A HUGHENDEN VICAR AND HIS PERAMBULATIONS.

The Reverend John Batchler, A.M., was presented to the Vicarage of Hitchenden, or Hugendon,—now Hughenden,—in 1713 by Philip, Lord Stanhope, eldest son of Philip Stanhope, second Earl of Chesterfield: He was Vicar for fifty-two years, from his appointment, in the last year of the reign of Queen Anne, until his decease in 1765, the fifth year of King George III.

Mr. Batchler was evidently a man of vigour. He did things, and when done, like Captain Cuttle, he "made a note of it." He has left behind the record of many interesting events in the parish during his time of office, for he seems to have made it a regular custom to make an entry or memorandum in odd pages of the Parish Register to record any event of importance which he was responsible for in the performance of his duties. The memoranda are entered in Registers III. and IV., and for some part are in his own handwriting, but for the most part in the hand of clerk or some person evidently of education.

The date of his presentation, Aug. 11, 1713, must have found him a young man at the University,—evidently at an interesting period! In Register 3, under christenings, is the entry:

Ric'd the son of John Batchler Vic'r and Mary his wife, born at Cambridge Aug. 18, and baptised there Aug. 27.

* The Manor of Hughenden passed in 1709 to Lady Elizabeth Dormer, eldest daughter and co-heir of Charles, Earl of Carnarvon. She married, as his third wife, Philip, second Earl of Chesterfield. Their eldest son Philip, Lord Stanhope, and third Earl of Chesterfield succeeded. The latter bequeathed it to his youngest son, Sir William Stanhope, Kt. of the Bath, who in 1738 sold the estate to Charles Savage, a London merchant.
The first perambulation of the bounds of his parish took place in May, 1714. The Perambulation is entered in full at the end of the third volume of the Registers of Christenings, Marriages, and Burials. It is in the handwriting of an educated person, scholarly and clear, and very fairly easy to read.

A Terrior of the Antient Bounds and Limits of the Parish of Hitchenden otherwise Hughenden in the County of Bucks Reviewed and Taken by the Reverend Mr. John Batchler Vicar of Hitchenden, Ananias Barnaby and John Theed Churchwardens (et alias) Inhabitants of the said parish by their perambulation on Monday and Tuesday the 3rd and 4th days of May 1714, and is entered into the Register of the said parish and Subscribed by the Minister and Churchwardens aforesaid.

* First Begun at the Cross on ye Bank in ye Road below ye Green from Thence Crossed over ye Road and Mr Wm Widmers paddock Straight to Green Mead, and thence along my Lord Shelburnes meadow by Green Mead hedge including ye Hedge to Chitwell Spring, and through Chitwell Spring into my Lord Shelburnes field Close by Mr. Thomas Widmers Chitwell field Hedge including the Hedge So up to Tinkers wood ditch and along Tinkers wood ditch to a Cross in

* The perambulation began at the most southern point of the parish, the boundary stone on the road High Wycombe—Hughenden, and proceeded westward, where the boundary touches Chepping Wycombe, then West Wycombe, and thus on, keeping the adjoining parishes always on the left. The distance would be quite fifteen miles, and fairly rough walking up and down hill. The parishes lying on the bounds of Hughenden are Chepping Wycombe, West Wycombe, Bradenham, Princes Risborough, Monks Risborough, Great Hampden, Great Missenden, Little Missenden, and Penn.

† The “crosses” so frequently mentioned were marks cut in the ground for the most part (though some may have been on boundary stones) to denote the limit of the parish in that particular direction.

‡ Henry Petty, Lord Shelburne, second son of Sir William Petty, created Earl of Shelburne 1709. Lord of the three Manors in Chepping Wycombe, 1700—1751.
Tinkers Lane and along Tinkers Lane to a Cottage now inhabited by William Widmer Close by the walls thereof but left out the same, and so to Three other Cottages Inhabited by John Gutteridge, Robert Harris and Robert Adkins close by the walls thereof but left them out, Thence along the ditch by the Hedge to Rinny Cross where the Vicar Read and Mr. Thomas Widmer provided and brought it thither Thence over the Common into the Common wood and so along by the Stones over the bottom to a Marked ash on the next Bank above now decayed and gone thence Straight to the Ditch of the next adjoining Common wood and along the same wood by the stones to the End of the wood thence Straight along the Common to a Cross near John Ashby's House where Mr. John Morton and Mr. Stennett provided on account of late Mr. Norton's Estate.

thence along the Common Through Broad pond to a Cross Thence to a Cross by two dells Thence to a Cross on the North side of the footway which leads from old Mr. Wigg's to Braddenham Thence to a Cross by a way which leads from Moosley House to Braddenham Thence adjourned by the same way into Moosley House Hall ye Estate of young Mr. Wigg to ye Spire where ye Vicar Read and Thomas Bampton his Tenant provided and back again by the same way to the same Cross, thence to a Cross at Davids Hole and through Davids Hole to another Cross Thence Straight to the Corner of Springwells Callins Close and along the ditch by ye same Closes to Walters ash Cross where ye Vicar Read a psalm was sung according to Custome and Ralph Towne provided on ye acct of Mr. Gyles Estate and likewise Andrew Leakey provided on his own acct and brought it to ye Cross, Thence through Jacob James's barn and Straight over his Orchard.

*"Spire"—generally a fixed screen near to the door with a seat attached to it; intended to keep the draught from the fireplace. The word is rare nowadays, but more commonly used in the North country.
and Martyn James's orchard through a pond to an ash on a stubb on the other side Thence Straight over Martyn James's Paddock into Northfield at ye Corner of House Croft thence all along Northfield having the Hedge on the left hand down to Reddings Grove, so to the bottom of Velly up Winchfield Hedge rows and up Mr. Piddingtons Canefield wood and Sand pit Close. Still leaving the Hedge on the left hand, thence to a Cross in Bonetts, thence down Great Bonetts and Little Bonetts Straight to a Great Cherry tree in the Common, thence down the Green way to a Cross in the bottom just above the way which leads from North Dean to Speen thence adjourned into John Fastnidge's house who provided on his Brother Edwards acct, and then down to upper Hall and Lower Hall otherwise Lower North Dean where William Lane Richd Wade and John Fastnidge provided and brought it to ye Bench in the Street where we Eat and Drank it under Wm. Lane's Elms and this was Mondays work.

Tuesday morning May the 4th Met at upper North Dean where Robert Burnham Thomas Mason John Field Ananias Wright Thomas Wright and John Jones provided and brought it out into ye Green against Ananias Wrights Thence to ye Cross we left off at when we adjourned into John Fastnidge's house Thence Cross the Bottom way directly to the Corner of Monk wood and along up Monk wood ditch to ye turning off thereof on the left hand, Thence along the way Straight forward by some marked trees on ye Right hand to a Cross on the Bank just on this side above Brians house So directly over Denner Hill bottom and up Denner Hill Coppice Ditch to New Cross at Denner Hill where ye Vicar Read and John Mason and ye Widdow Smyth provided and Joseph Coleman likewise provided on Edw Stone's acct and brought it to ye Cross Thence along the ditch in the Comon by John Mason's Hedge to Rolls Lane and down Rolls Lane.
to ye bottom against Mawkins and turned along the bottom way to Stony Green and then turned into the ditch on ye left hand to a Cross by Mawkins hedge and so along ye same ditch by some marked trees to the Lane which leads from Stony Green into late Gilmores Warren and so along ye Said Lane and Highway up through late Gilmores Warren by some marked trees on the left hand to a Cross on the Right hand of the said High way then along the said highway to a marked apple tree in the hedge on the Right hand of the said way belonging to the upper most close of the said late Gilmores Estate adjoining to Prestwood Common Then along the Common just by the stile Then along the ditch in the Common by Tyte field Hedge to the end of an old Ditch in ye Common against George Beaumonts House so along the same Ditch in ye Common near the Houses to ye End of Knives Lane then along the Ditch in Knive's Lane next Ditch Wood till we came against Knives House, where we adjourned into Knives House and the Vicar Road at the Spire in the Hall where George Fryer provided on Mr. Wingfields account and then returned into the same Ditch again and so to a Cross at the End of Peterly Lane Then into Ninning wood Ditch and along the same by Great Kings Hill Green to Norwood Cross where the Vicar Road and John Winter of Knives Lane Edward Tucker John Winch Martha Fryer widow Ananias Barnaby Richard Terry and Robert Dell on late wid Charsley provided and brought it thither, Thence along a way up the Common which leads to Lotmore pond and through the same to a Cross on ye other side then along an old Ditch up the Common to a Cross on the further side of London Road where the old poll'd Oak formerly stood then along the same ditch to the turning thereof where there is another Cross, Thence turned along in the ditch and went to the next turning thereof.
just by the Road which leads from Agmondisham to Chepings Wycomb where there is another Cross, Thence Turned in the same ditch and went down the same (by Agmondisham road) to Deadman Dean bottom. Where we adjourned into Mr. Biscoe’s House ye Vicar Read at the Spire in his Hall who should have provided for us there according to Custom but did not (though he Carried provisions for us to the Cross at Hazlemore but there we would not Receive it) Thence back again into Deadman Dean bottom to the Ditch and up the same to a Cross at Hazlemore thence along the side of Green Street next Tarryer’s hedge to a Cross on the Topp of Green Hill on the Bank between Hollow Lane and Brands Lane Thence Straight over Mr. Wm Widmer’s Romans Grove to a marked Oak in the Hedgrows next his Hill field now Grubbed and a stone there placed, Thence Straight down his Hillfield to an ash marked in his Kitchen field Hedge near the Dell thence over the dell and Knoll Straight down Kitchen field to the Cross in the Road where we began. Thence to Mr. William Widmer’s House at the Green who provided, Thence to Mr. Batchler’s the Vicars who provided (only ale) and So to our own homes.

Witness our hands
J. Batchler Vicr
Ananias Barnaby
John Theed jun. } Church Wardens.

There are various entries in Register 3 as to the erection of private seats in the church. Mr. Batchler seems to have allowed this to be freely done. In the extracts given here he voluntarily gives away the Vicarage seat! There is no mention of a faculty, and the arrangement is evidently not approved by a later Vicar.

Register 3. 1716.
Memorandum that in the year of our Lord 1716
Richard Sydenham Gent for Piggotts House.
William Widmer Gent did at their own Charge
Equally Between them Erect a new Seat in the
RECORDS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

parish Church of Hugendon in the County of Bucks in the place where the Vicarage Seat was (by the Voluntary Resignation and Consent of Mr. John Batchler Vicar and by the Consent of John ffastnidge and Richard Terry Churchwardens of the aforesaid parish the Same faseing the Ministers reading desk and pulpit and being noways incommoding to any person in the parish whatsoever) In Testimony whereof we have hereunto Set our hands

J. Batchler Vic
John ffastnidge } Church Wardens.

Leaf stuck in cover of Regiser 4. 1740.

Whereas a Pew was erected in the Parish Church of Hitchenden in the County of Bucks opposite to the Pulpit in the year 1716 at the expense of Richard Sydenham late of Piggotts Esq'r and William Widmer late of the Green Gent. and the said Pew not being large enough and sufficient to contain the familys of the above mentioned houses Richard Warre Esq' sole Executor and Representative of the said Richard Sydenham has for the use and convenience of himself and family with the advice and consent of us the Minister and Church Wardens of the Parish of Hitchenden built and erected at his own cost and charge a gallery on the North Side of the said Church, the same being in no way incommodious to any person or persons claiming by custom or otherwise a Seat in the said Church: reserving to himself a right for him or his family to sit in the Pew over against the Pulpit as he or they shall think proper, and in the same manner as they used to do before this gallery was erected. To obviate and prevent any dispute which may hereafter arise from any Claimant to the said Gallery or Pew, we have thought proper to enter this memorandum into our Parish Register, in Testimony whereof we have set our hands
the Seventh Day of June in the Year of our Lord, 1740.

John Batchler Vicar  
John Anthony  
{ Churchwardens

Loose leaf in Churchwardens' Box, 1829.

It appears, from the Memorandum of Rev'd J. Batcheler, and Mr. John Anthony, dated June 7, 1740 that the Pew claimed by Mr. Hussey of the Green, in behalf of that Farm, is free for him to sit in conjointly with the Inhabitants of Piggotts Farm, but inasmuch as the said Pew could not be legally alienated from the Parish, so as to become the private Property of any Individuals, by the above named John Batcheler, and John Anthony, nor without a regular Faculty having been obtained, the Churchwardens for the Time being have doubtless a right to place in it any Persons they may think fit during the Periods of divine Service, whenever it shall remain unoccupied by either of the Parties claiming a Right in it, or by their friends, at the Termination of the first Lesson.

Fredk. Vincent, Vicar.*

May 21. 1829.

Mr. Batchler leaves the following—written amongst the unused pages of the 3rd Register in his own hand:

Memorandum.

The Ellms before the Vicarage House of Hitchenden in the County of Bucks were planted by the Vicar John Batchler at his own expense by leave from Mr. Spencer who rented the Farm then of the Rt Honble The Earl of Chesterfield. And the other Ellms leading from the Farm Yard to Church Field Gate were also

planted by the said Vicar J. Batchler at his own expence in the Year 1734. The Little Garden before the Vicarage House was also wall’d in at the expense of the said Vicar J. Batchler, Mr. Tho Spencer being then dead and the Vicar J. Batchler one of his Executors and occupying the Farm upon Lease for the use and benefit of Mr. Spencers Children.*

N.B. The Ellms before the Vicarage House were planted February 13, 1723. And the other Ellms leading from the Farm Yard to the Brick Wall and those Ellms leading from the said wall to Church Field Gate were planted in the Year 1734 by

J. Batchler Vicar.

Again, in a short entry in the same volume:

Memorandum. John Batchler Vic’r of this Parish did at his own cost and charge plant the Six Ellms before the Vicarage House and erect those Rails wherein they are enclosed in Feb 1723. This was done by leave of Thomas Spencer Tenant to ye Earl of Chesterfield ye ground on which they are planted being part of his Farm. The same year The Cellar was sunk and built at the charge of J. Batchler as also The Passage or Entry which leads to ye Pantry.

Most of the Elms still stand, and the additions to the Vicarage House have been doubtless to the convenience of many Vicars since 1723.

In 1725 the Vicar of Hughenden became a pluralist, becoming Rector of Radnage, January 22, on the presentation of George 1.

At the end of “Marriages” in Register No. 3:

In the year 1728 Mr. Archdeacon Claget made a Parochial Visitation and ordered The Churchwardens to buy a new Register of Parchment

* The Manor House, then a building of moderate size, was the farm house. “A Map of an Estate at Hitchenden, the Property of Samuel Savage, Esqr., Surveyed in the year 1765” shows the farm-yard in front of the house, the rickyard, etc., being where the stables now stand, and the acreage about 400.
A HUGHENDEN VICAR

so that This Register will be used no more. Vide The new Parchm't Register for ye' Time to come—which commences at Lady Day 1729.

John Batchler Vicar.
Tho Spencer
William Pissey } Churchwardens.

The Communion Table was railed in in this year 1734.

John Batchler Vicar
Ananias Barnaby } Churchwardens.
John Theed

In the year 1738 Mr. Batchler made his Second Perambulation. It is set down in full in the same handwriting as the First. Not in the Parish Register, but as a separate document deposited in the Churchwardens' Box. It is entitled "A Terrior of the parish of Hughenden Bucks made in the year 1714 and Renewed again in 1738." The whole of the Perambulation of 1714 is set down exactly as before, and then follows—

All the aforesaid Bounds and Limits were perambulated again Monday and Tuesday ye 8th and 9th days of May 1738 and those that provided for The Same were as followeth for Monday May 8th

At Rinny Cross the Vicar Read Thomas Widmer Gent of Hughendon House
At the Cross by John Ashbys the Vicar Read, Mr. John Wise and Mr. William Ball on acct of Mr. John Morton and Mr. Thomas Flight
At Moosley House the Vicar Read Thomas Bampton on acct of Mr. Ives at Walters ash Cross the Vicar Read and a psalm sung Thomas Leaky on his own acct and Jacob Jans on Mr. George Pyles acct
At John Fastnidges House, John Fastnidge on his Brother Edward Fastnidge's acct
At Lower North Dean, Richard Ware Esq and Thomas Fastnidge at the Bench in the Street under Mr. Warr's Elms
Those that provided for our perambulation on Tuesday May 9th 1738 were as followeth

At upper North Dean in the morning at Breakfast Anne Wedden widow Jeffery Means Thomas Meason Robert Wright John Ives and George Jones and Brought it out to a Table Set in the Green against John Ives’s House, where was a Great Chair Set with a Canopy of flowers erected for Mr. Batchler the Vicar, also two more Great Chairs dressed up with flowers for the Churchwardens, Musick playing and dancing in the Green all Breakfast time and attending us playing quite through all along up the Dean.

At New Cross at Denner Hill the Vicar Read Joseph Coleman on John Stones’ acc’t Thomas ff Oxford and Payne D’an on William free’s acc’t and John Mason on his own acc’t.

at Knives House adjourned into the Hall to ye Spire there where the Vicar Read and Tho Means provided on Mr. Wingfields acc’t.

at Norwood Cross at Kingshill Green the Vicar Read John Horwood for late Winters on Edwd Meads acc’t. Francis Burnham.

Hatches House the Tennts were Excused in regard Mr Warre provided for us So Bountifully at Lower North Dean the Day before.

Richard Terry on Mr. Wingfields accompt and also on his own Mrs. Dormer widow and Robert Dell on their own acc’ts Francis Hearn on Francis Barnabys acc’t and we sent to Henry Tofield to provide for his house according to Antient Custom and Send it to the Cross as his Neighbours had Done but he absolutely Refused, so Mr. Batchlor Vicar and the Churchwardens sent him word he must expect to answer his Refusal in the Spiritual Court.

from the Cross at Deadman D’an Bottom we adjourned into Copshrows House* to the Spire in the Hall where the Vicar Read and Moses Taylor provided on Stephen Woodbings acc’t.

* Now Hazlemere Park.
from the Cross below the Green where we Ended our procession and began on Monday morning we went into the Green House where Mr. John Widmer provided plentifully for us. at night called in at Mr. Batchler's the Vicars house who provided only Ale for us and So to our own homes.

There is this interesting entry in Mr. Batchler's handwriting on a page in Register 3 after the Marriage entries. Above it is written in pencil "Garden part of ye Churchyard. Cool hand!"—evidently by some later Vicar.

1752. I gave leave to John Seymour ye Parish Clark to take a piece of rough ground out of ye Church yard to enlarge ye garden which Mr., Jenkings my predecessor* gave to Mathew East ye Clark. I gave leave also to Mary Cranaway to enclose a little garden next to her house in ye Church Yard. I gave Seymour ye Clark leave to take into his garden Two apple Trees wch I had grafted in ye Church Yard. This inclosure was made March 26, 1752.

N.B. These 2 Gardens may be thrown out again into ye Church Yard whenever I or any of my Successors Vicars of Hitchenden shall think fit.

John Batchler Vicr.

These enclosures in the Churchyard existed until the "seventies," when it took the united efforts of the Rev. Henry Blagden and Archdeacon Randall to evict the Clerk, and "throw out" the gardens again into the Churchyard. The Clerk never forgave them. He considered he had a freehold!


One likes Mr. Batchler. One would like to know more of him. Fifty-two years Vicar of Hughenden: 'tis a long time. May he rest in peace.

Coningsby Disraeli.

* John Jenkins, Vicar 1687—1713.