated from Ely to York some months earlier, and in any case treated the Chapel as a royal foundation, which, of course, it was not. Both these errors help to explain the archbishop's refusal to admit him. Weston's appointment to St. Katherine's, if it followed on Burton's death, came several years later, but his possession of the prebend may well have been compromised by the dispute which still continued at York.

At all events need was felt to secure royal ratification of his estate in the prebend soon after Arundel's departure for Canterbury (Y.A.J., xxxvi, pp. 76, 225). It must be remembered, however, that Arundel's register (1388 - 96) omits record of many admissions to prebends, and Weston's may be one of them.

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1418 - 1419

KYNWOLDMERSH, William (senior). P. of St. Katherine's Altar, coll. 27 December, 1418 (Dade, p.101). Vac. on resignation by 26 May, 1419, when Simon Gaunstead had the collation of the prebend (see below).

Deputy-treasurer of England² (1417 - 1421); Treasurer of England (1421 - 1422) (Handbook of Chronology, p.84; Y.A.J., xxv, p.248).

PROVOST OF BEVERLEY (6 May, 1419 - c.15 December, 1422) (B.C.A., ii, pp. lxxxiv, 352; see also above, p. A.24); C. of York and p. of Masham (1421 - 22) (le Neve, p.67).

He was probably a native of Killamarsh in Derbyshire, not far from Sheffield and Rotherham, where members of his family, or at least others of his name, were active in the fifteenth century.³ In 1421 he, with three others, presented a new rector to the church of Aston, some five miles to the north (Fasti Parochiales, i, p.16), and his kinsman, William Kynwoldmersh junior,⁴ was buried at Arksey, nr. Doncaster in 1469, having been vicar there for 23 years (ibid, p.9). Our William Kynwoldmersh was dead by 15 December, 1422 (le Neve, St. Paul's, London, p.67).

1. It seems fair to assume that Dade in spelling his name Kynwolderhill transcribed his name wrongly. Kynwoldmersh was after all Provost of Beverley from 6 May, 1419, and probably resigned the prebend on receiving collation of the provostship. He certainly did not transfer to another prebend. Dade, however, implies that 'Kynwolderhill' vacated St. Katherine's on death, but may have been misled by the fact that he died in possession of the provostry.

2. In the absence of Henry Lord Fitzhugh, who was in France with Henry V.


1419 - 1423

GAUNSTEAD, Simon. P. of St. Katherine's Altar, coll. 26 May, 1419 (Dade, p. 10). Vac. on death by 9 September, 1423, when his will was proved (North Country Wills, p. 252).


C. of York and p. of Bole (1403 - 23), archdeacon of Nottingham (1418 - 19)¹ (le Neve, pp. 24, 35); Master of Newton Hospital, nr. Hedon, East Riding, in 1423 (Test. Ebor, iii, p. 59).

C. of Lincoln and p. of Crackpole St. Mary (1396 - 1406)² (le Neve, p. 56); C. of Wells and p. of Whitelackington (1415 - 23) (le Neve, p. 76); C. of Chichester and p. of Selsey (1417 - 1423) (le Neve, p. 40); Archdeacon of Wiltshire (1419 - 23) (le Neve, Salisbury, p. 14).

He was a beneficiary by the will of William de Waltham, archdeacon of the East Riding and p. of St. Martin's Altar, who died in 1416 (Test. Ebor, iii, p. 59; North Country Wills, p. 12).

1423 - 1423/4


Household clerk of Archbishop Henry Bowet ³ (Fasti Parochiales, ii, p. 26).


Vicar of Littlebury, dio. London (1400 - ?) (Memorials of Ripon, loc. cit).


¹ Robert Bowet had collation of his archdeaconry on the same day as Gaunstead's receipt of St. Katherine's. A fact which probably gives some idea of the value of the prebend, which received half the offerings at the High Altar at Beverley.

² In 1406 he exchanged this prebend with his rival for the prebend of Bole in York (le Neve, Northern Province, pp. 35 - 36).

³ Bowet left him 5 marks in his Will (Test. Ebor, i, p. 401).

⁴ The date of collation to the prebend of Monkton (taken from the Torre MS., printed in Memorials of Ripon, ii, p. 230) is in fact the date of collation to St. Katherine's, Beverley.

There is no reason why he cannot be identified with the Thomas Haxey who was granted St. Andrew's prebend by the king in 1388 (C.P.R., 1385 - 9, p.402), but failed to make good his claim against Thomas de Walkington (see above p.A.50 n1).


C. of York and p. of Barnby (1405 - 18), Treasurer of York (1418 - 25) (le Neve, pp. 14, 31); C. of Southwell and p. of Hampton (1405 - 25) (Memorials of Ripon, loc. cit); C. of Ripon and p. of Monkton (1419 - 24) (ibid); C. of Howden and p. of ? (? - 1418); Vicar of Laxton, Notts. (1383 - 1408); Master of Sherburn Hospital (ibid).

C. of Lichfield and p. of Tervin (1388 - 1425) (le Neve, p.60); C. of Salisbury and p. of Bemister Secunda (1391 - 1419) (le Neve, p.32); C. of Lincoln and p. of Scamblesby (1395 - 1402), of Parndon-cum-Balderton (le Neve, pp. 66, 103). At various times he also held: a prebend in Chester, the rectories of Pulham, dio. Salisbury, Dengey, Crawley, Toppesfield, and the mastership of Lazenby hospital. The only rectory which he is known for certain to have held at the time of his death, however, was that of Brington, dio. Lincoln, which he had acquired in 1395.

This was Thomas Haxey, who was well known as a king's clerk towards the end of the fourteenth century, and who found a place in national history as the author of a bill in the Hilary Parliament of 1397, complaining of extravagance at the court of Richard II. Incurring the royal displeasure he was attainted of treason, and would probably have lost his head but for his clergy (see M. McKisack, The Fourteenth Century, p.477). Though he was restored to favour after Richard's fall in 1399, he appears to have retired to the north, following release, entering the service of Archbishop Scrope.

Like several other fifteenth century treasurers of York, he was a notable benefactor of the Minster there. By his will he founded chantries in York and Southwell, the chief objects of his affections,2 his connection with Beverley being of but short duration. He was buried in the north transept at York. His place of origin was Haxey in Lincolnshire, not, as might be supposed, Haxby, near York.

1. Possibly he had collation as early as 1395.
2. Y.A.J., xxxvi, p.171 and n. His coat of arms is set in the fifth window of the south clerestory of the choir, and in the north choir aisle, of York Minster (John Brown, Arms on the Glass in York Minster, pp. 248, 250).
ROLLESTON, Roberto. P. of St. Katherine's Altar, 10 July, 1425\(^1\) by royal grant, temporalities being in the king's hands during the long interregnum which followed the death of Archbishop Bowet in October, 1423 (C.P.R., 1422-29, p.264; B.C.A., ii, p.lxxxvii). Vac. on death 12 January, 1450/1 (Test.Ebor., ii, p.138; Poulson, Beverlac, ii, p.597; B.C.A., loc.cit). King's clerk. Master of the works of the palace of Westminster from 1407 (C.P.R., 1405-8, pp. 310-311). Keeper of the Wardrobe (1418- c.1444). An executor of Queen Katherine (Fair Kate) 1437. (C.P.R., 1416-22, p.150; 1436-41, p.47; 1441-46, p.311; 1446-52, p.4). PROVOST OF BEVERLEY (7 December, 1427- 12 January, 1450/1) (B.C.A., ii, pp. lxxxvi-lxxxviii,\(^2\) p.352; see also above, p.A.25); C. of Southwell and p. of Woodborough (1410/11-1426) (Miscellanea, ii, pp. 298-99); C. of York and p. of Driffield (1436- 50/1) (le Neve, p.45). C. of Exeter and p. (1420- 22) (le Neve, p.49); C. of Salisbury and p. of Shipton (1422-23) (le Neve, p.85); C. of St. Paul's, London, and p. of Portpool (1422- c.1427) (le Neve, p.57); Archdeacon of Durham (1425- c.1448)\(^3\) (le Neve, Northern Province, p.113; Miscellanea, ii, loc.cit); C. of Lincoln and p. of Carlton Kyme (1436-50/1) (le Neve, p.45). Details of his widely scattered rectories, which he held mostly for short periods in the earlier part of his career, are to be found in Miscellanea, ii, loc.cit. and Fasti Dunelm, p.109.

Rolleston belonged to a prominent Beverley family, his brother Roger, a merchant of the town, being senior burgess and mayor of Beverley seven times.\(^4\) He appears to have spent more time in Beverley in later years than can have been possible in his earlier period of royal service. In the 1420's he resigned most of preferments in the south, and was described as a residentiary in 1435/6 (Beverley Minster Fabric Roll, p.78). Thereafter his presence in Beverley is frequently implied (B.C.A., ii, loc.cit).

1. Dade wrongly gives the date of collation as 10 August.
2. For a good summary of Rolleston's career.
3. Rolleston probably owed this preferment to Thomas Langley, bishop of Durham (1406-37), who was chancellor of England when he was keeper of the Wardrobe. Langley bequeathed him a copy of the Moralia of St. Gregory (E.F. Jacob, The Fifteenth Century, p.666).
In 1444 he founded the chantry of St. Katherine at St. Katherine's Altar, which he richly embellished under the terms of his will. He also renewed the window behind St. Katherine's Altar (East Riding Antiquarian Society, v, p.44; Test. Ebor, ii, p.138; Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, ii, p.531n).


King's clerk.

C. of Lincoln and p. of Welton Beckhall (1448 - ?1452), of Decem Librarum (1452 - 57) (le Neve, pp. 60, 121); C. of St. Paul's, London, and p. of Brownwood (1449 - 68) (le Neve, p.22); C. of Salisbury and p. of Bedwyn (1467 - 71), Precentor (1467 - 71) (le Neve, pp. 16, 29); Dean of St. Stephen's Westminster in 1458/9, still 1461 (Fasti Parochiales, ii, p.27).

His estates were probably compromised by the deposition of Henry VI following the battle of Towton in 1461, for he felt it necessary to obtain ratification of those in Beverley and St. Paul's, London, shortly afterwards (C.P.R., 1461 - 67, pp. 20, 60).

?1471 - 1478/9 CHADERTON, Edmund. P. of St. Katherine's Altar till 24 March, 1478/9², when he exchanged it with Adam Copendale for the prebend of Stratton in Salisbury (le Neve, Salisbury, p.90; Memorials of Ripon, ii, p.219). The date upon which he had the collation is not to hand, but 1471, following the death of Kirkham, fits in well with his known career.³

For a fuller account of this much-beneficed clerk see Prebendaries of St. Andrew's Altar, above pp. A.59 - 60.

1. If this is the window which until comparatively recently contained his arms then St. Katherine's Altar was located in the south-east bay of the south transept.

2. Dade erroneously gives the year of exchange as 1476.

3. He was by then no stranger to the York diocese, or at least to its preferment, having held and resigned at least three benefices in Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire, including the rectory of Burton Agnes, some 25 miles from Beverley. In the following year he is seen as holding a prebend in Southwell (see above, p. A.59).


Ll.B. by 1445, when he was granted a licence to study for 2 years (Y.A.J., xxx, p.88); Ll.D. of Cambridge by 1448/9 (Emden, Cambridge, loc.cit; Y.A.J., xxx, p.113).

The Copendales were a prominent Beverley family in the later middle ages. Several of them appear as tenants of the Provostry in the Provost's Book, and it seems likely that Adam was returning to his birthplace when he obtained St. Katherine's prebend in his last years (B.C.A., ii, pp. 316, 318, 319, 320, 327; see also Yorkshire Deeds, ix, pp.19 - 20).

1481/2 - 1485 CONSTABLE, William. P. of St. Katherine's Altar, coll. 16 February, 1481/2 (Reg. Rotherham, i, fo.96). Vac. on death by 28 September, 1485, when George Fitzhugh had collation (ibid, fo.100, ii, fo.1).

Subdean of York (1483 - 85), Archdeacon of Cleveland (1485) (le Neve, pp. 17, 21); Rector of Hutton Cranswick (two villages, in fact, north of Beverley) (1465 - 69), of Langton-on-Swale, North Riding (1469 - 77), of Lockington (again, north of Beverley) (1469 - 81), of Holme-on-Spalding Moor (by 1485) (Emden, Cambridge, p.155).

C. of Lincoln and p. of Norton Episcopi (1473 - ?), of Leighton Ecclesia (? - 1482) (le Neve, pp. 82, 98); Rector of Tharlfield, Herts. dio. Lincoln (1477 - 85).

A B.Cn.L. of Cambridge by 1461/2 (Emden, Cambridge, loc.cit), he was almost certainly a member of the ancient family of

1. In November, 1320, no less than three Copendales (John, William and Adam - which seems to have been a favourite name with the family), were listed as burgesses of Beverley (B.C.A., i, p.384).

2. Dade has 8 September.
Constable of Burton Constable in Holderness, who had been lords of Halsham since the twelfth century. His preferment suggests that he enjoyed the favour of Archbishop Rotherham who promoted him both at Lincoln and York.

1485-1488

FITZHUGH, George. P. of St. Katherine's Altar, coll. 28 September, 1485 (Reg. Rotherham, i, fo.100b). Vac. on resignation before 29 June, 1488, when Richard Brindholme had collation (ibid, fo.103).

One of the lordly Fitzhughs of Ravensworth, being the son of Henry, 5th Lord Fitzhugh and Alice Neville, sister of the King Maker and of Archbishop George Neville. Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge (1488-1505), Chancellor of Cambridge University c.1502. Chaplain to Henry VII by 1500 (Emden, Cambridge, p.231).

C. of York and p. of Weighton (1475-1505)² (le Neve, p.89), Master of St. Leonard's Hospital (1477-89), Rector of Bedale (1477-1505), of Romaldkirk, in Teesdale (by 1488)³, of Kirkby Ravensworth, Mr. Richmond,⁴ (c.1477), and of Bingham, Notts. (1488-1505) (Test.Ebor., iv, p.245).

At the time of his death Fitzhugh was dean of Lincoln, and prebendary of Cropredy in that church. He may also have retained the prebend of Preston in Salisbury which he had

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1. See Poulson, History of Holderness.
2. le Neve gives the year of Fitzhugh's quitting the prebend as 1506, he certainly died, however, in November, 1505.
3. Fitzhugh's appointment must have been after August, 1477, for John Lewlyn was then rector (Y.A.J., xxxii, p.128).
4. The rector of Kirkby Ravensworth in August, 1477, is said to have been William Cantrell (Y.A.J., xxxii, p.128). Not having seen the original document it would be presumptuous to assume here that this is a misreading of William Tayntrell, who was also rector of Egremont, Cumberland (Y.A.J., xxx, p.118). Nevertheless there does seem to be a prima facie case for supposing this to be the case. Tayntrell followed Fitzhugh in the prebend of Empingham in Lincoln in December, 1477 (the latter did not transfer to another prebend at this time) (le Neve, Lincoln, p.64). He also succeeded to Fitzhugh's rectory Winteringham, on the south bank of the Humber, on 19 May, 1482 (Emden, Cambridge, p.578). There were several clerks named Cantrell alive at this time but none of them was beneficed in the York diocese, and a William Cantrell does not appear among them. If such a mistake has arisen then Fitzhugh almost certainly acquired Kirkby Ravensworth in either 1477 or 1482 following an exchange for one of his Lincolnshire preferments.
held since 1475¹ (le Neve, Lincoln, pp. 4, 59, 64; Salisbury, p. 78).

All Fitzhugh's preferments were in keeping with his noble birth: in addition to the wealthiest hospital in England and one of the richest prebends in York, he is seen to have acquired three of the choicest plums of Richmondshire,² His total income can scarcely have been less than £1,000. He died on 20 November, 1505. For his will see Test. Ebor, iv, pp. 245-6.


BRYNDHOLME, Richard. P. of St. Katherine's Altar, coll. 29 June, 1488 (Reg. Rotherham, i, fo. 103). Vac. on death between 2 and 14 September, 1510, when his will was made and proved respectively³ (Test. Ebor, iii, p. 178 and n; Memorials of Ripon, ii, p. 191).

Sub-treasurer of York (1488-97) (Memorials of Ripon, loc. cit); P. of St. Mary and the Holy Angels, York (1483-97) (Y.A.J., xxxvi, p. 240); C. of Ripon and P. of Studley Magna (1497-1510) (Memorials of Ripon, loc. cit); Rector of Roos, in Holderness (1472/3-85), of Skirpenbeck, near Stamford Bridge (1497-1500) (ibid).


Like William Constable (see above) he appears to have enjoyed the favour of Rotherham both at Lincoln and York, and was probably in his service in both dioceses. He was a co-executor of Hugh Trotter, Provost of Beverley, in 1493 (B.C.A., ii, p. xciii; see above, pp. A. 27, 148).

B.Ch.L. of Cambridge by 1473; D.Ch.L. 1489 (Emden, Cambridge, p. 100).

¹ Omitted by Dr. Emden (Cambridge, loc. cit).

² Whatever Fitzhugh's personal ability, the fact that he was born in 1461, and was therefore a prebendary of York at the age of fourteen, leaves no doubt that it was fortune of birth rather than any other distinction which brought him such lucrative advancement.

³ Since Newport had collation on 4 September he probably died on the 2nd or 3rd.

⁴ Bryndholme's predecessor at Ripon, John Spicer, was also his successor at St. Mary and the Holy Angels, indicating an exchange in 1497.
1510 - 1514

NEWPORT, Richard. P. of St. Katherine's Altar, 4 September, 1510 (Dade, p.101). Vac. on death by 20 October, 1514, when Robert Toney had collation (ibid, p.10; le Neve, Salisbury, p.50).

G. of Salisbury and p. of Maior pars Altaris (1490 - 92), of Wilsford and Woodford (1492) of Faringdon (1492 - 1514) (le Neve, pp. 50, 68, 97).

B.C.L.

1514 - ?1516

TONEY, Robert. P. of St. Katherine's Altar, coll. 20 October, 1514 (Dade, p.10). The date when he vacated the prebend is not at present known, but it is reasonable to suppose that he transferred directly to St. Mary's prebend when it fell vacant in consequence of Charles Booth's promotion to the bishoprick of Hereford. The latter was consecrated on 30 November, 1516 (see above, p.A.128).

For Toney's career and preferments see Prebendaries of St. Mary's Altar, above p.A.130.

in 1525/6

CAPON, alias SALCOTT, John. Alleged to have been p. of St. Katherine's Altar in 1525/6 (State Papers, 17 Henry VIII, vol. iv, pt.1, No.2001).

This reference should be accepted with caution, for John Capon, or Sallcott, as he is more frequently called, was a Benedictine monk, being abbot of Hyde until he was raised to the bishoprick of Bangor in 1534. In any other century it would be safe to discount the possibility of a monk holding secular preferment in a chapter with which

1. Dade, copying the Torre MS., is the sole reference for Newport's succession.

2. Sallcott in Essex, between Maldon and Colchester, was his birthplace.

3. Mr. Johes Capon, p' bendari, Katarine.
his house had no connection.\footnote{Benedictine cardinals, of course, frequently occur as prebendaries of York and other collegiate churches throughout the middle ages. In pre-Reformation years members of religious orders holding titular sees in partibus infidelium and serving as suffragans to diocesan bishops, are known to have been supported by secular preferment, usually in the diocese in which they functioned (cf. William Hogeson, the ex-Dominican bishop of Dariensis, above, pp. A.150 - 151). John Capon, however, was not consecrated until 19 April, 1534, and certainly never functioned as a suffragan.}

Even in the sixteenth century it was most irregular, but, under the circumstances, just possible.\footnote{John Greve, a Benedictine, held the prebend of Osbaldwick in York from 1535 till his death in 1539 (le Neve, Northern Province, p.74). This, however, was the period of the Dissolution.}

Capon was an ardent supporter of Henry VIII's divorce proceedings, and it was largely due to Anne Boleyn's influence that he was consecrated bishop of Bangor. Throughout his tenure of the see (1534 - 39), and later that of Salisbury (1539 - 57), he belonged to the reforming group of prelates.\footnote{See A.G. Dickens, The English Reformation, pp. 177, 184; Jasper Ridley, Thomas Cranmer, pp. 98, 178, 239. For Salcott's sermon against Elizabeth Barton in 1533, which did him little credit, see D.M. Knowles, Religious Orders in England, iii, p.189.}

But even if it were concluded that he was a person disposed to break the rule of his Order in the matter of secular preferment when opportunity offered, it is hard to believe that would do so as early as 1526.

His elder brother, William, is named in the Valor as holding St. Katherine's prebend in 1535, and was certainly quite capable of securing it ten years and more earlier - he could easily have followed Toneyes c.1516. It does seem probable, therefore, that it was he and not John, who is referred to in the list of 1525/6.

B.Th., L., 1511; D.Th. (of Cambridge).\footnote{Mr. Jasper Ridley (Thomas Cranmer, p.29) states that Salcott was one of the delegates of the University of Cambridge selected to consider the Divorce. One might have supposed his brother William, who was Master of Jesus College, to have been a more likely candidate for the task.} He was almost certainly not the John Salcott who was said to have graduated B.A. in 1488, and to have been studying law at Cambridge in the following year, 'since his elder brother, William, was only qualifying for the degree of B.A. in 1498' (Emden, Cambridge, p.503).
CAPON, William. P. of St. Katherine's Altar in 1535 (Valor Ecclesiasticus, v, p.131), still in 1548 when the College was dissolved (Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, ii, p.527).


St. Katherine's was probably his only preferment in the York diocese, but he had lucrative interests elsewhere: his death in February, 1550, left vacant prebends in Wells, Salisbury, and Bangor, the precentorship of St. Mary's, Southampton, and the rectory of Stoneham, both in the diocese of Winchester (Emden, Cambridge, loc.cit).

He owed his early advancement chiefly to the patronage of Wolsey, who made him dean of his college at Ipswich in 1528. After the fall of the Cardinal his future preferment was ensured by his brother, John (see above). His chief claim to remembrance was his foundation of King Edward VI School, Southampton.


1. The possibility of the prebend being in his possession in 1526 is considered above, see John Capon. If this possibility were indeed the case, he may well have succeeded to St. Katherine's in 1516, after Robert Toneys transferred to St. Mary's prebend.

2. In that year the Chantry Certificate records him as being seventy years of age, 'havyng promocions and lyvinges the value whereof we know not'.

3. le Neve, Salisbury, p.93; Bath and Wells, p.24. Emden, Cambridge, p.122, however, states that he made his will on 26 July, 1550.

4. It was he who selected Thomas Cranmer to be a fellow of Cardinal College, Oxford, in 1525 (Jasper Ridley, Thomas Cranmer, p.23).

5. See Russell, History of King Edward VI School, Southampton.
CLERKS APPEARING IN PRIMARY SOURCES AS PREBENDARIES OF BEVERLEY BUT WHOSE ACTUAL POSSESSION OF A PREBEND IS QUESTIONABLE
CLERKS APPEARING IN PRIMARY SOURCES AS PREBENDARIES\(^1\) OF BEVERLEY BUT WHOSE ACTUAL POSSESSION OF A PREBEND IS QUESTIONABLE

MARE, William de la. Had collation of an unnamed prebend on 26 June, 1338 (Reg. Melton, fo.\(^{118}\))\(^2\).

PROVOST OF BEVERLEY 24 June, 1338 - 4 October, 1360 (see above pp. A.21 - 22, where his other preferments are listed)\(^3\).

The prebend in question is almost certainly St. James' which fell vacant on 24 June, 1338, with the death of Nicholas de Huggate, who had also been provost until that date. Certainly no other prebend suggests itself.

The fact that de la Mare received the provostship on the very day of Huggate's death suggests that either the latter effected an exchange of the dignity on his deathbed to ensure the succession of this young kinsman of the Archbishop, or that Melton had arranged for the collation to take effect from the moment of his death. Both courses were not infrequently adopted in order to defeat waiting provisors.

It looks as though the above reference represents an attempt to secure the other part of Huggate's Beverley preferment, but if so it was certainly unsuccessful, for on 6 July Anthony de Goldsborough was admitted to St. James' prebend on the strength of a papal provision awarded to him in 1336 (see above pp. A.68 - 69).

The mutilated condition of the record of Anthony de Goldsborough's admission\(^4\) may indicate that he was not left to enjoy the prebend in peace, for later disputes regarding its possession appear to have stemmed from this time (see above, p.A.70); but there appears to be no further reference to de la Mare as a prebendary, whereas Goldsborough, in papal eyes at least, vacated St. James' prebend on death on 22 February, 1364/5 (C.P.L., iv, p.85).

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1. As distinct from canons awaiting a prebend on an expectative provision. These were many, and they usually waited in vain.


3. Two further benefices are to be added to this list; de la Mare was rector of North Ferriby on the Humber, near his birthplace, till 24 December, 1328, when he exchanged it with Walter de Bedewynd for the treasureship of York Minster (le Neve, Northern Province, p.13; Y.A.J., xxxvi, p.218). He is almost certainly the clerk who received a perpetual portion in the church of Osmotherley by papal provision on 27 July, 1318 (B.C.A., ii, p.lxiii).

4. B.C.A., ii, pp. 120 - 122.
SAMPSON, Thomas. On 17 May, 1350, a petition was made at the curia on behalf of one William de Barton for the canonry and prebend of Beverley vacant by the death of Thomas Sampson (C.Pap.Pet., i, p.197).

Sampson died between 16 June (when he made his will) and 4 July, 1349 (Test.Ebor., i, p.54; le Neve, Northern Province, p.56). This was, and is, a time of uncertainty regarding possession of several Beverley prebends, and in view of Sampson's standing in the York diocese it is possible and likely that he did indeed die possessed of a prebend.

Its identity is a matter for conjecture. Possibly it was St. Mary's prebend, for we do not know the date of the death of Ralph de Turville who was provided to it in February, 1346 (C.P.L., iii, p.199; above p.A.122). The next known prebendary is Alan de Waynflete who received it by royal grant in October, 1352 (C.P.R., 1350-54, p.323). It could be, however, that Sampson had in fact succeeded to the prebend much earlier - i.e. following the death of Denis Avenel in c.1343. The precise date of this vacancy is also uncertain, but it could have occurred sometime in the period 1340-42 when the see was vacant, following the death of Archbishop Melton, in which case Sampson would have received it by royal grant. If this were indeed the case he would certainly be involved in a dispute with Aymer Robert, cardinal priest of St. Anastasia, who is found to have resigned the prebend by February, 1345/6 (C.F.L., iii, p.199), and later with Ralph de Turville who succeeded him.

For a biographical notice of Thomas Sampson who was D.C.L., and served as official of the court of York to both archbishops Melton and de la Zouch see Emden, Oxford, iii, p.1636 and W.H. Dixon, Fasti Eboracenses, p.431n.

GAWOOD, William. On 4 September, 1393, William de Cawood, described as a canon of St. John of Beverley and chancellor of York, was commissioned by Archbishop Arundel to proceed to the election of the prior of Guisborough (Reg. Arundel, fo.44b). Reference is made to this occasion in the Introduction to the second volume of the Guisborough Cartulary where both designations, as they appear, are misleading.2

1. See also Test.Ebor, i, p.431, where he is described as a 'residentiary canon'. Sampson was probably a victim of the Black Death, the first attack of which struck the north in 1349.

Cawood was in fact acting as vicar general, to which office he had been appointed some ten weeks earlier (ibid, fo.41). He was certainly not a canon or prebendary of Beverley at this or any other time.

Fortunately an interesting explanation of this apparent error is available: In his will, dated February, 1419, Cawood speaks of his prebend in Ripon as that of St. John of Beverley (Memorials of Ripon, iv, p.190; Y.A.J., xxii, p.8), and it is almost certainly to this Ripon stall, better known as the prebend of Thorpe, which he held from before May, 1393, till his death, that the above reference refers.

For a biographical notice of William de Cawood see Emden, Oxford, iii, p.2160.
OFFICERS OR DIGNITARIES
ALFRED, ALUREDUS (ALVERED, ALFRIDUS). As sacrist he witnessed (c.1135 - 43) the confirmation by Thurstan, provost, and the chapter of Beverley, of their grant of alms from the parishes of Bridlington and Hunmanby to the canons of Bridlington Priory (Chartulary of Bridlington Priory, pp. 69, 74; Reg. Newark in Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.231; E.Y.C., i, No. 105. See also above p.A.38, I). In the period 1143-47 Master Alfridus the sacristan witnessed Archbishop William Fitzherbert's grant of free burgage to Beverley Town (Beverley Charter Book, p.7; E.Y.C., i, No.105. See also above p.A.38, II).

In the period 1148-51 he witnessed, again as sacrist, the grant of land to the canons of Warter Priory by William de Roumare, earl of Lincoln (E.Y.C., x, No.67; and see also above p.A.38, III). He died, apparently an old man, before c.1157, when Robert appears as sacrist, and probably came to the sacristy long before 1143.

NOTE ON 'ALUREDUS THE SACRIST'

Aluredus is the most interesting, as well as the first, of the known sacrist of Beverley. He is of special significance to historians of the Minster on account of his writings, for he is beyond doubt the clerk referred to in the heading of the document, "Libertates Ecclesiae Sancti Johannis de Beverlik, cum privilegiis Apostolicis et Episcopalibus, quas Magister Aluredus Sacrista ejusdem Ecclesiae de Anglico in Latinum Transulit"3, edited by James Raine in Sanctuarium Dùnelmense et Sanctuaria Beverlacense (S.S., v), pp. 97 - 108.

He also wrote the ix books edited by the antiquary Thomas Hearne (1716) under the title, 'Aluredi Beverlacensis, Annales sive Historia de gestis Regum Britanniae,4 a work which alludes only briefly to Beverley in its later pages. This too makes little pretence of originality, drawing heavily on the almost contemporary Historia Regum Britanniae of Geoffrey of Monmouth. Aluredus obviously shared the credulity of the time in accepting this fanciful work as true fact, and shows none of

1. For the dating of the three charters which follow see above p.A.38.
2. B.C.A., i, p.xxii; 'The later collector of St. John's miracles mentions Alured, "of good remembrance, Sacrist of the church", as having, as an old man, taken part in one of the miracles ...."
3. Since, as Mr. Leach points out, the papal and episcopal privileges extend down to the reign of Edward III, some at least can hardly be attributed to Alured.
the discernment of Ailred of Rievaulx\(^1\) in his treatment of it.

Hearne cites several summaries of his life, all brief and somewhat confused, and all demonstrably wide of the mark regarding his earlier career. The assertion, for instance, that he studied at Cambridge may be readily dismissed, it being now accepted that the foundation of that university belongs to the following century. One of the earliest 'magistri' named in early Yorkshire charters, the most natural source of his qualification was the University of Paris, though it may be that at some time 'Cadumensis' (Caen) has been misread.

The statement also that he was a canon, as well as treasurer or sacrist, is almost certainly wrong, and probably arose from a misunderstanding of the constitution of the Minster. So far from being described as a canon when witnessing a charter, he is distinguished from members of the chapter who, on two of the three occasions, are designated as such, and always witness before him. Certainly at a later date a statute expressly forbade the holding of more than one dignity or office in the church, and at no time is any other clerk known to have done so. Finally, 1136 may be taken as the approximate date of the ending of the 'Annales', but was certainly not the year of his death.

These summaries, together with their sources, are here given as set out by Hearne (pp. 1-li)

1. "Baleus de Script Cent. II n.LXXIII\(l\)

'Alphredus Beverlacensis, sacerdotalis ordinis homo et fuit in eadem urbe collegii thesaurarius, omnem operam literis hauriendis Cantabrigiae (ut fertur) sub non indignis praeceptoribus olim impendit. Utraque enim literatura, divina scilicet et humana, non infeliciter exercitatus ex discipulo coepit esse magister et ex clericis insignis doctor. Et alia quaedem. Claruit Alphredus anno a nostre Salutis origine per Redemptorem natum 1136 sub Anglorum rege Stephano Quo etiam anno Annales finiebat - ac Beverlacii tandem, post aliquot annos sepulturam acceptit.'


Alfredus in Septentrionalibus Angliae regionibus natus et educatus, sacerdos fuit secularis et Ecclesiae Beverlacensis Canonicus et Thesaurarius. Vir in sacris et profanis litteris apprime doctus que Cantabrigiae furtur multo tempore omnibus artibus liberalibus, Philosophicis et Theologicis scientiis non intulem operam impendisse.

\(^1\) In his Speculum Caritatis (see F.M. Powicke (ed), Walter Daniel's Life of Ailred of Rievaulx, pp. lxxxvii-lxxxix).

\(^2\) B.C.A., ii, p.271.
Additional note on Robert the Sacrist.

Robert also witnessed, as sacrist, two other extant charters within the period 1151 - 1166:

(i) The grant of lands in Sancton by William de Sancton to Watton Priory, where he features with canons Osbert Arundel, Simon, Ailward and William Moryn (Br. Library Add.21134).

(ii) A grant of lands by John de Hessle to North Ferriby Priory, witnessed also by canons Simon, Osbert Arundel and Philip Moryn (E.Y£., xii, No.23).

Taken together, the references to Robert suggest that he was Alured's immediate successor.

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by 1220
- ERNALDUS (Arnold, Arnaldus). In 1220 he witnessed, as sacrist, a confirmation by Watton Priory of rents in Hessle due to the Church of Beverley (Br. Library MS Lansdowne 398). He also features, again as sacrist, among witnesses of a Beverley charter c.1220 (Br. Library MS Lansdowne 199); also of a charter of Archbishop Walter Gray relating to the manor of Bishopthorpe of the period c.1225 - 1227 (Reg. Gray, p.192 n).

C. 1274 - MONKGATE, Thomas de. First occurs as sacrist of Beverley on 13 July, 1274 (Reg. Richard Gravesend, p.59). His last appearance in the dignity was on 24 March, 1289/90, and he had vacated it by 12 February, 1294/5, when his successor was collated by Archbishop le Romeyn, the provostship being then vacant2 (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.384; ii, p.22). It is reasonable to suppose that he either resigned or was deprived about this latter date, for he did not die until c.12 October, 1298 (Reg. Newark in Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.210).

1. Dr. Scammell shows this privilege to be almost certainly a forgery (op.cit., pp. 174 - 5, 300 - 302) but this does not, of course, diminish the value of the witnesses for present purposes.

2. Following the death of Peter de Chester.
On 9 February, 1266/7, Archbishop Giffard, then at Bury St. Edmunds, having been recently consecrated, appointed Monkgate deputy to the archdeacon of Richmond, Simon de Evesham, on account of the burden of work (Reg. Giffard, p.178). On the same day Giffard also appointed him his official 'until the return of the archbishop' (ibid, p.179). He apparently continued in this office for barely a fortnight, for on 26 February Mr. H. de Corbridge was made permanent official (ibid, pp. 185, 338). On 29 December, 1270, Monkgate is found assisting the official.


As sacrist Monkgate appears to have been an almost permanent absentee, and, as a result, to have fallen foul of Archbishop le Romeyn. Having failed to attend a recent episcopal visitation of the Minster he was pronounced contumacious on 4 December, 1286, and the chapter was ordered to sequestrate his corrody in the Bedern (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.360; B.C.A., ii, pp. 149 - 150, 151). This action appears to have been ineffective, for some two years later, Romeyn was still pursuing the matter (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.384; B.C.A., ii, pp. 157 - 159). The archbishop may have concluded the matter by depriving Monkgate. His unrelenting prosecution of the unfortunate Robert de Scarborough, dean of York as well as canon of Beverley¹, began with a summons to answer for his contumacy in not appearing at the visitation of 1286, issued on the same day as the sequestration order against Monkgate (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.360). In this celebrated contest the archbishop is revealed as a man unlikely to leave an absentee such as Monkgate in peace once he had instituted proceedings against him. It may be significant that Monkgate's successor was appointed by Romeyn himself, the provostship being vacant. He was magister by 1266 (Reg. Giffard, p.178).

1294/5 - 1310/1

NOTTINGHAM, Robert de. Sacrist of Beverley, coll. 12 February, 1294/5, by Archbishop le Romeyn, the provostship being then vacant (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.22). Vae. on death c.18 March, 1310/11 (B.C.A., i, p.283).

Clerk of Archbishop le Romeyn² and of Archbishop Newark,


² Not, it would seem, a regular member of the household at this stage, for his activities were mainly in the archdeaconry of Nottingham.
1286–99 (Reg. Romeyn, i, pp. 110n, 359; ii, pp. 84, 124; Reg. Newark in Reg. Romeyn, ii, pp. 241, 247, 266). Chancellor of Archbishop Corbridge, 1300–04 (Reg. Corbridge, i, pp. 153, 268; ii, p. 153, see also pp. 21, 29, 32). Chancellor of Archbishop Greenfield in 1306 (Reg. Greenfield, i, p. 163); described simply as a clerk (of the household) in 13071 (ibid, ii, pp. 29, 32; iii, pp. 8, 12, 13; iv, pp. 9, 200; v, 53, 57).


Nottingham’s residence at Beverley was no better than that of his predecessor, though care was taken that his absence should be legally recognised. The device to ensure this was the use, or rather the misuse, of the bull Quum ex eo (promulgated in 1291)3 which permitted leave of absence of up to seven years to be granted by the bishop or other lawful authority to holders of a cure of souls who wished to study at a recognised school or university. Nottingham’s career provides a good example of the way in which, almost from the outset, the Bull was seized upon to secure lawful absence for purposes other than study. On 25 May, 1293, as rector of Brandesburton, he was granted a licence to study, at home or abroad, for three years4 (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p. 71). On 19 November, 1304, when the see was vacant following the death of Corbridge, the Beverley chapter granted him leave to study at a university for two years (B.C.A., i, p. 46). Finally, on 8 October, 1307, Archbishop Greenfield authorised his absence for study for a further two years (Reg. Greenfield, iii, p. 128). In spite of the explicit terms of these licences it can be seen that Nottingham spent the whole time in the service of the archbishops who issued two of them.

Towards the end of his life, he spent more and more time

1 Mr. Peter de Cestria had succeeded him as chancellor by July, 1310 (Reg. Greenfield, v, p. 157).
2 Collated 'by committing the custody of the sequestration to him' (loc.cit).
3 Corpus Iuris Canonici, ed. E. Friedberg, Sext, i, vi, 34.
4 Memorandum quod Robertus de Notingham, rector ecclesie de Brandesburton, habet licenciam studendi per triennium citra mare vel ultra mare, et ecclesiam suam ad firmam dimittere .... etc". Whether or not this licence was renewed in 1296 does not appear; if it was in fact repeated at three-yearly intervals the licences would probably be issued by the Beverley Chapter, the see falling vacant both in 1296 and 1299. Nottingham, incidentally, is nowhere described as 'magister'.

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at Brandesburton. By 28 February, 1310/11, he had been taken ill, and was granted permission to say Mass in his rectory (Reg. Greenfield, iii, p.128n). On the same day he made his will, requesting burial in the chancel of his church (B.C.A., i, p.285), and died two or three weeks later.

1311 - 1321/2


Household clerk of Archbishop Corbridge 1301/2 - 1304 (Reg. Corbridge, i, pp. 12, 70, 79; ii, pp. 129, 153, 154), and of Archbishop Greenfield in 1306 (Reg. Greenfield, ii, p.17; iv, p.200; v, p.53). In the king's service in 1311 (ibid, p.56).


Nicholas was probably a kinsman of his predecessor, Robert de Nottingham, who as archbishop's chancellor, was possibly instrumental in finding him a place in Corbridge's household. Greenfield, after a lengthy interregnum, appears to have inherited both Nottinghams, but to have dispensed with their services within a few months of his consecration. The nature of Nicholas' royal service is uncertain, but since Melton refers to him as his clerk in his letter of collation, he was probably connected with the Wardrobe, of which the Provost was by then Keeper. It could be, however, that he normally served Melton's northern interests in the same way that Nicholas de Huggate did later. This seems likely in view of his subsequent appearances in the Act Book. A month after his admission to the sacristy the chapter granted him partial leave of absence so that he might serve his rectory of Epperston and the sacristy by turns (B.C.A., i, p.290). In the following year he was in controversy with the vicars choral in the matter of the supply of candles for matins and vespers in summertime (B.C.A., i, p.292), and he was certainly residing at Beverley in the autumn of 1314, when his affair with a local shearman's daughter came to light (ibid, p.325). A month later, however, he was absent from Greenfield's visitation of the Minster (ibid, p.327), and in June, 1315, the vicars were once more complaining about his services, this time regarding bread and wine for masses (ibid, p.337).

1. Whether or not Nottingham ever acquired the prebend in Southwell which was reserved to him in 1318 is uncertain (C.P.L. ii, p.106). The Sacristy at this time was said to be worth £12. The church of Epperston was valued at £13 6s 8d.
MALTON, Nicholas de. Sacrist of Beverley, admitted before 1331 -
by 24 March, 1321/2 (B.C.A., ii, pp. 2, 3). Vac. by 26 June, 1331, when Adam de Haselbeck held the sacristy (ibid, p.97).

Clerk of Nicholas de Huggate, provost of Beverley (ibid, p.2).

A native of Huggate in the East Riding, he was apparently with his master in London at the time of his appointment, being admitted to the sacristy in the person of his proctor. He was one of several clerks from the village of the eminent Provost who owed their positions at Beverley to his favour. Malton made no recorded appearance at Beverley.

HASELBECK, Adam de. Sacrist of Beverley by 26 June, 1331 (B.C.A., ii, p.97). Vac. sometime before November, 1346, presumably as a result of an exchange with William de Dalton for the rectory of South Dalton. On this assumption he was still sacrist in December, 1339 (C.P.R., 1338-40, p.400).


Rector of Lythe, nr. Whitby, from 1322, of Sturton-le-Steeple, Notts. (1326-46), of South Dalton in the provostry, till 1346, when he exchanged it for Finningley, nr. Nottingham (1346-47), Master of Norton Hospital, nr. Malton (1346-47) (Emden, loc.cit).

C. of Howden and p. of Skelton till 1346, when he exchanged it for Norton Hospital, above (Emden, loc.cit).

1. His letter appointing proctors for his admission is dated London, as is Huggate's letter appointing him sacram (B.C.A., ii, loc.cit).

2. Mr. John de Huggate, a clerk, and probably a kinsman of the Provost, was made a clerk of the Berfell in 1323/4 (B.C.A., ii, pp. 41-42), Richard de Huggate was seemingly a clerk of the second form in 1337 (ibid, pp. 117, 118), whilst Thomas de Huggate graduated from thence to a vicar choralship (ibid, pp. 85, 86, 90, 113, 115, 125, 130). William de Huggate, who acted at times as proctor for both Nicholas de Malton and Nicholas de Huggate, was rector of North or Cherry Burton in the provostry (ibid, pp. 2, 7, 65; Yorkshire Deeds, ix, pp. 84-86). Finally, Simon de Huggate was steward of the Provostry or the Bedern in 1319 and 1321 (B.C.A., i, pp. 370, 371, 393).

3. The likelihood of the sacristy having been the subject of an exchange between Haselbeck and Dalton is based on the knowledge that the dignity passed from one to the other sometime between 19 November, 1333 (B.C.A., ii, p.104) and 21 April, 1347 (C.P.L., iii, p.219), and that South Dalton, which belonged to Dalton in December, 1339, (C.P.R., 1338-40, p.400), had passed to Haselbeck by November, 1346, (Emden, Oxford, ii, p.883).
He, too, was obviously well known to Provost Huggate, who must have appointed him. Both men were in their turn trusted servants of William Melton, and Haselbeck almost certainly succeeded Huggate in the church of Lythe, the latter having held it since 1315 (Reg. Greenfield, iii, p.105; and see above, p.A.67). Haselbeck, an M.A., probably of Oxford, by 1320 (B.C.A., i, p.377), died between 19 May, 1347, when he made his will, and 7 January, 1347/8, when it was proved (Reg. Zouch, fo.323v, in Emden, loc.cit).

1. Both Archbishop Melton and Provost Huggate were former keepers of the wardrobe.

2. It is quite possible that Dalton also acquired a prebend in Beverley. He was granted a papal provision to one on 4 July, 1361 (C.P.Pet., i, p.319). A senior king's clerk with such a provision was in a strong position to bring it to fruition. His tenure of a prebend must have been, in any case, very short. At a time when succession to prebends was much confused by the ravages of the Black Death it is quite impossible to identify the prebend, but St. Andrew's seems the most likely.

It is likely that Dalton was a local man, having family connections with South Dalton, nr. Beverley, where he was rector for some years. He was son of Sir Robert de Dalton, constable of the Tower of London (Emden, Oxford, i, p.538). His term of study at Oxford from February, 1350/1, till February, 1352/3, which earned him a place in Dr. Emden's catalogue did not bring him a degree. He died in 1371 (C.P.L., iv, p.102).

?–1354

SHIRBOURNE, Robert de. Vacated the sacristy c.6 November, 1354, when he exchanged it with Mr. Thomas de Oldington for the rectory of Kirby Wisk (C.P.R., 1354–58, p.133). He had acquired the sacristy some time after May, 1349 (C.P.L., iii, p.356).

Rector of Kirby Wisk, north of Ripon, from 1354, still in 1371 (C.P.R., loc.cit; Y.A.J., xxv, p.177).

1354–1378

OLDINGTON, Thomas de. Sacrist of Beverley, adm. c.6 November, 1354, having exchanged the rectory of Kirby Wisk for it (C.P.R., 1354–58, p.133; Y.A.J., xxv, p.177n). Vac. on exchange with Hugh de Wymonderswold 11 August, 1378 (Reg. Neville, i, fo.7).

King's clerk by 1353.


C. of Salisbury and p. of Ramsbury (1378–?) (le Neve, p.78); C. of Tamworth and p. of Wigginton (1368/9–?); Rector of Cottenham, dio. Ely, till 1368/9, of Nailston, nr. Leicester, dio. Lincoln from 1368/9 (Y.A.J., loc.cit).¹

¹ On 20 February, 1368/9, Oldington exchanged his rectory of Cottenham for the prebends in St. Mary and the Holy Angels and Tamworth, and the rectory of Nailston (Y.A.J., xxxvi, p.223), and on 11 August, 1378, gave the whole of his Yorkshire preferments, including the sacristy, for the prebend of Ramsbury in Salisbury (Reg. Neville, i, fo.7).
Love is a mighty power, a great and complete good; Love alone lightens every burden, and makes the rough places smooth. It bears every hardship as though it were nothing, and renders all bitterness sweet and acceptable. The love of Jesus is noble, and inspires us to great deeds; it moves us always to desire perfection. Love aspires to high things, and is held back by nothing base. Love longs to be free, a stranger to every worldly desire, lest its inner vision become dimmed, and lest worldly self-interest hinder it or ill-fortune cast it down. Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing stronger, nothing higher, nothing wider, nothing more pleasant, nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth; for love is born of God, and can rest only in God, above all created things.

Love flies, runs, and leaps for joy; it is free and unrestrained. Love gives all for all, resting in One who is highest above all things, from whom every good flows and proceeds. Love does not regard the gifts, but turns to the Giver of all good gifts. Love knows no limits, but ardently transcends all bounds. Love feels no burden, takes no account of toil, attempts things beyond its strength; love sees nothing as impossible, for it feels able to achieve all things. Love therefore does great things; it is strong and effective; while he who lacks love faints and fails.

Love is watchful, and while resting, never sleeps; weary, it is never exhausted; imprisoned, it is never in bonds; alarmed, it is never afraid; like a living flame and a burning torch, it surges upward and surely surmounts every obstacle. Whoever loves God knows well the sound of His voice. A loud cry in the ears of God is that burning love of the soul which exclaims, 'My God and my love, You are all mine, and I am Yours.'
1378 - 1379

WYMONDERSWOLD, Hugh de. Sacrist of Beverley, adm. c.11 August, 1378, having received the dignity from Thomas de Oldington in part exchange for his prebend of Ramsbury in Salisbury (Reg. Neville, i, fo.7). Vac. on death by 3 November, 1379 (le Neve, Northern Province, p.11).


C. and p. of Norton, dio. Durham (by 1347 - 79) (C.P.L., iii, p.239); C. and p. of St. Chad's Shrewsbury (1350 - ?) (ibid, pp.361 - 62; le Neve, Northern Province, p.52); C. of Lichfield and p. of Wellington (1353 - 79) (le Neve, pp.65 - 66); C. of Salisbury and p. of Ramsbury (? - 1378) (le Neve, p.78).


1379 - ?

RIPON, Roger de. First occurs as sacrist on 26 March, 1380/1, when he was cited to attend Archbishop Neville's visitation of Beverley (B.C.A., ii, p.231). Since he followed Hugh de Wymondeswold in the precentorship of York on the latter's death in 1379, it is reasonable to assume that the sacristy came to him at the same time.

Precentor of York (1379), Archdeacon of Cleveland (1379 - 80) (le Neve, pp.11, 20).

On 20 June, 1385, he was a member of the commission of array for the liberty of St. John, Beverley, set up in response to the threat of French invasion (C.P.R., 1381 - 85, p.591). Though not designated as such he was probably still sacrist. He was then described as magister, though not in any other reference.

1387 - ?


¹ On 25 June, 1387, the king granted the sacristy to Edmund Altoun, the temporalities of the see of York being in the king's hands by reason of the late vacancy of the archbishoprick (C.P.R., 1385 - 89, p.331). Provost Manfield as lawful patron appointed Grove, and appears to have had little difficulty in asserting his rights in the matter (B.C.A., ii, p.lxxxii).


In 1479 he received a papal dispensation to hold another benefice besides Burton Fleming (C.P.L., loc.cit), and it may well have been about this time that he acquired the sacristy, though this would not have required a dispensation. In September, 1487, he featured in the will of a Hull merchant (Test. Ebor, iii, p.192n), and his connection with Poteman, who was provost from 1467, and who would therefore appoint him, suggests that he may have followed Gedney.


TAIT, William. Sacrist of Beverley in 1507 (Reg. Sede Vacante fo.539d; Y.A.J., xxiv, p.230n), still in September, 1538 (Test. Ebor, vi, p.82). * It is probable that he held the sacristy at the time of his death, which

1. The reference in Poulson (Beverlac, ii, p.589) to a Henry 'Grene' as Sacrist in 1436 is almost certainly a misreading of 'Grove'.
2. Gedney resigned Beetham on 3 November, 1441, in favour of Hugh Packenham, but was re-instituted three weeks later (Y.A.J., xxv, p.229).
4. See also State Papers, 17, Henry VIII, iv, pt.1, no. 2001.
5. John Style, named as "Treasurer" of Beverley in 1532, held an office quite distinct from that of Sacrist (Poulson, Beverlac, ii, p.619).
occurred between 9 September and 28 October, 1540¹ (Emden, Cambridge, p.577; le Neve, Northern Province, p.38).

Internal principal of Garret Hostel, Cambridge; Junior Proctor of the University 1496-97. Almoner of Henry, Duke of Richmond,² by 1525 (Emden, Cambridge, loc.cit). Member of the Council of the North by 1525.


M.A. of Cambridge; D.C.L. of Bologna 1505 (Emden, Cambridge, loc.cit).

Carved on the underside of the misericord of the sacrist's stall in the choir of Beverley Minster⁴ is a coat of arms and scrolls bearing the inscription: 'arma wilhelmi tait doctoris thesaurarii huius ecclesie 1520'⁵. In his will he requested burial in St. George's Chapel Windsor (Emden, Cambridge, loc.cit).

in c.1548

BOLNEY, Anthony. Sacrist of Beverley at the time of the dissolution of the College and chantries c.1548 (Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, ii, p.527)⁶. He was then described as being 44 years of age, 'havyng honest qualities and well lerned, and hath other promocions, the value whereof we know not' (ibid).

¹ The dates on which he made his will, and on which his successor at York was admitted.
² Henry Fitzroy, natural son of Henry VIII, who was six years of age in 1525 when he was appointed Lieutenant-General north of the Trent and Warden of the Scottish Marches (J.R. Tanner, Tudor Constitutional Documents, A.D.1485-1603, p.316).
³ See also State Papers, 17 Henry VIII, iv, pt.1, no.2001.
⁴ i.e. the tenth stall from the east end on the north side.
⁵ For an illustration see The Misereres of Beverley Minster by T.T. Wildridge, plate lxxiv. The description (p.38), however, is erroneous.
⁶ Bolney is here described as 'sexton'. That the sacrist is meant is made clear on p.524.
PRECEIDENTS
PRECELECTORS OF BEVERLEY

in c.1199 - William. Occurs as precentor of Beverley, in company with Mr. Miles, canon of Beverley (see above, pp. A.33-34), c.1199, when he was described as magister (The Chartulary of Guisborough, ii, p.148).

by 1273 - c.1289

IVINGHOE (YVINGO), Ralph de. As precentor he was granted a house in Morgate, Beverley, by the Minster vicars, in return for a payment of 40 marks, and an annual rental of two shillings to the light at the high altar, 25 June, 1273 (B.C.A., ii, pp. 295-296). Vac. on resignation sometime before 23 March, 1289/90, when his successor first appears (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.16; B.C.A., ii, pp. 157-158).

King's clerk, possibly of the exchequer (though not described as such), in February, 1287/8, and June, 1289, when he was then one of the collectors of the thirtieth on the king's behalf (Reg. Romeyn, i, pp. 23n, 27, 28-29). First described as a king's clerk 22 November, 1293 (C.P.R., 1292-1301, p.52). King's justice trying case against ministers of Eleanor, late Queen Consort, 28 July, 1294 (ibid, p.114).


C. of St. Paul's, London and p. of Caddington Major c.1291, chancellor of St. Paul's (1278-c.1299) (le Neve, pp. 18, 25; York Minster Fasti, ii, p.40); C. of Lincoln and p. of St. Martin's in Dernestall (?-1302) (le Neve, p.89); Rector of Ivinghoe, Bucks., dio. Lincoln, by 1294 (C.P.R., 1292-1301, p.95).

Ivinghoe seemingly owed his earlier preferment (i.e. in Beverley and St. Paul's) to an acquaintance with John Chishull, who was provost of Beverley from the death of John Mansel in 1264/5 until his consecration as bishop of London in 1274. During this time Chishull was twice Chancellor of England, and also Treasurer for nearly two years. As provost he was patron of the three dignities, including the precentorship, and as bishop of London (1274-80) he would almost certainly be responsible for Ivinghoe's promotion in St. Paul's. Our precentor may also have enjoyed the favour of William Wickwane, the future archbishop, who was rector of Ivinghoe from 12 February, 1263/4 (Rotuli Richard Gravesend, p.239). Ivinghoe may well have followed him as rector, but whether this connection influenced his preferment in York Minster is uncertain.

1. Such a sum suggests a straightforward purchase rather than a grant.

2. See above, p.A.17.
HAMBLETON (HAMILTON), William de. Precentor by 23 March, 1289/90, when cited, with others to appear before Archbishop le Romeyn to answer for non-residence (B.C.A., ii, pp. 157-8; Reg. Romeyn, i, p.384), still on 28 February, 1292/3, when he was again cited for failure to appear at the archbishop's visitation (B.C.A., ii, p.173; Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.16). Vac. on resignation before 6 February, 1304/5, when Gilbert de Grimsby first occurs as precentor (B.C.A., i, p.53).

King's clerk (later in Chancery) by 1265/66 (Reg. Giffard, p.42; B.C.A., ii, pp. xl-xli); Vice-chancellor 1296 (B.C.A., ii, p.xli); Chancellor of England 1304/5-1307 (C.P.R., 1301-1307, pp. 309, 518).

C. of York and p. of Warthill (1287-1307) (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.369; le Neve, p.86); archdeacon of York (1288-1300) (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.81; Reg. Corbridge, ii, pp. 4-5; le Neve, p.17); dean of York (1296-1307)1 (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.213; C.P.R., 1301-1307, p.518; le Neve, p.6).


He had custody of the churches at Cromwell, Notts. (1276-?) (Reg. Giffard, p.263), of Kirkella (1288-?) (Reg. Romeyn, i, pp. 206-207), of Brayton, nr. Selby (1291-92) (Reg. Romeyn, i, pp. 110, 122).


The date of Hambleton's resignation of the precentorship is not recorded, but it is unlikely that he retained it long after 1296. It is inconceivable that the dean of York should hold a dignity subject to the chapter of a daughter church. It is most unlikely that he ever took up residence at Beverley.

1. He did not secure undisputed possession of the deanery until 1300 (le Neve, loc.cit).

2. The fact that the precentorship is not included in this list need not mean that Hambleton had ceased to hold it. The subject of the reference is a papal indult permitting him to hold several cures, and his dignity did not carry a cure of souls.
Hambleton rose to prominence in the royal service as a master in Chancery under Robert Burnall (Chancellor 1274–92), and himself succeeded Archbishop Greenfield in the Chancellorship in 1304/5, retaining the office until his death at Fountains Abbey on 15 August, 1307 (C.P.R., 1301–1307, p.518; Reg. Corbridge, i, p.11n). "In spite of his position in the state, his connection with York was never merely nominal; and it is largely to his influence that we may attribute the remarkable prominence of Yorkshire-born clerks, alike in offices of state and in the chapter of York, which continued throughout the greater part of the fourteenth century" (A. Hamilton Thompson, Reg. Greenfield, i, p.xv).

Shortly before his death he founded a chantry in York Minster for the welfare of the souls of his parents, ancestors and himself. He also built a chapel in the village of Hambleton, in the parish of Brayton, nr. Selby, which was his birthplace, and in 1307 made arrangements for the support of a chaplain there (Reg. Greenfield, i, pp. 23–24).  

Although both the revised le Neve and York Fasti show him as 'magister' this is almost certainly incorrect. He is never so described in the registers, and is frequently distinguished from magistri in lists of witnesses.

by 1304/5
- 1305/6

GRIMSBY, Gilbert de. Precentor of Beverley by 6 February, 1304/5 (B.C.A., i, p.53). Vac. on death between 19 February, when he made his will (ibid, pp. 148–149), and 25 February, 1305/6 (ibid, pp. 112–113).

Bearer of the banner of St. John of Beverley in the Scottish campaigns of Edward I of 1296 and 1299 (B.C.A., i, pp. lxxxviii–lxxxix). Described as 'capellanus Domini Regis illustris', May, 1305 (ibid, p.72).

Vicar choral of Beverley in 1296 and 13002 (Y.A.J., xxxviii, p.520; B.C.A., i, p.lxxxviii).

1. For Hambleton's probable kinship with Adam de Osgodby, who was master of the Rolls in 1298, see Reg. Corbridge, i, pp. 10–11n. See also Thomas Burton, The History of Hemingborough, pp. 306–307.

2. The identity of his vicarage is not stated. Probably it was that of St. Andrew's prebend, since all the old vicarages are known to have been occupied between 1300 and 1305, or else to have been held towards the end of this period by apparently well-established vicars. In February, 1302/3, John de Risingdon, shortly to become auditor of the chapter, was admitted to St. Andrew's vicarage - Grimsby may have been his predecessor (B.C.A., i, p.27). Certainly Grimsby never held St. Michael's vicarage, as suggested by A.S. Harvey (Y.A.J., xxxviii, pp. 507, 520–521), for it was occupied by William Nightingale from 1299 till 1305 (Yorkshire Deeds, ix, p.12; B.C.A., i, p.44).
As a reward for his services in the campaign of 1296 the king instructed John de Warenne, earl of Surrey, and then 'Keeper of the realm and land of Scotland', 'to provide Gilbert de Grimsby, king's clerk, who carried the banner of St. John of Beverley to the king in Scotland, and by the king's command remained there with it throughout the war, with a church in the realm of Scotland of the value of £20 or 20 marks' (13 October, 1296) (C.P.R., 1292 - 1301, p.208). In view of the continued hostilities between England and Scotland the value of such a grant, even if it materialised, must have been extremely doubtful.'

The humble status of Grimsby stands in sharp contrast to that of his two immediate predecessors. It may be that the precentorship was granted to him in lieu of the Scottish benefice, Edward I having influenced his alien clerk Aymo de Carto, who, as provost at the time, had the right of presentation. This would account for the most unusual step of raising a vicar choral to the dignity. It is unlikely, however, that the king went so far as to honour Grimsby's memory with the sumptuous tomb now in the north transept of Beverley Minster, as suggested by A.S. Harvey (A Priest's Tomb at Beverley Minster, Y.A.J., xxxviii, pp. 504 - 523). For his modest will see B.C.A., i, pp. 148 - 149.

1305/6 - 1325


Rector of Hotham, East Riding (1308 - 1317) (Reg. Greenfield, iii, p.134; Dixon, loc.cit); Rector of Bootle, Cumberland (before 1309 - 1318) (C.P.L., iii, pp. 50, 179).

P. of St. Andrew's, Aukland, dio. Durham from 1292/3 (Records of Antony Bek, p.36); Rector of Stockton-on-Tees, dio. Durham, by 1313, of Long Newton (1317, still in 1320) (Dixon, loc.cit; B.C.A., i, p;385).

1. On 30 May, 1305 Grimsby was given power of Attorney to collect arrears (amounting to £208) of an annual grant of £40 made by Edward I to the chapter in 1296 and 1297, following successful campaigning in Scotland (C.P.R., 1292 - 1301, pp. 204, 255). The money was to be received from John de Sandal, the 'king's Chamberlain in Scotland', at Berwick.

2. For a consideration of this tomb see Appendix VI, above pp. 365 - 397.

3. Insula was presented to the church of Hotham by his father, John de Insula (Reg. Greenfield, loc.cit, and see i, p.8n3). He quitted the benefice on receiving Long Newton, but did not then relinquish the precentorship, as stated by Dixon (Dixon, loc.cit).
The fact that he received the dignity at the hands of Mr. Robert de Abberwick (Provost of Beverley 1304–1306), who was Antony Bek's official, and also the first dean of St. Andrew's, Aukland, coupled with the knowledge that he had continuous leave of absence from Beverley, suggests that Insula's loyalties lay in the Durham rather than the York diocese.

1325–?

GRIMSTON, Richard de. Precentor of Beverley, admitted 23 June, 1325, on the presentation of Mr. Alan de Coatham, vicar general of Provost Nicholas de Huggate, then overseas (B.C.A., ii, pp. 69–70). Still on 26 June, 1331 (ibid, p.97).


As precentor Grimston was normally absent from Beverley, though he was evidently active in the York diocese in an administrative capacity throughout his ministry, and therefore capable of answering a summons to convocation when required in special circumstances, as on 26 June, 1331 (B.C.A., ii, p.97). He was granted leave of absence from Beverley at the time of his admission (ibid, p.70), and the readiness with which this was arranged suggests that he was in the service of Archbishop Melton. In 1319 he was commissioned to correct comperta found at the archbishop's visitation of Leconfield, nr. Beverley (B.C.A., i, pp. 372–3). In October, 1327, the chapter appointed him proctor, with Dr. Denis Avenel, for levying the subsidy requested by the king from the clergy in that year (B.C.A., ii, p.80), and in the following January he was Beverley's proctor for electing representatives at the forthcoming parliament at York (ibid, p.82).

1. He received leave of absence, ostensibly to study, as follows: 1305/6, following his admission by proxy, 1 year (Reg. Corbridge, ii, p.176); 1308, 2 years; 1310, 2 years; 1312, 3 years (Reg. Greenfield, i, p.8, n.3). No doubt Archbishop Melton continued the grants. If Insula did in fact use any of these terms for study his labours did not issue in a degree (B.C.A., ii, p.69).

2. Near Market Weighton, in the East Riding. The advowson was held by Roger de Grimston who was doubtless a kinsman.

3. As rector of Goodmanham he received a licence to study for three years on 28 September, 1314 (Reg. Greenfield, iii, p.228).

4. A Richard de Grimeston of York was goldsmith at the York mint 1331 (Dixon, Fasti Ebor, p.430).
Grimston was one of a large family of clerics originating from North Grimston,¹ not far from Kirkham Priory.

by 1381 - 1382

WALLACE, Ralph. Precentor of Beverley by 26 March, 1381, when he was cited to appear at Archbishop Alexander Neville's visitation of the Minster (B.C.A., ii, p.231). Vac. on death in 1382 (Dade, p.13).

Rector of Catwick, 8 miles N.E. of Beverley (?-14 April, 1382)² (C.P.R., 1381 - 85, p.106); Warden of Bawtry Hospital, Nr. Doncaster (1382) (ibid).

Only Wallace and two of the minor clergy responded to Neville's summons to his visitation at the first instance: they appeared and took the oath of obedience on 26 March, 1381 (B.C.A., ii, p.232). He was buried before his stall in the choir in accordance with his will (Dade, loc.cit).

in 1391


in 1419

SANTON, William. Precentor of Beverley by 12 April, 1419, when he featured as a beneficiary in the will of Provost Robert de Manfield (North Country Wills, ii, pp. 21, 23). Still on 29 March, 1436 (Poulson Beverlac, ii, p.589).

by 1442

HAMBALD, Robert. Precentor of Beverley by 15 June, 1442, when he was present at a visitation of the Minster (Miscellanea, ii, p.274).


Rector of Halsham, in Holderness (within the Provostry), adm. 25 February, 1443/4³ (ibid).

¹ On 15 December, 1304 Thomas de Grimston was inducted to two parts of the church of Goodmanham, Richard receiving the third part a fortnight later (Reg. Corbridge, ii, p.169). Martin de Grimston, rector of Cowlam, in the Wolds, and unsuccessful claimant of Skerne, was appointed sequestrator of the East Riding in 1308 (Reg. Greenfield, iii, pp. 36, 124n, 159 - 162). Nicholas de Grimston was instituted to the vicarage of the church of Aldborough in Holderness in 1313 (ibid, p.212). William de Grimston, vicar of Felixkirk, nr. Thirsk, died in 1313 (ibid, p.92), and Robert de Grimston, the archbishop's sergeant and receiver at Beverley in 1310 was probably another relation (Reg. Greenfield, i, p.52).

² On this date Wallace exchanged Catwick with Robert Scampston for Bawtry Hospital (op.cit). He died shortly afterwards.

³ Following an exchange by which Hambald give up the church of North Tidworth.

Robert Neville, in whose episcopate he received his preferment in the diocese of Salisbury, had been prebendary of St. James Altar in Beverley from 1419 until his consecration in 1427 at the age of 23 (see above, p. A.75).

1480 - c.1500


May have been rector of Brandesburton in the Provosty in 1458 (ibid), but was apparently not the William Cook who was p. of Thorp in Ripon from October, 1497 (Memorials of Ripon, ii, p.220; Ripon Chapter Acts, pp. 254, 311).

Founder of St. William's Chantry in Beverley Minster before 1493 (B.C.A., ii, p.civ; Test. Ebor, iv, p.80). He was executor of Robert Booth (p. of St. James' Altar, 1476-77) who died 1487/8 (ibid, p.32), and was almost certainly the William Coke, priest, whom Hugh Trotter, provost of Beverley, remembered for good in his will of 1503 (ibid, p.220).

by 1520


On the underside of the misericord of the tenth choir stall from the east on the south side in Beverley Minster is a coat of arms, with scrolls carrying the inscription 'Arma magistri thome donyngto p'centoris hui' ecclie' (T.T. Wildridge, 'The Misereres of Beverley Minster', plate xii).²


2. On one occasion at least Donyngton acted as informant to Wolsey concerning the prospect of a benefice falling vacant: in a letter to the Cardinal dated 8 March, 1528/9, he reported the improved health of the chancellor of Beverley and the diminished chances of the latter's rectory of Brandesburton falling vacant in the immediate future (State Papers, 20 Henry VIII, p.2361).
WADE (WARDE, WAYD), Robert. Precentor of Beverley in 15351 (Valor Ecclesiasticus, v, p.132). Still in 1548 when the collegiate body was dissolved (Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, ii, p.528).


Between 1531 and 1537, at least, he was active in an administrative capacity in the Beverley area (Y.A.J., xxiv, pp. 68n, 69n, 75n).3

M.A. (Cambridge) 1505; B.D.4 by 1531/2 (Y.A.J., xxiv, p.75n).

1. He almost certainly followed Donyngton in 1531.
2. He did not hold Lowthorpe (between Driffield and Bridlington) in 1525/6 (State Papers, 17 Henry VIII, vol. iv, pt.1 No.2001).
3. Wade was a beneficiary by the wills of William Ackroyde, rector of Marston, in 1518 (Test.Ebor, v, p.98), and of Isobell Craike of Bishop Burton, nr. Beverley, in 1548 (Test.Ebor, vi, p.272).
CHANCELLORS
CHANCELLORS OF BEVERLEY

before 1234

DANTISEY, Gilbert de. Occurs as chancellor of Beverley in the period 1222-34, when he witnessed a grant of land by William de Risiwis to Fulk Basset, provost of Beverley (Catalogue of Ancient Deeds, i, p.54)

- 1287


Rector of Goxhill, on the south bank of the Humber (1288, still in1295) (Reg. Sutton, i, pp. 105-107; C.P.R. 1292-1301, p.213); Rector of Mapleton, nr. Ashbourne, Derbyshire, dio. Coventry and Lichfield in 1295 (C.P.R., 1292-1301, p.213).

He almost certainly took his name from Crowcombe in the Quantocks in Giffard's former diocese of Bath and Wells. He was 'clearly one of Walter Giffard's importations into the diocese', and 'bore the surname of the second wife of that archbishop's father, the sister and co-heir of Sir Alexander Craucombe, and his relationship to both Giffard and Greenfield may fairly be assumed' (A. Hamilton Thompson, Reg. Greenfield, v, p. lvi). The chancellorship

1. It was probably during his tenure of the dignity that Fulk Basset annexed the church of Middleton in the provostry, to the precentorship in 1226.

2. Robert de Pickering appears as official in May, 1279 (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.209).

3. For part of his register as Vicar General see Reg. Romeyn, i, pp. 304 - 305.

of Beverley was probably one of his earliest preferments,
dating from Giffard's primacy (1266 - 79).1 A D.Cn.L.2
probably from the time of his first appearance in the
diocese, he took an active part in its administration
under no less than six archbishops, enjoying the confidence
of each. He was in Rome with archbishop le Romeyn in 1285,
and again in 1294, this time in the service of the king
(C.P.R., 1281 - 92, p.198; Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.xi; C.P.R.,
1292 - 1301, pp. 74, 105). He died before 14 September,
1308, when his will was proved (Reg. Greenfield, i, p.27).

1287 -
before 1320

BYTHAM (BYHAM, BITHAM), Robert de. Chancellor of Beverley,
apptd. c.October, 1287, by Provost Peter de Cestria, at the
personal request of Archbishop le Romeyn, made on 18 October,
1287 (Reg. Romeyn, ii, pp. 57 - 58).3 Vac. probably on death,
between 15 October, 1318, and 25 July, 1320, when his
successor first occurs (B.C.A., i, pp. 363, 382).

Household clerk of Archbishop le Romeyn from 1286, still in
1289 (Reg. Romeyn, i, pp. 92, 374; ii, p.51). Archbishop's
dean in the bailiwick of Southwell, Lanum, Sherburn-in-
Elmet, Otley, Ripon, Beverley and Patrington, appointed
1286 (ibid, ii, p.51). Appointed one of Archbishop Romeyn's
proctors to act in all cases brought by and against him
whilst abroad 1291 - 92 (ibid, ii, p.171).

So far as is known Bytham held no other benefice. A 'poor
clerk' befriended by Romeyn, he almost certainly came from
Castle Bytham in south Lincolnshire4 where the archbishop
lodged on a number of occasions (ibid, i, pp. 7, 14, 206;
ii, pp. 163n, 191, 194). His activities on Romeyn's behalf,
some implying considerable confidence, were normally

1. Though employed by Giffard on several commissions it is doubtful whether
Craucumb was ever a clerk of the household.

2. Probably of Oxford (Emden, Oxford, iii, pp. 2165 - 2166, where his doctorate
is taken back as far as 1286 only, but his duties as Wickwane's official
preclude the possibility of his having acquired it after 1279).

3. Cum itaque cancellaria predicte ecclesie, ad vestram collacionem pertinens,
der resignacionem magistri J. de Craucumb, quam habemus in promptu, jam vacet,
vos rogamus attende quatinus cancellarium ipsam dilecto clerico nostro,
magistro Roberto de Byham, pauperi clerico, qui aliiud beneficium non optinet,
caritatis intuitus conferatis. Quem post id adeptum beneficium volumus in
ecclesia ipsa personaliter residere, et onera que incumbunt officio, sicut
profecto convenit, supportare, que nos ad interpellandum pro ipso excitant,
et cum Deo petimus exaudiri (loc.cit).

confined to the East Riding, and centred on Beverley. In January, 1289/90, he was cited to appear in Beverley chapterhouse to show reason why he should not reside, but this was clearly a formality since he was then in the archbishop's employ (ibid, i, p. 384). He appears to have taken up permanent residence at the Minster after the death of his patron, though Corbridge continued to use him for local judicial enquiries and trials (Reg. Corbridge, i, pp. 163-164; ii, pp. 60, 76, 81). When the Chapter Act Book takes up his career in September, 1305, (B.C.A., i, p. 92) he is found taking an active part in Minster business, and from then until 1318, when he last occurs, he seems to have been in continuous residence (ibid, i, pp. 96, 101, 112, 157, 264, 268, 270, 282, 295, 307, 313-314, 363). He appears not at all in Archbishop Greenfield's Register; no doubt his position as a judge and corrector of 'comperta' was compromised by such incidents as at a visitation of the Minster in May, 1314, when he was found guilty of misbehaviour with no less than four women (B.C.A., i, pp. 307, 313-4).

M.A. by 1286 (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p. 51).

LANEHAM (LANUM), Robert de. Chancellor of Beverley from sometime between 15 October, 1318, when his predecessor last occurs (B.C.A., i, p. 363), and 25 July, 1320 (ibid, p. 382). Vac. probably on death before 20 February, 1321/2, when his successor was appointed (B.C.A., ii, p. 1).

His one solitary appearance as chancellor¹ makes identification difficult. He is probably the same Mr. Robert de Laneham who was a household clerk of Archbishop le Romeyn in 1293 and 1294 (Reg. Romeyn, i, pp. 139, 142, 180n, 235; ii, p. 18), sequestrator in the archdeaconry of Richmond and dean of the spirituality of Ripon in 1295 (ibid, i, p. 322; ii, p. 27), and sequestrator in the archdeaconry of York in 1304 (Reg. Corbridge, ii, p. 176). On 8 May, 1306, he was appointed sequestrator in the archdeaconries of Cleveland² and the East Riding (Reg. Greenfield, iii, p. 1), and in 1309 and 1310 occurs as commissary of the auditor causarum of the chapter of York (Reg. Greenfield, iv, p. 208; v, p. 191). Laneham, who was magister by 1293, would thus be ageing when appointed chancellor, a fact which may account for his short tenure of the dignity.

¹ i.e. on 25 July, 1320, when he appointed the schoolmaster (B.C.A., i, p. 382).

² In 1308 Thomas de Blaby was appointed sequestrator for Cleveland (Reg. Greenfield, iii, p. 1n).
It is unlikely, though just possible, that he is the Robert de Laneham who, as a deacon of the second form at Beverley, witnessed an enquiry relating to the appointment of a vicar choral in February, 1304/5 (B.C.A., i, p.51). As a clerk of the Minster choir he was ordained priest at Sherburn-in-Elmet, at Whitsuntide, 1306 (B.C.A., i, p.131). Promotion of such a clerk even to the chancellorship is almost inconceivable.

**COTHUM, Alan de.** Chancellor of Beverley, appointed 20 February, 1321/2, by Provost Nicholas de Huggate (B.C.A., ii, p.1). Admitted 27 March, 1322 (ibid, p.3). Vac. probably on death between 23 June, 1325, (ibid, p.69) and 26 June, 1331, when his successor occurs (ibid, p.97).

Official of the Provostry and Warden of the Bedern at Beverley by 11 January, 1304/5, still on 17 May, 1307 (B.C.A., i, p.26; Reg. Greenfield, iv, p.239); official of the archdeacon of the East Riding by 1310, still in 1313 (Reg. Greenfield, iii, pp. 172, 189, 212-213). Dean of the archbishop's spiritual jurisdiction in the bailiwick of Beverley from 1309, still in 1314 (Reg. Greenfield, i, pp. 203, 265, 269n). Clerk of Provost Nicholas de Huggate in 1321/22 (B.C.A., i, p.3); his proctor and vicar general in 1325 (ibid, pp. 62, 69).

Rector of Heysham, nr. Lancaster by 1306, still in 1314 (Reg. Greenfield, iii, pp. 120, 221); Rector of Bingham, nr. Nottingham, in 1313 (Reg. Greenfield, iv, p.36).

Cothum accepted the chancellorship on condition that he was allowed to retain his other preferment. He was dispensed from residence, and a month after his appointment in February, 1321/22, he received a licence for non-residence (B.C.A., ii, pp. 3, 4, 27). In 1323 and 1325 he appears in the Act Book as being present in Beverley (ibid, pp. 33, 62, 69). His whole ministry appears to have been that of a lesser administrator of the York diocese, mainly of the East Riding.

He took his name from Cotham, nr. Driffield (Reg. Greenfield, v, p.182n). M.A. by 1304 (B.C.A., i, p.31).

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1. Professor Hamilton Thompson is almost certainly correct in stating that Cothum was official under John de Craucumb, who died in 1308, but I can find no entry in Greenfield's Register which establishes this belief (Reg. Greenfield, iii, p.xvi). The fact that Cothum ceases to appear in the Chapter Act Book as official of the provostry after May, 1307, may indicate that the change in his employment occurred about this time. Craucumb was a former chancellor of Beverley (see above, pp. A.250 - 251).

Household clerk of Archbishop Melton (to whom he was related) by 1333, still in 1340 (Dixon, Fasti Ebor, p.432; L.H. Butler, 'Archbishop Melton, his Neighbours, and his Kinsmen', Journal of Ecclesiastical History, ii, p.66). King's clerk.

C. of York and p. of Bilton (1341-50), of Holme (1350-56), of Dunnington (1356-79), Archdeacon of Cleveland (1355-79) (le Neve, pp. 20, 33, 46, 56); C. of Ripon and p. of Sharow (1339-41) (Memorials of Ripon, ii, p.236; le Neve, Salisbury, p.82), P. of Osmotherly (?-1354) (Memorials of Ripon, loc.cit; Dixon, op.cit).


Master of St. Mary Magdalen Hospital, Bawtry (1354-?) (Memorials of Ripon, loc.cit; Dixon, op.cit).

C. of Salisbury and p. of Ruscombe Southbury (1339), of Netheravon (by 1366, still in 1369, vac. by 1371) (le Neve, p.71); C. and p. of St. John's Chester (Memorials of Ripon, loc.cit); Dean of Hereford (1361) (le Neve, p.4); Rector of Watford, Northants., dio. Lincoln (Dixon, op.cit).

If Ferriby appears out of place in the list of chancellors it must be remembered that he received the dignity early in his career, and quitted it whilst still a clerk in Melton's household. He is never recorded as being present at Beverley, although he was obviously a local man. He is not to be confused with his nephew, William de Ferriby, an

1. Ferriby was for a time guardian of the archbishop's nephew Thomas Melton. He 'had long been retained in Melton's household as the chief buyer of provisions' (op.cit).

2. Having exchanged for it the rectory of Kippax.

3. In exchange for the prebend of Ruscomb Southbury in Salisbury which he had acquired earlier in the year in exchange for his rectory of Bolton-on-Swale.

4. He exchanged this prebend for Bawtry Hospital.

5. In spite of royal support he failed to secure possession of the deanship, and had certainly lost it by 1362.
incomplete biography of whom is given in Emden, Oxford, ii, p.6791.

c.1334-
still in 1335

BASSET, Henry. Chancellor of Beverley by 21 April, 1334
(B.C.A., ii, p.111). Still on 13 August, 1335 (ibid, p.113).
Rector of Barnby-upon-Don, Yorks., from 4 October, 1315,
still in 1329 (Reg. Greenfield, ii, p.224; C.P.R., 1321-24,
p.91; C.C.R., 1327-30, p.561).

Probably one of the Bassets of Drayton Bassett in
Staffordshire, and a kinsman of Sir Ralph Bassett, seneschal
of Gascony. Like his predecessors in the chancellorship he
was quick to seek leave of absence from Beverley, his first
appearance in the Act Book being the occasion of his receipt
of licence for one year (B.C.A., ii, p.111). His letter
appointing a master of Beverley Grammar School in 1335 is
dated Lincoln (ibid, p.113).

by 1373-
still in 1381

LECONFIELD, Robert de. Chancellor of Beverley by 1373
(Br. Library MS Lansdowne 330). Still on 26 March, 1381,
when he was cited to attend Archbishop Alexander Neville's
visitation of the Minster (B.C.A., ii, p.231). He appeared,
and took the oath of obedience on 3 April (ibid, p.237).

Leconfield is five miles north of Beverley, within the
provostry. The fact that he was one of the first of the
few clerks who responded to Neville's summons suggests that,
besides being a local man, he held little other preferment,
and was therefore dependent upon the archbishop's good will.

in 1412-
1415

DIRIX,2 John de. Chancellor of Beverley by 12 May, 1412,
when, being illegitimate, he was granted a dispensation to
hold benefices (C.P.L., vi, p.247). Vac. by 1415 (C.P.R.,
1413-16, p.284).

Rector of Leconfield in the provostry in 1412 (ibid),
by 1409 (Reg. Soke of Beverley in 1404, ibid).

1. The two men are confused in Memorials of Ripon, loc.cit. and in Test.Ebor,
i, p.103. It was the younger Ferriby who exchanged the prebend of Haselbere
in Wells for another in Exeter in 1371 (le Neve, Bath and Wells, p.48). Our
Ferriby died in 1379, will dated 30 June, 1378, proved 23 December, 1379
(Test.Ebor, i, loc.cit). He had apparently inherited many of Melton's books,
for he disposed of them in his will.

2. Possibly Drax, a village between Selby and Goole.
1415 - ?


in 1442

SPROTLEY, Thomas. Chancellor of Beverley by 10 June, 1442 (when he appeared personally at a visitation of the Minster (Miscellanea, ii, p.274). Still in 1443 (Br. Library MS Lansdowne 366).

Probably the same Thomas Sprotley who, as chaplain of St. Anne's Chantry in Beverley Minster, featured in the will of Provost Thomas Manfield, dated 12 April, 1419 (North Country Wills, ii, p.20). Master of St Nicholas Hospital, Beverley 1427 – 58 (V.C.H., Yorkshire, iii, p.302).

in 1467 - 1481


Rector of Mottesfont, nr. Romsey, dio. Winchester (1450 – 53) (ibid).

Ordained acolyte and deacon in the diocese of Salisbury in 1448 and 1449, and beneficed in the diocese of Winchester in 1450, he was licensed to preach at large in the province of Canterbury in 1452 (ibid). He appears to have come north soon after the translation of William Booth to York in 1452, exchanging Mottesfont for All Saint's, Pavement, in the following year. His induction to the church of Walkington, on the outskirts of Beverley, in 1459 may mean that he held the chancellorship by this time. Whether he had any direct connection with the little village of Minskip near Boroughbridge is uncertain.


1481 - ?

COOK (COKE), Robert. Chancellor of Beverley, admitted 24 August, 1481 (Reg. Rotherham, fo 141).

Principal of Little Black Hall, Oxford in 1477 (Emden, Oxford, i, p.481)².

¹ He exchanged Siggleshorne for a prebend in St. Mary and the Holy Angels, York.
² This, however, may have been Robert Cook who was chaplain of a chantry in the church of Woolavington, Somerset, from 1476 (Emden, loc. cit), but this seems unlikely.
Rector of Easington in Holderness (vac. by 1471), of Beeford, between Beverley and Bridlington (1473-81) (ibid).

M.A. of Oxford.


Although he was not actually named, he was almost certainly the rector of Brandesburton who was also the chancellor whose improved health was the subject of a letter, dated 8 March, 1529, from the precentor, Thomas Donyngton, to Cardinal Wolsey (20 Henry VIII, p.2361).

Rector of Patrington and Brandesburton, both in the provostry, in 1525/6 (State Papers, 17 Henry VIII, loc.cit). On the misericord of the most westerly stall backing on to the south side of the choir at Beverley are a shield and scrolls bearing the inscription, William Wyght tempore cancellarii huius ecclesie. The stalls were erected in 1520 (T.T. Wildridge, The Misereres of Beverley Minster, plate iv; Y.A.J., xxiv, p.229).

SHERWOOD, Robert. Chancellor of Beverley in 1534-35 (Valor Ecclesiasticus, v, p.132). Still in 1548 when, in the chantry certificate for the bailiwick of Beverley, he is described as a doctor of divinity, aged, 60, and having other promotions unknown (Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, ii, p.528).


He was dead by 1 February, 1561/2 (ibid).

1. The name is here given as Wright regarding the chancellorship, but as Wight in the list when he appears as rector of Brandesburton and Patrington. The inscription on the misericord in the choir confirms that the latter is correct.
ADDITIONAL NOTES ON EARLY VICARS

1. The earliest named vicars of Beverley feature as witnesses of a grant to the High Altar in the Minster (Br. Library MS Lansdowne 201) which almost certainly dates from no later than the second decade of the thirteenth century. Though the seven clerks - Alexander, Robert, Helyas, Engelram, Adam Longus, Thomas and Geoffrey - are there described only as 'chaplains', their identity as vicars is made reasonably certain in MS Lansdowne 194 (c.1220) where Robert, Engelram and Thomas, together with John Medicus, are so designated. Robert, Thomas and Alexander are described as vicars in a charter of similar date (MS Lansdowne 200), whilst Engelram, John Medicus, together with an additional vicar, Matthew, witnessed another c.1230 (MS Lansdowne 195).

It is impossible to date the relevant documents with greater precision, and it must suffice us to know that these vicars were contemporaries of the earlier canons of Walter Gray's primacy, many of whom feature as their co-witnesses.

2. CATFOSS, Peter de, had, in 1274, replaced one of the vicars appearing in the full list of the previous year (below, p.A.259). Which one is uncertain. (MS Lansdowne 229).

3. Henry Andrew, Alan Omentarius, Osbert and Walter de Rudstone, together with Richard de Burton (a vicar in 1273) and a canon of Beverley, Mr. Hamo de Mara,2 witnessed a grant to the church of Beverley of land in North Dalton, in the time of Edward I (MS Lansdowne 409).

1. Printed in B.C.A., ii, p.291. See also E.Y.C., iii, Nos. 1102, 1103.

2. It is difficult to identify this prebendary with anyone named elsewhere. It would be simplest to believe that the name given here is a corruption of Aymo de Carto, p. of St. Martin's from April, 1290, and provost from February, 1294. Reference to him here as a canon would place these vicars within this period. Two objections are fatal to this possibility:

(a) Aymo is nowhere described as magister;
(b) Known vicars of these years allow no room for four newcomers, who, moreover, have left no trace within the period.

We must, therefore, look elsewhere for the identity of Mr. Hamo, possibly among the de la Mares of Little Danby in the North Riding, or in the Humberside family so prolific in clerical connections in the following century.
VICARS OF BEVERLEY

In 1273

The following were named as vicars on 25 June, 1273, when they granted a house in Morgate, Beverley, to Ralph Ivinghoe, sacrist of Beverley, on his payment of 40 marks, and subject to an annual rental of two shillings payable to the light at the High Altar (B.C.A., ii, pp. 295-6).

SPIRITUS, William.
BURTON, Richard de. (see also Y.D., ix, p.12).
WILEBY (WILLOUGHBY) Peter de (see also Y.D., ix, p.12).
LOWTHORPE, Robert de (see also Y.D., ix, p.12).
SCULCOATES, Walter de.
SWINE, William de (see also Y.D., ix, p.12).
POLLARD, Peter (see also Y.D., ix, p.12).
THALE, Roger.
FANGFOSS, John de.

1285 - 1329/30


1. The title 'Vicars choral', though invariably used by Mr. Leach in his marginal summaries, is not supported by the text of the Act Book, and inadequately describes the scope of the functions of these men, who were primarily parochial vicars in the parish of Beverley (see above, pp.313-314).

2. This may be the same William de Swine, who, as rector of St. Mary, Bishophill, York, was an executor of Robert de Scarborough, the former p. of St. Stephen's Altar (see above, pp. A.173 - 174) and dean of York, in 1293 (Reg. Romeyn, i, pp. 37, 224).

3. Here he is erroneously called Adam. The identity of his vicarage may be conclusively established by process of elimination.

4. For his lengthy and extremely interesting will which was made and proved on these dates respectively, see Y.D., ix, pp. 13 - 15.

5. Though he first appears as Master of Works in January, 1305/6, he rendered accounts for the previous eight years to the chapter on 11 July, 1308, presumably on resigning the office - a highly responsible one at the time of extensive building operations.

6. From this year onwards he normally heads lists of vicars in the Act Book. Usually, though not invariably, the vicars' names are placed in order of seniority.
Archbishop's penitencer at Beverley from 20 December, 1298; re-appointed 28 March, 1301, 25 March, 1305/6, 17 November, 1306, 21 February, 1315/16 (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.265; Reg. Corbridge, ii, pp. 8, 176; Reg. Greenfield, i, p.9, v, p.280).¹

In 1286


Chantry priest of the Chantry of the Brotherhood of St. Nicholas, possibly till 1305 (B.C.A., i, p.288).³

Archbishop's penitencer at Beverley, appointed 2 July, 1286 (Reg. Romeyn, loc. cit); re-appointed 23 March, 1289/90 (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.66).

1287 - 1301


In 1290


1291, still in 1325

SIGGLESTHORNE, Robert de⁵ Vicar of St. Mary's Altar, appointed in 1291 (B.C.A., i, p.27), still on 30 May, 1325 (B.C.A., ii, p.66).

Chaplain of the chantry of the Beam in Mid-Choir in the Minster, appointed 17 September, 1316 (B.C.A., i, p.342).

1291/2, still in 1339 & 1341

OTTRINGHAM, Hugh de. Vicar of St. Katherine's Altar, adm. 17 January, 1291/2 (B.C.A., ii, p.55), still on 5 April, 1339 (ibid, p.130), still in 1341 (MS Lansdowne 285).

Succentor by 7 April, 1305, till 5 November, 1320 (B.C.A., i, pp. 66, 385).

1. Humbleton was penitencer continuously, but his appointment was renewable during vacancies of the see, and by incoming primates.

2. He was possibly the Robert de Langtoft who was tonsured in 1267, and who was assaulted in 1275, probably at Beverley (Reg. Giffard, pp. 187, 280). He may well have died in 1298 when Alan de Humbleton succeeded him as penitencer (see above), though 1305 is more likely.

3. He was succeeded as chaplain by John Russell, a poor clerk, apparently at the end of 1305 (B.C.A., i, p.97).

4. Kirton-in-Lindsey, some 25 miles south of the Humber, was probably his place of origin.

5. Probably a kinsman of Mr. Richard de Sigglesthorpe who was official of the Provostry at the turn of the century (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.79; Reg. Corbridge, ii, p.8n).
in 1296, still in 1300

GRIMSBY, Gilbert de. Vicar in September, 1296, and in 1300, when, in both years, he bore the banner of St. John of Beverley on Edward I's campaigns against the Scots (C.P.R., 1292-1301, p.208; B.C.A., i, pp. lxxxviii-lxxxix; Y.A.J., pp. 520-521).

Precentor of Beverley by 6 February, 1304/5 (possibly from 1300), vac. on death by 25 February, 1305/61 (B.C.A., i, pp. 53, 113, 149). For a fuller account of this man see above pp. A.243-244.

1299 - 1305


1301, still in 1314


He accompanied Edward II on his campaigns against the Scots in 1312 and 1314 as bearer of the banner of St. John of Beverley⁴ (ibid, pp. 296, 321). He was almost certainly a local man, being doubtless a forebear of the Rollestons who provided a fifteenth century provost⁵ and several burgesses of Beverley.

1302/3, still in 1330

RISINGDON, John de. Vicar of St. Andrew's Altar, adm. 18 February, 1302/3 (B.C.A., i, p.27), still on 8 May, 1330, but vac. presumably on death by 15 November, 1335 (B.C.A., ii, p.115).

Auditor causarum of the chapter, appointed 29 September, 1303, confirmed 5 July, 1304,⁶ still on 8 May, 1330 (B.C.A., i, pp. 27, 32; ii, p.91). Chamberlain of Minster, appointed 29 June, 1305 (B.C.A., i, p.27), still on 21 May, 1325 (B.C.A., ii, p.65). Proctor of the chapter in all legal business, appointed 4 June, 1306.⁷

1. It is extremely unlikely that Grimsby ever received the benefices in Scotland promised to him as a reward for his services to the king (B.C.A., i, p. lxxxviii). He had made his will on 19 February, (B.C.A., i, p.149). In 1305 he was described as king's chaplain (ibid, p.72).

2. But almost certainly by 31 October, 1307, when his predecessor in the chantry, Bernard de Kirkby had already resigned (B.C.A., i, p.211, and see below).

3. Presumably at West Newton near Burton Constable.

Notes continued on next page.
Continuation of notes from previous page.

4. The treatment accorded to Rolleston stands in sharp contrast to that received by the earlier banner bearer, Gilbert de Grimsby, who accompanied Edward I (see above), and who was well rewarded for his services. There are signs that Rolleston did not embark upon his mission with the whole-hearted goodwill of the Beverley Chapter. At least there must have been some rather odd misunderstanding of his position, whilst absent, for, on 30 August, 1312, John de Coupland was readily admitted to his vicarage, on the nomination of Archbishop Greenfield. This was in the face of the king's protection, and in spite of Rolleston's precautions, presumably taken in anticipation of trouble (B.C.A., i, pp. 295-8). It would be interesting to learn whether this was in any way an expression of distaste for Edward II, or punishment for Rolleston. Not a few contemporaries saw the disastrous field of Bannockburn two years later as divine retribution upon the king, so it may well have been both. Nevertheless Greenfield still regarded Rolleston as his vicar in the autumn of 1314 (ibid, p. 321), though it is doubtful whether he long survived the archbishop's death at the end of the following year.

In view of the lack of vigour which marked Edward's campaign against the Scots in the years immediately preceding Bannockburn it seems unlikely that Rolleston carried the banner much further afield than York, or at the farthest Newcastle, in 1312. We are not told whether he was present with the banner at Bannockburn on 24 June, 1314. Though still absent from Beverley he was presumably alive on 31 August, when Greenfield exhorted the chapter to continue to support him on his mission (B.C.A., i, p. 321). On the other hand he is never recorded as being present at Beverley on any occasion after that fateful day.


6. De tuis fidelitate et industria fiduciam plenissimam habentes, in causis seu negotiis, mandatis et executionibus omnimodis, jurisdictionem nostram spiritualem tangentibus quoquo modo Tibi committimus vices nostras, donec eas duximus revocandas, cum cohercionis canonicae potestate (ibid, i, p. 32).

Risingdon's appointment was almost certainly the chapter's response to Archbishop Corbridge's injunction, following his visitation of 1302, that a competent auditor be appointed (B.C.A., ii, p. 183).

7. This brief note summarises the services of the clerk who was the key figure in the management of the Minster's affairs throughout most of the period covered by the Act Book. Holding his three offices simultaneously, along with his vicarage, he was designated auditor, chamberlain or proctor, as occasion demanded. All three were distinct appointments.
by 1303 - 1307

KIRKBY, Bernard de. Vicar of St. Martin's Altar, by 1 April, 1303 (B.C.A., i, p.18), but probably from before July, 1301. Vac. shortly before 31 October, 1307, on resignation (ibid, p.211).

Chantry priest of the Chantry of the Brotherhood of St. Nicholas c.1306 - c.October, 1307 (ibid, p.288). Chantry priest of King Edward's Chantry from c.October, 1307, vac. by 30 March, 1309 (ibid, pp. 211, 265), but see GRIMSBY, Thomas below and footnote.

by 1304 - ?1316

GRAINGHAM, Thomas de. Vicar of St. Peter's Altar, by 7 May, 1304 (B.C.A., i, pp. 22, 28), but probably from before July, 1301. Vac. by 21 June, 1321, when his successor, John de Hornsea, first appears as a vicar (ibid, p.392), but probably by 25 May, 1318. He certainly continued in his vicarage after the issue of letters testimonial on his behalf on 12 July, 1309 (B.C.A., i, pp. 244, 320).

Guardian of the sequestration of the provostry, following the deprivation of Provost Aymo de Carto, appointed 5 June, 1304 (ibid, pp. 22, 24, 28, 129).

by 1304 - 1305

WEAVERTHORPE, Thomas de. Vicar of St. Stephen's Altar, by January, 1304 (B.C.A., i, pp. 65, 66). Received letters testimonial on resigning his vicarage to become rector of Scorborough in December, 1304, but was granted leave to remain a vicar until August, 1305 (ibid, pp. 47, 53 - 54).

Receiver or Chamberlain7 of the chapter till c.June, 1305 (ibid, p.79).

Rector of Scorborough, 5 miles north of Beverley, from c.February, 1304/5 (ibid, pp. 53 - 54).

1. His successor in the vicarage was appointed by Mr. John de Nassington, p. of St. Martin's Altar (B.C.A., i, p.211).
2. In the more formal lists of vicars, who on such occasions were placed in order of seniority of appointment, both Bernard de Kirkby and Thomas de Graingham are usually placed before John de Rolleston who became a vicar in this month.
3. His predecessor, John Russell, was not appointed until the end of 1305 (B.C.A., i, p.97), and he himself had obtained King Edward's Chantry by October, 1307.
4. See n.2 above.
5. Graingham's immediate successor, John de Hornsea, vacated his chantry shortly before this date, possibly on appointment to the vicarage by Mr. Robert de Pickering, who was also founder and patron of the chantry (B.C.A., i, pp.357 - 8).
6. The reason appears to have been that his successor, William de Normanton, had yet to be ordained priest (B.C.A., i, pp. 66, 126).
7. Officium Receptoris seu Camerarii nostri, see also ibid, p.54.
8. Within the provostry.
GRIMSBY, Robert de. Vicar of St. Michael's Altar, adm. 8 February, 1304/5 (B.C.A., i, pp. 51-3). Deprived, for not having taken priest's orders within a year of his appointment, c. 19 April, 1306 (ibid, pp. 125-6).

General proctor of the chapter, appointed 20 September, 1305 (ibid, pp. 86-7), vac. by 4 June, 1306 (ibid, p. 141).

in 1305

SWINESHEAD, Robert de. Vicar by 30 October, 1305 (B.C.A., i, p. 96). By process of elimination it becomes certain that he was serving in place of Robert de Grimsby, vicar of St. Michael's Altar, who was at this time unable to fulfil the functions of vicar through deficiency in Orders (see above).

NORMANTON, William de. Vicar of St. Stephen's Altar, adm. 7 April, 1305 (B.C.A., i, p. 65) re-adm. 19 April, 1306 (ibid, p. 126). Vac. on death 7 October, 1310 (ibid, p. 267).

1. See also B.C.A., i, p. 69. There appears to have been another impediment to Grimsby's retention of a vicarage, which was probably the real reason for his dismissal, or at least for his failure to take priest's Orders: Following his presentation to the vicarage by Mr. William de Lincoln, p. of St. Michael's Altar, it was alleged that he was engaged to a certain Juliana, daughter of Stephen de Grimsby. Two days later the couple appeared before the auditor and swore that there was no contract of marriage or arrangement in fraud of marriage, and Grimsby was duly admitted. A year later in February, 1305/6, rumour had it that he and Juliana were now married, and that the bride was to be supported from his stipend (B.C.A., i, pp. 51-3, 111). The outcome of the matter is not recorded, but it seems likely that Grimsby's failure to be ordained concealed something more than mere negligence.

2. A pathetic figure as he appears in the Act Book. Admitted to his vicarage whilst still a deacon, he failed to proceed to priest's orders within the statutory year, but was nevertheless re-admitted. His failure appears to have been connected with a troubled conscience, for, in May, 1306, he confided to Archbishop Greenfield something which necessitated a visit to the curia (B.C.A., i, p. 130). If he made the journey it was with some speed, for on 16 September following he was in Beverley confessing to his adultery with the wife of a Mr. Thomas de Mondon. Perhaps this was the burden on his conscience, for no penance was exacted, his journey having been itself an expiation (ibid, p. 152). Three days later a complaint was lodged on his behalf to the chamberlain by Canons Walter de Gloucester and Henry de Carlton that his name had been omitted from the ordination list of the Minster (he was still a deacon). He was at once placed on the list of candidates for Greenfield's Michaelmas ordination at Poppleton (ibid, pp. 154, 155). He continued in his vicarage until 7 October, 1310, when he died leaving barely enough to cover the expenses of his funeral (ibid, p. 267).
1306 - c.1310 YARWELL (JAREWELL), Thomas de. Vicar of St. Michael's Altar, adm. 19 April, 1306 (B.C.A., i, pp. 125-6), still on 12 May, 1309, but vac. by 14 October, 1310, when his successor himself resigned (ibid, pp. 236, 267).


Clerk of the Second Form in February, 1304/5 (B.C.A., i, p.52). Deacon, by 30 October, 1305 (ibid, p.96). Custodian of goods in the manors of Walkington, Burton, Dalton and Middleton during sequestration of provostry 11 April, 1306 (ibid, pp. 117, 119). Ordained priest, Michaelmas, 1306 (ibid, p.355). Master of the Works, with John de Hornsea (see below) by 8 April, 1310 (ibid, p.264), still on 7 April, 1323 (B.C.A., ii, p.30).

1309 - 1310 CAVE, Alexander de. Vicar of St. Michael's Altar, succeeding Thomas de Yarwell sometime after 12 May, 1309 (B.C.A., i, p.236), and resigning shortly before 14 October, 1310 (ibid, p.267).

1310 - after GRIMSBY, Thomas de. Vicar of St. Stephen's Altar, adm. 12 October, 1310 (B.C.A., i, p.267 still on 5 April, 1339 (B.C.A., ii, p.130). He had resigned on 22 October, 1324, but changed his mind later on the same day and was re-admitted (ibid, p.54).

1. A colourful exploit of this man is cited by Poulson (Beverlac, ii, p.552, from Rymer's Foedera, iii, p.306); 'The Jurors say that master Thomas Jarwell vicar of the church of blessed John of Beverley with two other clerks and many others by force of arms cut the cord with which John son of Richard de la More (sic) who for divers felonies perpetrated by him was adjudged to be hung and took away the same John by force of arms alive and led him away. Therefore a precept is issued to the sheriff of Yorkshire to attach them'. It is hard to believe that Yarwell's career as a vicar long survived this episode.

2. See also ibid, p.45, for his second resignation, which probably means that he continued as vicar till 11 July, 1324.

3. Swine was obviously a man of considerable business ability. In addition to his several offices he was in great demand as a proctor of absent canons, representing at various times William de Eastdean, Roger de Northburgh, Richard de Ferriby, Robert de Northburgh, Robert de Riston (who failed to secure a prebend), and a chancellor, William de Ferriby (B.C.A., i, pp. 235, 353, 387, 394, 399; ii, pp. 74, 97). The qualities which no doubt commended him as a proctor did not impress Archbishop Greenfield, who, following his visitation of the Minster in May, 1314, pronounced him over-talkative (loquax et garrulus), and censured him for selling corn in the Bedern and the public market when he ought to have been about his duties in the choir (B.C.A., i, p.315).
Ordained subdeacon on the title of the recently founded King Edward's Chantry, 27 March, 1304 (Reg. Corbridge, ii, p.29; B.C.A., ii, pp. 196-7). Received letters dimissory to be ordained priest on the same title, 13 September, 1304 (Reg. Corbridge, ii, p.31; B.C.A., ii, pp. 201-2). Chaplain of King Edward's Chantry 30 March, 1304 - c.27 June, 1310 (B.C.A., i, pp. 21, 265).  

1310 - 1318  
For a full account of this clerk, the only vicar to become a prebendary, see above, pp. A.175 - 182.  

1312 - ?1320  
COUPLAND (Or COPELAND) John de. Archbishop's vicar, adm. 30 August, 1312, on the nomination of Archbishop Greenfield, dated 29 August (B.C.A., i, p.295). The implication of an agreement concerning the archbishop's corrody at Beverley during the vacancy in the see, followed as it is by a reference to Coupland, is that he was still vicar in September, 1316 (ibid, pp. 340-341). He may well have vacated the vicarage shortly before 28 May, 1320 (ibid, pp. 380-1).  

1. Grimsby must have been specially favoured: not only was he permitted to proceed to the orders of subdeacon, deacon and priest all in one year with the apparent encouragement of the Archbishop, but he was also admitted to a lucrative chantry whilst still a subdeacon. He was perhaps a near kinsman of Gilbert de Grimsby, who was banner-bearer with Edward I, and who was subsequently promoted from vicar to precentor. Perhaps Thomas also accompanied the king, gaining his goodwill. This would also account for the need for letters dimissory later in 1304. Little or nothing is heard of him at Beverley during his tenure of the chantry, which itself raises the question as to whether the chantry supported more than one priest, for Bernard de Kirkby (see above) is known to have been a chaplain of it from c. October, 1307, till at least March, 1309.  

2. Ottringham owed this and other promotions to Archbishop Melton, who, prior to his consecration, presented him to this vicarage.  

3. The position of Coupland is confused by the fact that his predecessor in the vicarage had never resigned. This was John de Rolleston (see above, p.A.261), who carried the banner of St. John with Edward II in 1312 and 1314, and who clearly disputed Coupland's appointment (B.C.A., i, pp. 295-298). Greenfield's attitude is unclear: though he approved Rolleston's absence, the latter considered himself to have been deprived by the archbishop not only of his vicarage but also of his chantry of St. Nicholas, and appealed to the Apostolic See. The probable truth is that Coupland was appointed to serve during Rolleston's prolonged absence, for the latter was still regarded as vicar in August, 1314, though still absent (ibid, p.321). Coupland was also vicar in May of that year when Greenfield, at his visitation, noted his immorality (ibid, p.315). Rolleston either never returned or died shortly afterwards, seemingly leaving Coupland in full possession (ibid, p. 341).
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1318 - 1324


Coming from Melton, near Howden, he was probably a kinsman of Archbishop Melton who was responsible for his promotion (B.C.A., i, pp. 306 - 1; ii, p. 53). He proved a disappointment to his patron and friends, being twice charged with immorality with two women (B.C.A., ii, pp. 33, 47), and possibly with a third (ibid, pp. 37, 38). It was on account of his prolonged absenteeism without good cause or licence of the chapter that he was actually deprived, the chapter having shown great forbearance out of deference to his friends and the Archbishop (ibid, pp. 50 - 53).

?1318, still in 1339

HORNSEA, John de. Vicar of St. Peter's Altar, probably from c. 25 May, 1318, when he vacated his chantry (B.C.A., i, pp. 357 - 8). First described as vicar on 5 November, 1320 (ibid, p. 385). Confirmation by Mr. Robert de Pickering that he had already been appointed vicar, 18 December, 1324 (B.C.A., ii, p. 54). Still vicar on 5 April, 1339 (ibid, p. 130), still in 1350 (MS Lansdowne 305).

Acolyte of the second form in February, 1304/5; ordained subdeacon 24 May, 1306; deacon 13 December, 1306; priest 12 May, 1307 (B.C.A., i, pp. 52, 131, 174, 203). Chaplain of Robert de Pickering's recently founded chantry, 16 May, 1307 - c. 25 May, 1318 (ibid, pp. 205, 357). Master of the Works, with John de Swine (see above) by 8 April, 1310, still on 7 April, 1323; alone from 26 June, 1323 (ibid, pp. 264, 317, 341, 377; ii, pp. 10, 11, 30, 35). Succentor from 5 November, 1320 (B.C.A., i, p. 385).

1. Hornsea's initial appointment is not recorded in the Act Book, which passes rapidly over the years 1314 - 20. His predecessor, Thomas de Graingham, last appears on 7 July, 1314 (B.C.A., i, p. 319), but, in view of the scanty records, it is fair to assume that he continued as vicar until the spring of 1318. It was then that Hornsea resigned the chaplaincy of the chantry recently founded by Mr. Robert de Pickering, prebendary of St. Peter's Altar. Since he soon after occurs as the latter's vicar it is likely that his promotion was the occasion of this resignation. The reason for Pickering's affirmation of Hornsea's appointment almost six years later is uncertain. Probably it was because the prebendary, being patron both of chantry and vicarage, neglected some customary formality. Mr. Leach in his marginal summary of the relevant document (B.C.A., ii, pp. 54 - 55) gives Hornsea's vicarage as St. Martin's whereas it can be shown to have been St. Peter's. Not only was Pickering's prebendary of St. Peter's Altar, but St. Martin's vicarage was occupied at the time: John de Swine occupied it in 1323 - probably until 11 July, 1324, and William de Swine had certainly succeeded him before the end of that year (B.C.A., ii, pp. 30, 46, 116).
1320 - 1323
HARPHAM, John de. Archbishop's vicar, adm. 28 May, 1320 (B.C.A., i, pp. 380 - 381) still in September, 1322, but vac. by 11 November, 1323, when John de Benningholm was admitted (B.C.A., ii, pp. 17, 41).  

1323, still in 1339
BENNINGHOLM², John de. Archbishop's vicar, adm. 11 November, 1323 (B.C.A., ii, p.41), still on 5 April, 1339 (ibid, pp. 130 - 131).

c.1324 - 1328

1324 - c.1328
SIGGLESTHORN, Thomas de. Vicar of St. Michael's Altar, adm. 14 October, 1324 (B.C.A., ii, pp. 53 - 54), still in 1326, but presumably vac. by 2 November, 1328, when he received letters testimonial (ibid, pp. 77, 86).

?1328, still in 1338

?1329/30, still in 1339
HUGGATE, Thomas de. Vicar, probably of St. James' Altar, and if so, from c.7 February, 1329/30 (Y.D., ix, p.15).

1. He was probably the same John de Harpham who, as vicar of Owthorne, nr. Withernsea in Holderness, died in 1348 (Test.Ebor, i, p.49). Owthorne, now submerged by the North Sea, was appropriated, along with six other Holderness churches, to the abbot and convent of Aumale (Reg. Romeyn, i, p.209; Reg. Greenfield, v, p.236).

2. Benningholm is a very small hamlet about five miles east of Beverley, and a mile from South Skirlaugh.

3. The years 1328 - 1335 saw great changes in the company of vicars, no less than five being replaced during the period. The assignment of vicarages to their successors is difficult because they all appear together in a list of vicars in 1335 (B.C.A., ii, p.115), and the placing of them here can be regarded as no more than tentative. The list in question is of the vicars of the seven senior canons only, and therefore omits Hugh de Ottringham, vicar of St. Katherine's, and John de Benningholm. Moreover, the vicars were here acting as body corporate, and the list being a formal one has every appearance of being in order of seniority. The first of the new vicars is John de Ross, who almost certainly succeeded to the first vicarage to become vacant, i.e. St. Michael's in 1328. He had been ordained deacon earlier in the year, and, on the evidence of Beverley ordination lists, could well have received the necessary priest's orders before the end of it. Two other vicars, at least, Huggate and Kilham, could not possibly have qualified in 1328. Thomas de Huggate was ordained to the priesthood in March 1328/9, in sufficient time to succeed the aged Alan de Humbleton, who had died in the previous month, in the vicarage of which his illustrious kinsman, Nicholas de Huggate, prebendary of St. James' and provost, was patron. It seems likely that Robert de Siggleston, who had been vicar of St. Mary's since 1291, died before John

Continued on next page
First appearance as vicar 15 November, 1335 (B.C.A., ii, p.115), still on 5 April, 1339 (ibid., p.130).

Ordained deacon 21 September, 1328 (ibid., p.85), priest 16 March, 1328/9 (ibid., p.86). Received letters testimonial, 5 June, 1329 (ibid., p.90). Bearer of the banner of St. John of Beverley with Edward III in his invasion of Scotland, 29 June, 1335 (ibid., p.112).

1335, still

In 1335 - before 1338

by 1335 - c.1381
KILHAM, Richard de. Vicar, probably of St. Andrew's Altar, by 15 November, 1335 (B.C.A., ii, p.115). Vac. on death, apparently not long before 20 March, 1380/81, when Archbishop Alexander Neville was alleged to have disregarded the chapter's privileges in the matter of his will (ibid., p.225).

Ordained acolyte 21 September, 1328 (ibid., p.85), subdeacon 16 March, 1328/9 (ibid., p.86), priest 18 September, 1331 (ibid., p.98).

In 1338

In 1350
ELYNGTON, Peter de. Vicar of an undisclosed vicarage in 1350 (MS Landsdowne 305).

? - 1362
HASTON, Robert de. Vicar of St. Martin's Altar, Listed by Dade (p.14) before Peter de Ellington (sic) who was appointed in 1362.

Continuation of note 3 on previous page:
de Risingdon, a younger man who is known to have been alive in 1330. This being so, Roger Jordan, next on the list, would be the most obvious candidate for his vicarage, since Richard de Kilham was not ordained priest until Michaelmas, 1331, and Gregory de Pocklington is known to have succeeded William de Swine in St. Martin's vicarage (B.C.A., ii, p.116). This leaves Kilham to follow Risingdon, vicar of St. Andrew's.

1. Leach erroneously gives the year as 1336.

2. It must have been Roger Jordan who had departed, for all the other vicars are accounted for in 1338 (B.C.A., ii, p.125; p.128 for John de Ross).

The initial circumstances and events in the bitter dispute between Archbishop Alexander Neville and the Beverley chapter have been described at length by Mr. Leach (B.C.A., ii, pp. lxxix - lxxxi; 'A Clerical Strike at Beverley Minster', Archaeologia, lv, pt.1, pp. 1-20; see also above, pp.261-270).

There is no doubt that the vicars as a body gave their full support to the rebel canons, and that Neville found them in a truculent and defiant mood when he came to Beverley in the spring of 1381. Only Robert de Lowthorp, the archbishop's own vicar, submitted, after, it would seem, some hesitation. The rest, though in the chapter house on 29 March, refused to appear on the pretext of intimidation by the canons, and pleaded their oath of obedience to the chapter as an excuse. By 5 April, when they were again due to appear, they had left the church unserved, and on the following day it was reported that they had gone to London. They were at once excommunicated, the certificate to this effect being issued two days later, on Palm Sunday.

The services of Holy Week were sung by the archbishop's clerks until vicars from York could be brought in, and the Beverley vicars were ordered to return by 22 April. Those who were still alive, however, were still absent on 8 March, 1388 (B.C.A., ii, pp. 231 - 245; C.P.R., 1385-89, p.465).

After their initial flight to London, where they no doubt joined in the protest to the king, the vicars settled at Lincoln, in the prebendal house of Richard de Ravenser, who, as prebendary of St. Martin's Altar, was the ringleader in the revolt of the chapter. As well as being archdeacon of Lincoln, Ravenser held successively the prebends of Empingham and Caistor, and it was no doubt the assurance of his financial support which enabled the vicars to leave their source of livelihood. (The chantry priests, whatever their personal feelings, had largely been forced to submit, and it was almost certainly their lack of adequate income from outside the diocese of York which compelled the submission of three of the canons).

The death of Ravenser by 8 June, 1386, brought great hardship to those vicars who remained, and they were 'cast adrift and had to become vagrants and mendicants'. Neville continued unbending in his hostility. He had appointed new vicars to take their place, and refused to allow them to return in spite of a royal order enjoining him to do so.

It was not until the summer of 1388, following the archbishop's flight, that they were able to return and take up their vicarages, and rejoin Robert de Lowthorpe who had retained his vicarage throughout (B.C.A., ii, p. lxxxi; C.P.R., 1385-89, loc.cit).
In 1364  

In 1372  
GRIMSBY, Thomas de. Vicar of an undisclosed vicarage in 1372 (MS Lansdowne 329).

1373  
LINDWOOD, Robert de. Vicar of St. Andrew's Altar, died in 1373 (C.P.R., 1370-74, p.300, see also B.C.A., ii, p.225).

In 1373  
FROTHYNHAM, John de. Vicar of an undisclosed vicarage in 1373 (MS Lansdowne 544).

In 1375,  
still in 1390  

In 1381,  
still in 1402  

In 1381  

In 1381,  
still in 1388  

In 1381,  
still in 1418  

In 1381,  
still in 1388  

In 1381  
In 1381, \textit{LOWTHORPE}, Robert de. Archbishop's vicar by 2 March, 1381 \cite{B.C.A., ii, pp. 204, 231}, still on 28 June, 1400 \cite{Y.D., ix, p.19}. Vac. probably in 1401 when his successor was appointed \cite{Dade, p.15}.

The only vicar to submit to Archbishop Neville in 1381, and thereby avoid excommunication and deprivation \cite{B.C.A., ii, pp. 237, 239-40}. Treated as locum tenens of the chapter by Neville on 2 March, 1381 \cite{ibid, p.204}.

\begin{itemize}
\item The following three clerks are known to have been appointed by Alexander Neville to replace vicars whom he deprived on 6 April, 1381. None appears to have survived the archbishop's disgrace and flight in 1386.
\item \textit{BURTHAM}, Nicholas de. Vicar of St. Martin's Altar, appointed in 1381 \cite{Dade, p.15}.
\item \textit{LACY}, John. Vicar of St. Michael's Altar, appointed in 1381 \cite{Dade, p.15}.
\item \textit{WALTHAM}, Adam de. Vicar of St. Mary's Altar, appointed in 1382 \cite{Dade, p.15}. He was the only chantry priest to submit immediately to Neville on 26 March, 1381 \cite{B.C.A., ii, p.232}.
\end{itemize}

In 1397, \textit{TATHEWELL}, John. Vicar of an undisclosed vicarage in 1397 \cite{MS Lansdowne 343}.

In 1397, \textit{MARTIN}, Thomas. Vicar of an undisclosed vicarage in 1397 \cite{MS Lansdowne 343}.

In 1400, \textit{HARPHAM}, William de. Vicar by 28 June, 1400 \cite{Y.D., ix, p.19}. Described as 'ex-vicar' when, on 8 February, 1411/12, he was pardoned of his outlawries for debt \cite{C.P.R., 1408 - 13, p.364}.

In 1400, \textit{HUFFTON} (HOTON), William de. Vicar by 28 June, 1400 \cite{Y.D., ix, p.19}.

In 1400, \textit{BRIDLINGTON}, John de. Vicar by 28 June, 1400 \cite{Y.D., ix, p.19}. Still on 25 August, 1402 \cite{ibid, p.20}.

Clerk of the second form in 1381 \cite{B.C.A., ii, p.232}.

In 1400
SKEFFLING (SKYTTLING), Thomas de. Vicar by 28 June, 1400 (Y.D., ix, p.19).

1401-?1408/9
BRADLEY, John de. Archbishop's Vicar, appointed 16 May, 1401 (Dade, p.15). Vac. on death c.14 January, 1408/9, when his successor was appointed (ibid).

1406 – ?
TWYNAM, Henry. Vicar of St. Peter's Altar, appointed in 1406, on the presentation of King Henry IV.¹ (C.P.R., 1405-8, p.170).

1408/9 – ?

PLUMMER, John. Vicar of St. Katherine's Altar, appears in Dade's list (p.15) after William de Elloughton (see above), but cannot have been appointed before 1400.

In 1419
BENNINGHOLM, Robert de.² Vicar of St. James' Altar on 12 April, 1419 (North Country Wills, p.21).

? - 1424
METHAM, John. Vicar of St. Michael's Altar till 28 October, 1424, when he exchanged the vicarage for the rectory of Thorpe-on-the-Hill, dio. Lincoln (Reg. Henry Chichele, i, p.331).

1424 - 1426
WRIGHT, John. Vicar of St. Michael's Altar from 28 October, 1424, having exchanged for it the rectory of Thorpe-on-the-Hill, dio. Lincoln (Reg. Henry Chichele, i, p.331). Vac. c.20 December, 1426, when he exchanged the vicarage for the vicarage of Bainholme (Dade, p.16).

1426 – ?

¹ The fact that, as stated in this entry in the Patent Roll, the archbishoprick was vacant at the time was insufficient reason for the king to appoint a vicar, especially as the prebendal stall was occupied. Background circumstances were, however, unusual: the see was still vacant following the execution of Archbishop Scrope at York for treason on 8 June, 1405. Richard de Connington who was prebendary of St. Peter's Altar at the time had been Scrope's chancellor, and though he received a 'pardon' for all treasons on 10 June, he was himself re-presented to the prebend by the king on 19 October.

The new vicar was probably a Scotsman for 'Twynam' is very likely the same as Twynholm, near Kirkcudbright, on the Solway.

² He cannot be the same man as Robert de Benningholm who held the vicarage in 1381 (see above) since he does not occur in the complete list of vicars in 1400 (Y.D., ix, p.19).
The following were vicars on 15 June, 1442, when they appeared in person at a visitation of the Minster. Their vicarages are not given (Miscellanea, ii, p.274).

1442
CAWOOD, William
BILTON', Robert
YORK', John
DENE, John
MATHIEWE, John
INGRAM', Thomas
KNYCHT', Thomas
ALVERTON', Hugh
CAVELL', Robert

1458

INGRAM, William. Vicar of St. Martin's Altar. Listed by Dade (p.16) before John Ryse, who was appointed 3 December, 1476.

1461 - ?

1476 - ?
RYSE, John. Vicar of St. Martin's Altar, appointed 3 December, 1476 (Dade, p.16).

1483 - 1485

1484 - ?

1485 - 1488/9

1488/9 - ?

? - 1497

The floor slab of his tomb in the south choir aisle of the Minster is inscribed:

hic iacet dns Willms white quond'_vicari' in Choro huius eccl'ie qui obiit ........r anno dni mill'imo ccccxcvii. 1

1. For a description of this slab see Y.A.J., xxiv, pp. 231 - 2.
The following occur as vicars in a list of East Riding clergy compiled in February, 1525/6 (State Papers, 17 Henry VIII, vol.iv, pt.1, No.2001).

1525/6

BARFORD, Thomas. Probably the same as 'Thomas BEILON' who heads the list of vicars in the Valor Ecclesiasticus c.1535 (see below).

ROPER, Robert. Possibly the same as 'Robert...,' named second in the Valor (below).

SH...TON, Robert. Possibly the same as 'Robert...,' named second in the Valor (below).

WARCOPE, Richard. Still in c.1535 (see Valor, below).

CH..., John. Possibly the same as 'John...,' named fifth in Valor c.1535 (below).

BU...nt, Roger.

FLETCHER, Robert. Possibly the same as 'Robert FLEE' listed first in the Chantry Certificate c.1548 (see below).

TUTILL, William. Possibly the same as 'William...,' listed sixth in the Valor c.1535 (below).

HALL, Robert. Still in c.1548 (see Chantry Certificate below), and almost certainly the 'Robert...,' listed last in the Valor (below).

The following occur as vicars in the Valor Ecclesiasticus c.1535

BEILON, Thomas. Vicar of St. Andrew's Altar.


WARCOPE, (Richard). Vicar of St. Andrew's Altar (sic).


....... William. Vicar of St. Mary's Altar.


The following occur as vicars in the Chantry Certificate of c.1548 (Yorkshire Chantry Surveys, ii, p.529).

FLEE, Robert. ¹ (also rector of Leven in the provostry).

Aged 68.

HALL, Robert. Aged 66.

THOROT, John. Aged 40.

CLAYTON, John. Aged 43.


QUARTON, William. Aged 36.

COLLYSON, Robert. Aged 34.


¹. Receiver general and keeper of the fabric in 1532/3 (Poulson, Beverlac, ii, pp. 613, 624, 635).
NOTE: These names and dates are taken from a complete list of vicars compiled by the late Archdeacon Edmund Hope, vicar of St. Mary's 1921-1933. Although they were officially described as 'vicars of the altar of the Blessed Martin and of the chapel of the Blessed Mary annexed to the same' the connection of these men with the Minster and its chapter was more formal than real, and their independence increased over the years as St. Mary's established itself as the 'town church of Beverley'. The main purpose of giving their names here is to distinguish them from the prebendal vicars of St. Martin's Altar, who are included in the main list of Minster vicars, and with whom they were confused by Mr. Leach (B.C.A., i, p. lxxxii);

1269 Roger de Rise.3
1287 John de Bridlington.4
1302 Roger de Wodham (sic).5
1319 Nicholas de Siggleston.
1349 George Pocklington.
1349 Robert de Aston.
1362 Peter de Esyngton.
1373 Thomas de Louthorpe.
1389 William de Scardeburgh.
1414 Peter de Irford6.
1426 William Urforth.
1438 William Lowe.
1453 John Ingleby.7
1461 Robert Kyrke.
1477 Robert Barre. 1498 (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.57)
1499 William Barre.8
1521 Nicholas Rokeby.
1524 Thomas Burneby.
1524 James Burley9.
1528 Thomas Russell.
1535 William Rowlandson.

1. Now St. Mary's Parish Church, Beverley.
2. Taken largely, it would seem, from Torre's manuscript.
4. Instituted on the death of Roger de Ryse, on the presentation of Mr. Gilbert de St. Leofard, p. of St. Martin's Altar 27 August, 1287 (Reg. Romeyn, ii, p.57).
5. Roger de Wodemansee, instituted 31 January 1302/3, on the presentation of the proctor of Aymo de Carto, then p. of St. Martin's Altar (Reg. Corbridge, ii, p.78).


8. Thomas Barneby was still vicar, however, in February, 1525/6 (State Papers, 17 Henry VIII, vol. iv, pt. 1, No. 2001).