

NOTES  
ON THE  
CHURCHES  
OF 4. A.  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

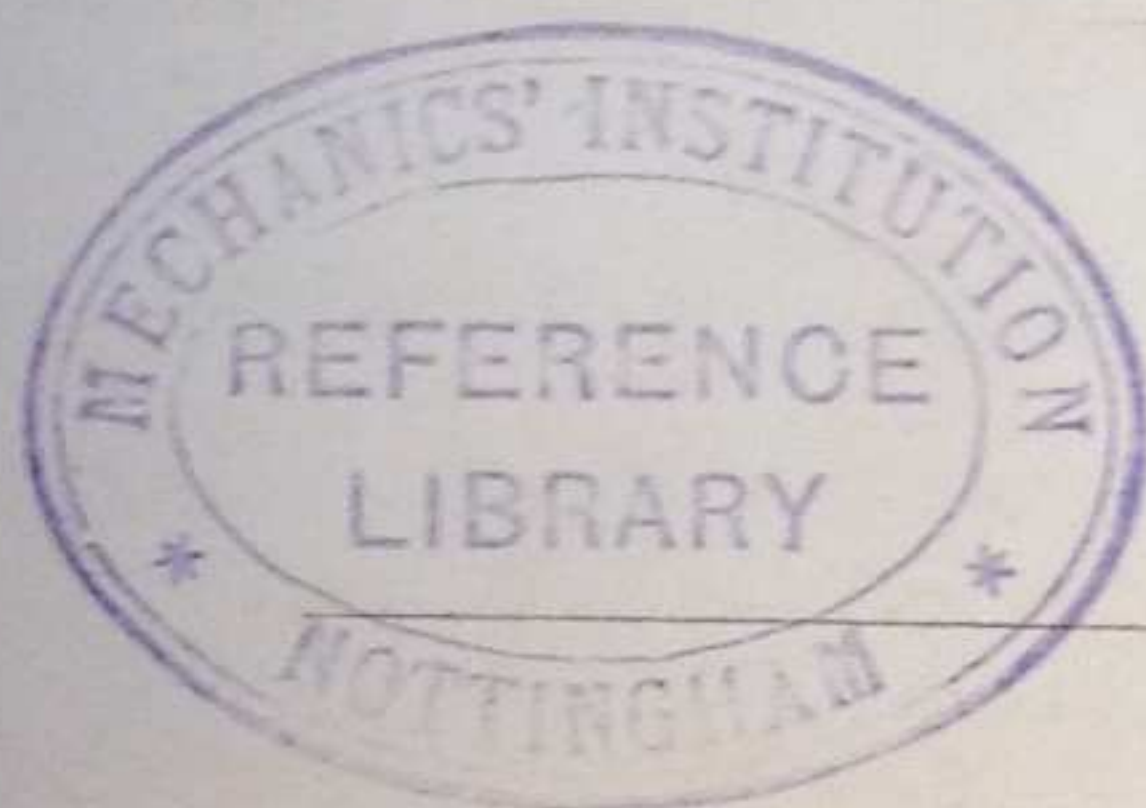
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Hundred of Rushcliffe.

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BY  
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Priory of Lenton, Notts.," "The Market Crosses of Nottingham," Etc.*



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AND DERBY.

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MDCCCLXXXVII.



## West Bridgeford.



THE Domesday Survey (1086) does not record that Bridgeford at that time possessed either a priest or a church.

The Taxation Roll of Pope Nicholas IV., 1291, gives the clear annual value of the church of Bridgeford ad pontem<sup>1</sup> at £17 6s. 8d.<sup>2</sup>

The church of Bridgeford was taxed in the Nonæ Roll (1341) at twenty-six marcs.<sup>3</sup>

According to the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* (27 Henry VIII.) the rectory of Westburghford was valued at the clear yearly sum of £16 14s. Walter Basse was then rector, and an annual pension of two shillings was paid to the Rector of Holme (Pierrepont).<sup>4</sup>

The inventory of Church Goods relative to this parish, drawn up in the reign of Edward VI., does not exist.

The Commissioners of Church Goods, 6th May, 1553, handed over to Walter Basse, parson of West brydgefurd, "one chalyce of sylver & p'cell y<sup>r</sup> off gyldede w<sup>t</sup> a patente for y<sup>e</sup> admynystracōn of y<sup>e</sup> holy comunyene as also thre bells of one accorde hangynge in y<sup>e</sup> styple of y<sup>e</sup> same churche."

The Parliamentary Commissioners of 1650 valued the rectory at four score and ten pounds per annum, which Samuel Cotes, then incumbent, a "godly able preaching minister" received to his own use. The Earl of Kingston was patron.

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(1) So called from its proximity to the Trent Bridge, at Nottingham.

(2) *Taxatio Eccles.*, p. 311. (3) *Inquis. Non.*, p. 293.

(4) *Valor Eccles.*, v. 167.

## Rectors.

- Luke de Crophill**, cler., instituted 13 October, 1239. Patron, Sir Andrew Luterell, Knight.
- Robert Luterell**, cler., instituted 1 June, 1267. Patron, Petronilla Luterell.
- Andrew Luterell**, acolite, instituted 11 June, 1315. Patron, Johanna, relict of Sir Robert Luterell, Knight.
- Henry Luterell**, pbr.
- John de Aslacton**, junior, cler., instituted 28 July, 1349, on the death of Henry Luterell. Patron, Sir Andrew Luterell, Knight.
- Thomas de Hawerthorpe vel Owthorpe**, pbr., instituted 23 September, 1369, on the death of John de Aslacton. Same patron. By his will, dated 12 August (pr. 6 September), 1415, he desires to be buried in chancel.
- Richard Clarke**, pbr., instituted 22 August, 1415. Patron, Sir Geoffrey Luterell, Knight.
- William Wragby**, pbr., instituted 26 March, 1437, on the death of Richard Clarke. Patron, Sir Godfrey Hilton, Knight. He resigned.
- William Funtance**, instituted 24 December, 1450. Same patron. He resigned for the rectory of Wilford.
- Robert Hyll**, pbr., late Rector of Wilford, instituted 6 April, 1479.
- John Alcock**, D.D., instituted 21 November, 1479, on the death of Robert Hyll.
- Robert Lovell**, cler., instituted 24 October, 1506, on the death of John Alcock. Patron, Elizabeth, wife (or widow) of Godfrey Hilton. In his will, dated 13 April (pr. 9 June), 1517, he is described as "parson of ye ch: of Briggeford next the Bridge-End of Nott:"
- Walter Wright**, Dec. Bac., instituted 9 June, 1517. Patrons, Richard Thymelby and Elizabeth his wife.
- Walter Basse**, pbr., instituted 21 May, 1529, on the death of Walter Wright. Patron, Sir John Thymelby, Knight.
- John Cooke**, cler., instituted 21 January, 1556, on the death of Walter Basse. Patron, Sir Richard Thymelby, Knight.
- Robert Grene**, cler., M.A., instituted 21 June, 1571, on the death of John Cooke. Patron, John Thymelby, Esq.
- Francis Withington**, M.A., instituted 20 September, 1614. Patrons, the assigns of Sir Henry Perpoynt, Knight. His benefice was sequestrated during the Commonwealth, and he was taken into custody of the House of Commons.<sup>1</sup>
- [**Samuel Coates** occurs as rector in the Parliamentary Commissioners' Report of 1650. Member of the Nottingham Presbytery. Ejected in 1662 for non-conformity.]
- Edward Greathead**, cler., M.A., instituted 11 February, 1662. Patron, Henry, Marquess of Dorchester. Will dated 20 June, 1673. To be buried where his executors willed.
- Thomas Houghton**, M.A., instituted 6 August, 1673. Same patron.<sup>2</sup> Occurs 1692.
- Joseph Bruen**, instituted 19 January, 1692, died 30 September, 1717.
- John Stokes**, M.A., instituted 11 November, 1717. Patron, Millicent Fuller, of West Bridgeford, widow.

(1) Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*, p. 424.

(2) Torre MS., p. 149.

**Thomas Rose**, M.A., instituted 8 September, 1749, on the death of John Stokes. Patron, Mundy Musters, of Colwick, Esq. Buried at West Bridgeford, 16 March, 1764.

**John Gage** occurs as rector, 1766.

**William Thompson** [instituted 1770. Patron, John Musters, Esq.] occurs 1782.

**Peter Thoroton**, LL.B., instituted 27 October, 1803, on the death of William Thompson. Patron, John Musters, of Colwick, Esq.

**Levett Edward Thoroton**, instituted 30 January, 1818, on the death of Peter Thoroton. Patron, John Musters, Esq.

**Roger Pocklington**, M.A., instituted 30 July, 1831, on the cession of L. E. Thoroton. Patron, John Musters, Esq.

**William Musters Musters**, B.A., instituted 19 March, 1834, on the cession of Roger Pocklington. Patron, John Musters, Esq.<sup>1</sup>

**William Roe Waters**, B.A., instituted 11 June, 1862, on the cession of William Musters Musters. Patron, John Chaworth Musters, Esq.

Mr. Stretton visited West Bridgeford in 1816, and thus describes the church :—<sup>2</sup>

“Stone church of faced ashlar; a low tower steeple with a west window in it of pointed Gothic; a window in the belfry over the same with circular head, the whole embattled. The whole [of the church is] embattled, has had a shingled roof, but now leaded, has two three-light Gothic windows with square heads and rich tracery on each side, and four clerestory windows (date about 1350) over each lower two. A south porch, tiled, with inner stone seats.

“There is a nave and south side aisle, separated by three octagonal stone pillars and four pointed arches. An ancient oak roof, the timbers exposed, and supported by corbels.

“The pewing is modern, of deal, neat and uniform. King’s arms modern, the Creed and Lord’s Prayer over it. A plain octagon font. The cancelli of oak, plain Gothic work, but no rood loft.

“The chancel appears to be more ancient than the church, is of ashlar stone, and tiled, has two north lancet windows, and a small south door with pointed arch, and label moulding over it.

“There is a double stone seat with ogee arches, under a square head, the angles being occupied by open work trefoils. There is also a square piscina, and a locker, all in the south wall. Some little remains of the painted glass which once decorated the whole of the windows still to be seen, but without anything of interest on it, no perfect figures remain.

(1) Son of John Musters, Esq., and Mary Ann Chaworth (Lord Byron’s Mary). Curate of Colwick in 1833, and Rector in 1834. In 1841 he played cricket as one of the Notts. eleven v. Kent. He and his elder brother, John George, appear to have assumed the additional name of Chaworth. On 21 October, 1870, was buried at Colwick “Wm Musters Chaworth Musters aged 60.”

(2) Stretton MS., No. 31, p. 26.

"The east end of this chancel has been very justly remarked and admired for the beautiful and peculiar construction of its windows, which Mr. Blore observes are not equalled in any village church that he has seen. There are three of these windows, two below, and one above them, filling up the gable end, each in a triangular form, and enriched with beautiful tracery, but the tasteless depravity of the churchwardens bricked them up to save the expense of glazing and repairs. There is a small brick and tiled vestry on the north side of the chancel, [and an] arched recess in the north wall, of coeval date with the chancel for the burial place of the founder. Old oak communion table, and altar rails. Some ancient floor stones of the 15th century, obliterated, lie in the chancel.

"[1808] The tower is ten feet square within, and has three bells:—

1st, has an inscription in Old English and a small shield like the second bell.

2nd, no date or inscription, only a small shield thus [1].

3rd, *AVE MARI.*<sup>1</sup>

"On a slate head stone [in the churchyard] near the chancel end:—

"Here lieth the Body of George Ingman, Gentleman & land surveyor, Who departed this Life the 5th of December, 1778, Aged 65 Years.

"Go home Dear friends and weep no more,  
J've left for you Much gold in store;  
I could no Longer with you Stay,  
I Suddenly was snate'ht away;  
Contented be, and shed no tears,  
I Must lie here till Christ appears."

"(He was an original compiler of the Gents' Diary.)"<sup>2</sup>

West Bridgeford church, dedicated to St. Giles, comprises nave, south aisle and porch, chancel with north vestry, and western tower. Internally the fabric measures:—Length of nave and aisle 41 feet 9 inches, width of nave 18 feet, width of aisle 9 feet 6 inches, length of chancel 33 feet, width of chancel 17 feet 3 inches, length of porch 13 feet, width of porch 7 feet 6 inches. The tower measures on the ground floor 13 feet by 10 feet.

The nave, aisle, porch, and chancel are all of the Early English period, and were originally built of random masonry, the tower is Perpendicular, and the vestry modern.

The nave is supported on the northern side by two

(1) Stretton MS., No. 25, p. 79.

(2) Stretton MS., No. 33, p. 36.

rectangular buttresses, and a diagonal one. The north wall contains two Late Decorated windows, of three and four lights respectively, the easternmost containing a fragment of old stained glass. The tracery in each of these windows is cut out of a single stone. The clerestory was added in the Perpendicular period, when the rage for erecting clerestories was so general that they were added to churches where the early north wall of the nave already contained sufficient windows. There are four two-light windows with obtuse angled heads on each side of the clerestory, which is embattled on each side and covered with lead. On the north side are four gargoyles, and the remains of others on the south side, that at the south-east angle being modern. The old flat Perpendicular roof is supported by ten grotesque corbels.

The aisle is separated from the nave by three octagonal pillars with moulded capitals, the responds of the eastern and western arches being supported by grotesque corbels. There is a small rectangular buttress at the east and west angles, and the walls are embattled like the nave. The roof is leaded. The aisle is lighted by two three-light square-headed Late Decorated windows, modern reproductions of older windows, and at the east end there is a pointed Late Decorated window of three lights with hood mould terminating in carved heads. The tracery in the head of this window is cut out of a single stone, and contains the remains of some ancient stained glass. At the west end is an original lancet, also cut out of a single stone. There is a double piscina in the south wall, and the old octagonal font stands to the west of the doorway.

The south porch, of unusual length, has a small light in each of the side walls, and one in the gable. The roof is high pitched and covered with tiles. The inner stone seats remain.

The chancel was originally erected in the Early English period of random masonry, but has been restored as hereafter described. In the north wall is an original lancet, and the upper part of a second, the lower part of the latter having been included in the doorway which, with a modern archway,

opens into the vestry and organ chamber erected in 1872. The arched recess in this wall mentioned by Mr. Stretton is of Decorated character, but its original use is evidently misunderstood, for it bears the inappropriate inscription, "Christ is risen." The south wall contains two windows of two and three lights respectively, with external hood moulds, and which appear to be of late Perpendicular work. The small square piscinas and double sedilia described by Mr. Stretton still remain. There is also in this wall a small pointed Early English doorway. The interesting east windows of Decorated work are conspicuous features in the church, the small triangular window being a reproduction of an older one. The chancel arch, 21 feet high, is of two orders of chamfers terminating in grotesques, and contains a good screen of Decorated work. The roof is high pitched and covered with tiles. The vestry has a high pitched tiled roof and a two-light Early English window at the east and west ends.

The tower (see plate V.) was erected of ashlar masonry, in the Perpendicular period, and is supported by diagonal buttresses at the north-west and south-west angles. It is in three stages, embattled, and surmounted by a crocketed finial at each angle. The upper stage has a circular headed opening in each side, but the tracery is concealed by louvre boardings fixed outside. The Perpendicular west window is of three lights. The tower arch, pointed and of two orders of chamfers, is open to the nave. The floor is higher than that of the nave, and the staircase is in the south-west angle.

There are three bells. The first is inscribed in Lombardic characters, **AVE MARIA**. The second bears the mark No. 1, and the inscription in old English, "Celorum xte placeat tibi rex sonus iste." The third bears in Roman capitals,

J. & E. SMITH & CO.

CHESTERFIELD

1813

GLORIA DEO.

The only tablets in the church are on the north wall of the nave. One is inscribed, "Underneath lie the remains of Millicent Stokes, youngest daughter of the late Rev. John

Stokes, A.M, Rector of this Parish, ob. Nov. 5, 1806, Æt. 67.—In affectionate regard to her memory this monument was erected by her adopted daughter M.G.” The initials M.G. refer to the wife (whose maiden name was Millicent Guy) of the late Captain Andrew Gideon Fisher, formerly of the H.E.I.C. Bombay Artillery. The other tablet is in memory of Robert James Fisher, son of Captain Fisher, born January 24th, 1812, died October 4th, 1815.

These tablets were formerly in the chancel, and do not therefore now correctly record the places of interment of those they commemorate. Several ancient incised slabs were converted into altar steps at the restoration. One of them is represented on plate VII.

Previous to the restoration of the church, the arms of *Luttrell*, former lords of this place, Azure a bend between six martlets argent, and of *de Alfretton* (borne by *Chaworth*) Azure, two chevrons or, were to be seen in some of the windows, but they have now disappeared.

The church was restored in the year 1872, at a cost of £800, when the following repairs were effected:—Scraping the white-wash off the internal dressed masonry, renewing the traceried windows in the south wall of the aisle, taking down and rebuilding the gable of the porch, and resetting the gable light, renewing the eight windows in the clerestory, and decayed battlements, inserting new gurgoyle at the south east angle of the nave, building up the small doorway in the south side of the tower, and restoring one of the mullions in the west window, removing the font and fixing it in its present position, taking down and restoring the chancel screen, taking down and rebuilding the gable of the chancel as far as the spring of the windows, straightening the east windows, renewing the broken tracery in the same, and renewing the triangular window in the gable, rebuilding the upper part of the side walls and the inner arch of the eastern lancet in the north wall of the chancel, restoring the chancel roof, and taking down the old vestry and building the present one. The church was also fitted with open benches, and new furniture was provided for the chancel.



The first register is of parchment, 12 inches high and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, stitched in parchment covers. It contains *baptisms* from November 1559 (except the years 1644-5-6) to 29th September, 1653; *marriages* from 23rd October, 1559, to 29th September, 1653; and *burials* from 2nd October, 1659, to 4th September, 1653. The book is well written in English, and is in good order.

The second book is also of parchment, and the leaves, twenty-seven in number (including portions of leaves), are loosely stitched in a parchment cover. At the commencement is the appointment of the parish register.

"Feb<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1653. We doe hereby certifie y<sup>t</sup> ffrancis Smith of West Bridgford in the County of Nottinghā is nominated & chose by the major pt of the Parishioners there to be their parish Register. Sa: Cotes Rector there [and six others]."

"Frances Smith of West Bridgford approved and sworne Register fo<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> said Parish Apr. 12 1653 by me HEN: SACHEVERELL."

The entries are very confused, and comprise *births*, *marriages*, and *burials* from about 1654 to 1670.

The third register contains twenty parchment leaves in a parchment cover. It comprises *births*, *marriages*, and *burials*, from 1689 to 1724. The leaves vary in size, and some of them are eaten by mice. The *marriages* for 1689 and 1690 are written outside of the front cover, and the *burials* and *marriages* for 1724 are inside the back cover.

The fourth book contains twenty-two parchment leaves,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches by  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches, eleven paper leaves, and a small parchment leaf stitched inside the front cover, which is part of an old parchment deed. The book contains *baptisms*, *marriages*, and *burials* from 1725 to 1767-8.

A parchment book contains *baptisms* and *burials* from 1768 to 1812, and at the other end are some marriages from 1768 to 1779.

Another book contains *marriages* from 28th January, 1772, to 5th November, 1812.

The subsequent registers are in conformity with the Acts of 1812 and 1836.

The church plate consists of a cup with paten cover, large flagon, paten, and shallow bowl, all of silver. The flagon, paten, and bowl are inscribed "West Bridgford, 1809," the bowl also bearing the Sheffield hall-marks for the year 1808-9. The cup is inscribed \* West Bridgford, 1659 \* and bears the London hall-marks for the year 1659-60. The paten-cover bears the London hall-marks for the year 1564-5. The Rev. F. Brodhurst writes to us:—"This is the oldest piece of Elizabethan plate at present known to us in the County of Notts. Many of the 1571 cups<sup>r</sup> remain in the county, but the only two pieces of Elizabethan plate in this county before A.D. 1571, known to us, are one at Sookholme, in the parish of Warsop, and this at West Bridgeford. The only pieces of pre-Reformation church plate known to us are two patens, and the feet and stems, if not the bowls, of two chalices belonging to Southwell Cathedral, and a paten silver-gilt in the private possession of the Rev. F. Brodhurst, Vicar of Sutton-in-Ashfield."