

UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY PARISH REGISTER.

The Register up to the year 1851 is contained in 10 books, and commences in January, 1539.

Book I. (1539—1653) contains 55 parchment leaves in parchment covers, and has the following title on the first page:—"A Regester booke of Weddinges Christinge and Buryinge within the Parish of Upton in the Countie of Buck made and beginning the xxiiith of October 1538 and in the xxxth yeare of the reigne of Kinge Henrie the Eight according to an acte of Parliament in that behalfe made and provided."

This book is very neatly written, and is in the same handwriting up to the year 1603. Up to that year the entries have been transcribed from an older record made in accordance with the 70th Canon of 1603.

The baptisms, marriages, and burials are entered in three different parts of the book. The first page is headed "Weddinges in Anno dm 1539," and the first entry is:—

"In primis the xxixth of Januarie Robert Stainyat and margeri Hiller were married."

After the entries in 1552 the following note appears:

"Weddings in Quene Maries daies are not entered in the booke."

There are no entries of marriages from the years 1553—1560, 1581—1586, nor from 1587 to 1590, but after the latter date they are recorded regularly to 1652.

In the year 1609 the following entry is recorded:—

"John Searle of lincons Inn in the Countie of Middless-mex and Ann Boulstrote doughter of Edward Bulstrote late of hedgele bulstrote within the parishe of Upton in the countie of Buck esquier weare married the 24 daye of June in a dom 1609."

Edward Bulstrode was a celebrated lawyer, the son of Edward Bulstrode, who was 'squire of the Body to Kings Henry VII. and VIII., and married the daughter of Sir John Croke, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

After the marriages the baptisms are entered, headed "Christenings in Anno dm 1539." No baptisms are recorded in Queen Mary's reign, from 1553 to 1556.

The following are extracts:—

1550. "Edward Bulstrode sonne of Mr. Edward Bulstrode was baptized."

1575. "Elizabeth Bulstrode daughter of Mr. Edward Bulstrode was baptized."

This lady became the wife of Sir J. Whitlock, Justice of the King's Bench.

1588. "John sonne of Joane Barnard of Slowe & the supposed sonne of Humphrey Michell blacksmith was baptized."

In 1603 the following epitome of the 70th Canon of 1603 occurs, which gives the origin of the Parish Chest:—

"Thys Booke was made in the 26 daye of March in the first year of the rayne of our Sovereigne Lord King James by the grace of god King of England Scotland France and Ireland Defender of the ffaythe and in ye yere of our Lord God 1603 for the Parish of Upton in the County of Buck to write the day & yere of every weding christining and Burying donne in the saide Parishe and the names according unto the Kings Injunctions. And allso the Kings Grace doth commande us his loving Subjects for the safe keeping of this booke to ordaine a suer Coffor or a chest at the parishe charges to stande within ye church in a convenient place being made safte wth two lockes & two keyes the one to remayne with ye vicar and the other wth the Church Wardens. And the said booke is to be brought forth the everye Sondaye in the psents of the Church Wardens or some of them and there in sett the names of such as have bine either wedded christened or buried the weake immediately goinge before so that it may

be allway in a readyness when it shall please the King or his Counsell to caule for it. And we the Churchwardens of the said Parish George Newington & Anthony Baven have performed our duties in providing the booke according as we have bine commended."

"God save the Kinge." *

The christenings are next recorded up to the year 1653. Extracts:—

1607. "Thomas halewaiye the sonne of William Halewaiye of St. Georges paryshe in Southwarke in the Countie Surre as the mother saide being borne in our paryshe of Upton of a poore wman beggar in a barn in the beforysd parish."

1613. "Thomas Child the sonne of Thomas Child a vagarant was baptie."

1635. "William Davis the sonne of one Mrs. Davis a stranger born at the crowne at Slowe & baptized."

After the baptisms in the year 1635 the names of the Churchwardens are given—

THOMAS DARIE	} Churchwardens.
ANTHONIE BAVIN	
	1635.

The 70th Canon above referred to ordered the Minister and Churchwardens to subscribe their names to every page of the register when filled with entries, but this was seldom done.

The burials are next entered, headed "Buryings in A^o D^m 1539."

There are no entries in Queen Mary's reign from 1553—1557.

The average number of burials in a year is 5, and the highest number in any one year is 15 in 1612. Extracts:—

1549. "Anthonie Cossen sonne of Edward Cossen was buried one new yeares daye for a newe yeares gyfte to Good."

* This epitome is not quite accurate, as the coffer was to have *three* locks and keys, "one to remain with the Minister and the other two with the Churchwardens severally."

1563. "Richard Spicer Yeoman of the Garde was died at Chalvey buried."
1569. "Richard Urlian the fermor of Upton was buried the 16 of October."
1570. "Richard Rayner being slaine with a crossebowe by the keper of Langley pke buried xv of November."

This death was probably the result of an accident. A search at the Record Office reveals the fact that no inquisition was held on the body. The use of the cross-bow was forbidden by an Act of Parliament passed in the reign of Henry VII. * because the long bow had been found of far greater benefit to the nation.

1571. "Mother Gylte widowe a lame creature was buried."
1572. "Richard Pygott of the pyshe of St. Marie at the Hill in London as he was travelling to the Bath for recovery of his helth died & was buried."
1576. "Katherine a childe brought & laide under firenches windowe in the garden in this Pyshe buried."
1587. "Helen a strange mayden who died at Slowe at one withertons house & buried."
- "Mr. John Dethicke Vicar of Upton buried in Eton Churchyard."

Mr. Dethick was Vicar from 1586—1589.

1594. "Aboute that tyme were buried the poore folkes wch were strangers & wente aboute for their lyvinge two men and two women."
1609. "Thomas Duk sergeant of the Kings maiest Seller esquier was buried."

This man lived at Slowe Farm, where "The Cedars" now stands. He was also lessee of Upton Farm when the Manor of Upton was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Robert Barker.

* See 19 Hen. VII., c. 4; 6 Hen. VIII., c. 13; Strutt's "Sports and Pastimes" (1868), p. 54.

After the burials in the year 1615 the following is written:—

“The names of such p̄sones who are to make the Rayles aboute the Churchyard of the pishe of Upton in the Countie of Buck renewed from the names of suche psones as before time did make them whereof manie are dead into the names of suche psons as are nowe livinge the 14 of Aprill 1609 current by Owen Jones Vicare there George Newington & Anthonie Baven Churchwardens John Pytte Thomas Bisshopp the elder with others as followeth:—

<i>Upton.</i>	<i>Railes.</i>
ffirst from ye mudde wall that ptethe ye churchyarde & Upton Courte yearde by ye great Elme from southe to northe Thomas Reade	1 & 2
Edward Woodward Gent	3
Richard Newington	4
Thomas Bisshopp the Elder	5 & 6
John Pytte late John Urlyns	7
Olliver Cogerlin	8
Edward Woodward Gent ⁿ	9, 10, & 11
George Bartlett	12
George Newington	13
George Bartlett	14
George Newington	15
John Pytt late John Urlyns	16
Henrye Bartlett	17
Thomas Duck Gent for ye farme in Slow...	18
The same Thomas Duck for ye house in Upton Streete sometime Richard Reade	19
Thomas Bisshopp, the Elder	20, 21
John fforde	22, 23
Edward Woodward Gent late Robte Stiles	24 from east to west.

Chalvey.

	ab orient usque ad occident	
Thomas Duck Gent late made by Jo ffeduche		25
John Pytte for his house by Chalvey Gatie		26 & 27
The Church gate pte whereof is nowe turned into a pannell of railes and the same gate and railes contayneth altogether nine feet of assize and is to be made by all the wholle pishion- ers of Upton		
Robert Bell		28, 29
Henrie Bell		30, 31
Agnes ffeduche		32
Anthonie Bavin		33
Henrie Bell		34, 35
Thomas Davie		36, 37
Robert Bell the Raille and ye Stile nexte to the dyche ptinge Upton Church- yarde & Upton Courte groundds where ye water course devideth the same groundds & churchyard afore- said."		

A list of "rayles" is, I believe, not uncommon in Parish Registers, and reminds one of a custom—now almost obsolete—that of each person being liable for the repair of the rail in the fence adjoining his property. This liability was attached to the land, though custom decided whether the occupier or the owner was the person liable for the repairs.

The foregoing list contains a list probably of all the owners of property in the parish at the time.

Mr. Owen Jones, Vicar of the Parish, died in 1618, and his burial is recorded. Immediately afterwards the following note records the induction of his successor:—

"Abraham Man was inducted to the vickeredge of Upton
22 of August Anno Dm 1618 and did rede his
artickles the 23rd of August in the presence of
us whose names are under written."

"GEORGE CAPE

"RICHARD NEWINGTON

"JOHN ffORDE."

The writing from the year 1603 to the end of this book is bad, and in many places scarcely decipherable.

In Book I. there are 768 entries of baptism, 383 weddings, and 581 burials.

Book II. (1653—1701) contains 33 parchment leaves in parchment covers.

In 1653 Parliament directed registers to be chosen in every parish, and this book in the first place contains a note of the appointment of the paid Register, thus:—

“Memorand the 19th day of September 1653 Peter Hampton was elected chosen & sworne Register of Upton cum Chalvey before us:—

“ROBT. ALDRIDGE.

“JOHN GREENE.”

The Hampton family lived in the parish, and in 1654 John Hampton took possession of the living, but was not formally presented until 1661.

The following extract in the “Survey of Church Lands in 1649” refers to his predecessor:—

“Mr. ffoxton possesseth the vicaridge and receiveth the proffitts thereof but ytt does not appeare that he is legally settled or placed therein by the Right of any Patron or instituted and inducted thereunto.”

The following is the first entry of a civil marriage under the Act passed by the Commonwealth in 1653:—

“Thomas Walter of Sitingham in the pish of ffarnham in the County of Bucks and Anney Davey of Chalvey in the pish of Upton in the County of Bucks was published according to the Act three seaverall Lords days ending the 18th of March 1654 and was married the 19th of March 1654.”

As soon as Richard Cromwell had resigned, the Act seems to have been disregarded, and the entries henceforth assume their original form, though the grammar does not improve, *e.g.*:—

“Hendry Lawrance and Sisely Baldwin was married the 13th of January 1660.”

The entries of births are headed "Bearth of Children," and in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1653 the date of birth only is generally stated until the year 1660, when the date of baptism is again recorded, and in some cases both dates are found.

Extracts:—

1686. "Daniel Slater that his mother come with a pas was baptized."

1692. "A child was found at Chalfy in the Parish of Upton and was chrisned in the Parish Church and was named Elizabeth."

The burials are headed "Buryalls in the year 1653," and the following entries are extracted:—

1660. "John Godson Robert Pino's man derived his death by the way on wheele and was buried."

1663. "Mr. John Woodward Solr of Cliffords Inn one of ye sixe Clarkes of ye chancerie was buried in our cancell the 22 of October."

1678. "Thomas Hunt a stranger that died in a wagon uppone the Roade was buried."

The mention of deaths upon the road and the burial or baptism of travellers and strangers is to be expected, seeing that the Great Bath Road passes through the parish.

The following is the first entry of a burial in wool, † showing by affidavit that the provisions of the Acts had been complied with:—

1698. "John Baven son of John Baven was buried the 22 day of Aprill and Affidavie was broght in within 8 dayes from Mr. Gregory Parry Minester of Eton."

The word "affidavit" evidently puzzled the clerk who made the entries. The following different ways of spelling occur:—"Affidavie," "afidave," "afidaved," "afidavit," "affidavet," and "affdavit."

† 18 and 19 Cha. II., c. 4; 30 Cha. II., c. 3; 32 Cha. II., c. 1.

On the inside cover and in other places a number of briefs are recorded thus:—

1657. "Collected by Thomas Darie & William Cosens Churchwardens in or pish towards the amending of gret Marlow bridg the some of 5s:1d."

1660. "Collected in our pish the 4th of March 1660 for psons suffered by fire in the pish of Gt Bartholomew Exchayng and Bennet finke in the City of London the sume of 3s. 9d."

1661. "Collected at Upton towards ye reedification of ye Church fallen downe in Dalbichalcome in ye county of Leicester 3s the 14th day of July and since sent to Tho: Berrington constable in ye year 1661."

"Collected at Upton for ye sufferers by fire at Oxford one shilling & ten pence and a broaken groat."

The parish seems to have escaped from the Great Plague in the years 1664, 1665, and 1666, as the number of burials recorded in those years are as follows:—

1664, 2. 1665, 6. 1666, 2.

The average number of burials in a year is 8, and the greatest number in any one year is 17 in 1695.

There are in this book 471 entries of baptism, 68 weddings, and 398 burials.

Book III. (1702—1712). This book contains only 9 parchement leaves bound in calf, and is entitled: "The Paris of Upton Ridgster Book bote by Willi: Hurst and David Peryman Churchwardens 2 yeres 1701.1702."

The first page is headed "The berths for the yere 1702."

After an entry of birth in 1710 is the following note:—

"This was ye last yt was given into ye justices in last year."

After this note christenings only are recorded.

The burials are headed "Burles of the ded."

This book contains 110 births and baptisms, 17 marriages, and 109 burials.

In 1710 an epidemic seems to have been prevalent in the parish, as 32 burials in that year are recorded, the average number in one year being 10.

The following note on the cover refers to the great storm of 1703:—

“On 26 of November 1703 the greate wind was”

This storm was probably the most terrible that has ever visited these islands. The loss in London alone was estimated at two millions sterling. The Eddy-stone lighthouse was destroyed, and the persons in it, including the inventor, perished, whilst the Bishop of Bath and Wells and his wife were killed in bed by falling chimneys.

Book IV. (1712—1737). This is a paper book in parchment covers, and is headed “The Register Book of the Parish of Upton beginning in ye year of our Lord, 1712.”

Twins are mentioned for the first time in 1717, and the following is the entry:—

“Esau Hibbett and Jacob Hibbett sons of Thomas Hibbit and Ann his wife (Twins).”

Twin sons were frequently named after the biblical Esau and Jacob.

Thomas Appleby and Mary, his wife, were the parents of twins in 1720 and 1723, but all the children died in infancy.

The following are extracts of baptisms from this book:—

1722. “Mary daughter of Samuel Dean i.e. laid to him by Mary Jasby both gone off was baptized.”

1736. “Andrew Cockran by a Presbyterian Teacher not in Church.”

This entry has been obliterated. Andrew Cockran was married in Upton Church two months later.

He was buried in the Church, and his tombstone bears the following inscription:—

“Remember man as thou goes by
As you are now so once was I
As I am now so must thou be
Prepare for death and follow me.”

The burials commence from the year 1710. At the end of each year the Vicar has certified that all were buried in woollen, but the necessary affidavits are seldom mentioned.

Extracts:—

1729. "Mrs. Mary Stiles of Ditton was buried in Linnen and paid ye penalty."

This is the only instance of the penalty of £5 having been paid for not being buried in woollen.

1736. "G Purser was buried. Affidavit made no mortuary because insolvent."

A mortuary* was a fee payable to the incumbent at the time of burial on account of the deceased's supposed negligence in paying personal tithes.

Mortuaries were regulated by Act of Parliament, and varied in amount according to the value of the deceased's estate.†

This book also contains the following miscellaneous records:—

- (1) "The names of those who were confirmed at Beaconsfield by Edmund Lord Bishop of Lincoln on May 20 1718."
- (2) "A list of ye persons carryed to be confirmed by Richard Lord Bishop of Lincoln at Agmondesham Bucks on May 20th 1724."
- (3) "A list of those for whom a mortuary has been paid."
- (4) "A Terrier of Upton Glebe 1764."
- (5) "A copy of a copy of ye endowment of the Vicarage of Upton brought from Bugden‡ by the Rev Mr Willis Rector of Fulmere. Bucks. 1764."
- (6) "Plan of Glebe Land as allotted under the Inclosure Act 1809."

This book contains 429 christenings, 75 marriages, and 449 burials.

The average number of burials in a year is 17, and the greatest number in any one year is 29 in 1730.

* See Tomlin's Law Dictionary, "Mortuaries."

† See 21 Hen. VIII., c. 6.

‡ Bugden (now Buckden) is a parish four miles from Huntingdon. The Bishops of Lincoln formerly had a Palace there. Bishop Grostête died at Bugden in 1253.

Book V. (1736—1799). This book commences with burials in 1736, and the following are extracts:

1753. "William Scot a natural son of the late Duke of Buccleugh."

The father was Francis, the second Duke, who lived at Ditton Park, in the parish of Stoke Poges.

1754. "The Rev Mr Grosmith the late Incumbent."

Mr. Grosmith was curate and subsequently vicar of this parish from 1746. He was also Rector of Hedgerley, Bucks.

1765. "Feb 3rd. Sarah Bramstone."

This was the Jacobite lady who (so runs the inscription on her tombstone) "dared to be just in the reign of George the Second."

She lived at Eton, but unfortunately nothing seems known of her history.

The following are extracted from the christenings:

1785. "John son of John and Sarah McCowen of the 38th Regiment of Foot. He had no money to pay either the minister or the stamps."

The stamp duty referred to was levied by 23 Geo. 3, c. lxvii,* and amounted to 3d. for each entry of birth or baptism, marriage and burial. The Vicar was paid 10 % for collecting the duty,† but in this case he not only lost his fee, but probably had to pay the duty himself.

1792. "May 8. John Frederick William son of Dr. Frederick William Herschel and Mary Herschel his wife."

This was the celebrated astronomer, son of the equally famous Sir William Herschel, who lived in the parish.

There are in this book 1,651 entries of baptisms, 218 marriages, and 1,299 burials.

The average number of burials in a year is 20, and the greatest number in any one year is 36 in 1772.

* Repealed by 34 Geo. III., c. 11, s. 1.

† 23 Geo. III., c. lxvii., sec. ix.

On the inside cover notes are made of the Vicar's and Clerk's fees for christenings, marriages, burials, monuments, &c.

The Easter Offering to the Vicar was fourpence for "every adult in the Parish or adult sojourner."

There is also a copy of an opinion taken in 1743 with reference to "Real Composition" for the Vicarial tithes and "marks by which ye particular glebe lands may be more easily found out."

Book VI. (1754—1781). This is the Marriage Register, used to comply with the provisions of 26 Geo. 2nd, c. 33, s. xiv. Act, and contains 154 entries, none of which are of special interest.

Book VII. (1781—1812). This book contains 230 entries of marriage, and the only one of interest is the marriage record of Sir William Herschel, of which the following is a copy:—

No. 30. "William Herschel of this Parish Bachelor and Mary Pitt of this Parish Widow were married by Licence in this Church on the eighth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight by me

"J. HAND. Vicar.

"This marriage was solemnised between us.

"In the presence of

"ALEX^R HERSCHEL

"WILLIAM HERSCHEL

"CAROLINA HERSCHEL.

"MARY PITT."

Book VIII. (1799—1812) contains entries of baptisms from 1799—1812, and entries of burials from 1799—1806.

Extracts from burials:—

1803. "28. Nov. Harriet Catherine daughter of Charles Greville & The Right Honble Lady Charlotte Greville."

Lady Charlotte was a daughter of the 3rd Duke of Portland, who at that time owned Bulstrode Park, which was then in this parish.

1808. "Admiral Thomas Boston aged 70 years. Recd mortuary 10s.

1809. "The Rev. John Hand late Vicar of this Parish aged 82 years."

Mr. Hand was Vicar for 47 years, and was a Chaplain to King George III.

The ages of those buried are first given in 1807.

In the year 1809, out of 19 burials recorded, two of those buried were over 90 years of age, two over 80, three over 70, and four over 60.

The town of Slough is still noted for its longevity, and at the present time can boast of one centenarian, whilst several parishioners are over 90 years of age, and a large number over 80.

The death-rate of the town is, I believe, one of the very lowest in the kingdom.

There are in this book 443 entries of baptism and 365 burials.

Book IX. (1813—1846) contains 1,600 baptisms.

Book X. (1813—1851) contains 1,600 burials.

Extracts:—

1817. "Lady Frances Douglas age 56 years."

This lady was the wife of the Hon. John Douglas, son of Earl Morton and eldest daughter of the Earl of Harewood, who had property in the parish.

1822. "Sir William Herschel Kt age 83 years."

Sir William Herschel came to the parish in 1786, and there made some of his great astronomical discoveries. Part of his telescope still remains, and circles can be seen on the lawn of Observatory House, where his great telescope was erected. The house is now occupied by his grandchildren.

1832. "Mary Herschel widow of the late Sir William Herschel age 81 years."

This lady was the widow of Mr. John Pitt, a merchant, who lived at Upton House. By her first husband she had one son, who died in infancy, and another son, who died in his 19th year. By her second husband she had one son—Sir John Herschel.

In 1847 Charles Hatchett, F.R.S., a celebrated chemist and writer, was buried at Upton.

The registers record the burial of two centenarians, viz.:—Sarah Stanborough, aged 106, and Sophia Buckland, a gipsy, aged 100.

There were, according to the religious census made in 1676 for Henry Compton, Bishop of London, 133 conformists and 3 non-conformists. The total population of the parish at this time is estimated at about 200.

E. LIONEL REYNOLDS.

THE FONT, STONE, BUCKS.

Canon Blagden writes to the Editor as follows:—

"It is hoped that the members of the Archæological Society may like to have a photograph of the interesting circular Norman Font in Stone Church, which has been taken from a drawing by Miss Frances Watson, of "The Studio," Avlesbury. The Font, which originally belonged to Hampstead Norris, near Newbury, was placed in Stone Church in 1845, at which time it was covered with composition and whitewash. The history of its travels is given in *The Builder*, July 25, 1846, and notices of it have already appeared in *THE RECORDS*, Vol. II., p. 173, and Vol. VI., 354."