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ARCHBISHOP HERRING'S  
VISITATION RETURNS,

1743.

VOL. IV.

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*The Letter from the Archbishop to the Clergy.*

Good Brother,

Being by God's Providence call'd to a new Diocese, with the Circumstances whereof I am very much unacquainted, I shall hold myself extremely oblig'd to You for your Assistance in the Administration of it. To render that more effectual, I send to you and the rest of my Clergy the following Paper of Questions; a clear and satisfactory return to which under the Hand of every several Minister and delivered to my Secretary, or the Register, at the Time of my Visitation, will make me much better acquainted with the Circumstances of this large Diocese, than I cou'd be by any other way, save that of a Parochial Visitation, which it is out of my power to take.

You will therefore be so good as to gratify my request herein, and as this is the only design of my sending these Enquiries to You, You may rest perfectly assured, that no other use shall be made of them, but for my own Information; and for that reason I will hope that You will deal very freely and plainly with me in your Answers to the several Questions.

To God's Favour and Blessing I heartily commend yourself, and your Labours in His Church, and remain,

Reverend Sir,

Your very affectionate Brother,  
Tho. Ebor.

Kensington,  
2, May 1743.

To the Minister of.....  
in the Deanry of.....

QUESTIONS.

- I. What Number of Families have you in your Parish? Of these, how many are Dissenters? And of what Sort are they?
- II. Have you any Licens'd or other Meeting House in your Parish? How many? Of what Sort? How often do they assemble? In what Numbers? Who teaches in them?
- III. Is there any public or Charity School, endow'd, or otherwise maintain'd in your Parish? What Number of Children are taught in it? And what Care is taken to instruct them in the Principles of the Christian Religion, according to the Doctrine of the Church of England; and to bring them duly to Church, as the Canon requires?
- IV. Is there in your Parish, any Alms-House, Hospital, or other Charitable Endowment? Have any Lands or Tenements

been left for the Repair of your Church; or to any other pious Use? Who has the Direction of such Benefactions? How are they managed? Do you know, or have you heard of any Abuses or Frauds committed in the Management of them?

- V. Do you reside Personally upon your Cure, and in your Parsonage House? If not, where do you reside? And what is the Reason of your Non-Residence?
- VI. Have you a Residing Curate? Is he duly qualified according to the Canons in that Behalf? Does he live in your Parsonage House? What allowance do you make him?
- VII. Do you know of any who come to Church in your Parish that are not Baptized? Or that being Baptized, and of a competent Age, are not confirmed?
- VIII. How often is the public Service read in your Church? Is it duly perform'd twice every Lord's-Day? If not, how often, and at what Times is it perform'd? And how comes it not to be twice done, as the Act of Uniformity and Canons of the Church require?
- IX. How often and at what Times do you Catechise in your Church? Do your Parishioners duly send their Children and Servants who have not learned their Catechism, to be instructed by you?
- X. How often is the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper administer'd in your Church? What Number of Communicants have you in your Parish? How many of them usually receive? Particularly, how many did communicate at Easter last?
- XI. Do you give open, and timely Warning of the Sacrament before it is administered? Do your Parishioners send in their Names to you as required? Have you refused the Sacrament to anyone? For what Reason? And how has the Person so refused behaved himself since that Time?
- If you have met with any particular Difficulties in the Discharge of your Duty;
- If you have observed any particular Defects in the present Canons or Discipline, of the Church;
- If you have discover'd any Abuses or Corruptions in any Ecclesiastical Officers, or others concern'd in the Execution of the same;
- If you have any Advices to give, or Proposals to make, by which the Glory of God, and the Honour and Interest of our establish'd Church may be promoted, or the Government of this Diocese be better ordered.
- I desire you freely to communicate your Thoughts to me; and be assur'd, that a proper Use shall be made of your Suggestions, in order to the Attainment of the End propos'd by them.

List of Parishes and Chapelries in this volume.

	PAGE		PAGE
Adbolton ( <i>s.v.</i> Holme Pierpoint)	67	Costock .. .. .	26
Annesley .. .. .	4	Cotgrave .. .. .	183
Apethorpe .. .. .	6	Cottam Chapel ( <i>s.v.</i> Leverton, South) .. .. .	93
Arnold .. .. .	3	Cromwell .. .. .	31
Askham .. .. .	6	Cropwell Bishop .. .. .	40
Attenborough .. .. .	2	Cropwell ( <i>s.v.</i> Tythby) .. .. .	152
Austerfield .. .. .	5		
Averham .. .. .	2	Darlington .. .. .	43
		Drayton, East .. .. .	42
Babworth .. .. .	22	Drayton, Great ( <i>see</i> Drayton, East).	
Balderton .. .. .	12	Drayton, West .. .. .	41
Barmby-in-the-Willows (Barnby)	12	Dunham .. .. .	42
Barnston ( <i>s.v.</i> Langar) .. .. .	87		
Barton-in-the-Beans .. .. .	7	Eakring .. .. .	46
Basford .. .. .	17	East Bridgford ( <i>see</i> Bridgford, East).	
Bawtry .. .. .	182	East Drayton ( <i>see</i> Drayton, East).	
Beckingham .. .. .	25	East Leake ( <i>see</i> Leake, East).	
Beeston .. .. .	16	East Markham ( <i>see</i> Markham, East).	
Bilborough .. .. .	13	East Retford ( <i>see</i> Retford, East).	
Bilthorp .. .. .	19	East Stoke ( <i>see</i> Stoke, East).	
Bingham .. .. .	9	Eastwait ( <i>see</i> Eastwood).	
Bleasby .. .. .	24	Eastwood .. .. .	177
Blidworth .. .. .	25	Eaton .. .. .	55
Blythe .. .. .	21	Eddingley .. .. .	183
Bole .. .. .	23	Edwalton .. .. .	45
Bothamsall .. .. .	22	Edwinstow .. .. .	52
Boughton Chapel ( <i>s.v.</i> Kneesal)	80	Egmanton .. .. .	50
Bridgford, East .. .. .	182	Elkesley (Elksley) .. .. .	53
Bridgford, West .. .. .	8	Elston Chapel .. .. .	48
Broughton Sulney .. .. .	10	Elston Church .. .. .	46
Bulcote .. .. .	15	Elton-upon-the-Hill .. .. .	44
Bulwell .. .. .	14	Epperston .. .. .	49
Bunney .. .. .	11	Everton .. .. .	51
Burton Joyce .. .. .	15		
Burton, West .. .. .	182	Farndon .. .. .	55
Calverton .. .. .	176	Farnsfield .. .. .	58
Carburton .. .. .	39	Finningley .. .. .	57
Carcolston .. .. .	30	Flawborough (Flawbrow) .. .. .	138
Carlton Chapel ( <i>s.v.</i> Norwell) .. .. .	111	Fledborough (Fledborow) .. .. .	56
Carlton-in-Lindrick .. .. .	38	Flintham .. .. .	183
Caunton .. .. .	183		
Clarborough (Clareborough) .. .. .	39	Gamston .. .. .	63
Claworth .. .. .	37	Gedling .. .. .	61
Clifton .. .. .	27	Girton ( <i>s.v.</i> Scarle, South) .. .. .	140
Clifton, North .. .. .	34	Godling ( <i>see</i> Gedling).	
Coddington (Codington) .. .. .	35	Gonalston .. .. .	62
Collingham, North .. .. .	33	Gotham .. .. .	58
Collingham, South .. .. .	32	Grandby .. .. .	60
Colston Basset .. .. .	28		
Colwick .. .. .	36		
Cortingstock, <i>see</i> Costock.			
Cossall ( <i>s.v.</i> Wollaton) .. .. .	166		

- XI. I give open & timely Warning of the Sacrament; by reading the Exhortations appointed: and more commonly the second. The Parishioners do not send in their Names as they are required by the Rubrick. I beg leave to observe; I never was at, or heard of any Place where this was required or practiced by any parish Minister (*sic*). I never refused any one the Sacrament.

I have not met with any Difficulty in the Discharge of my Duty; but such as by the Grace of God I have easily surmounted. I have not discover'd any particuler (*sic*) Defects in the Canons & Discipline of our Church. The Frame & Foundation is good, But the Iniquity & Licenciousness of Mankind, will not permit us to erect so fine & glorious a Superstructure, as it will bear, & was originally intended & design'd. I have not discovered any abuse in any ecclesiastical Officer. It would be a degree of Presumption in me, who am placed in so obscure a Station, that I can see or know little of the World, to offer any Advices to my Superiours. The best way, that I can promote the Honour & Glory of God, & the Interest of our establish'd Church, is, By observing the Laws, Canons, Rubricks & Discipline of it, as well as I am able: And by Obeying the Commands of my Superiours, whenever they are sent unto me.

JOS. MILNER Rector of Barton in Fabis.

R. JOSEPH MILNER. Inst., 26th Nov., 1720. D. Lond., 21st Dec., 1718; P. York, 11th Oct., 1719. St. Cath. Coll. Camb. B.A., 1716; M.A., 1720. C.W. : Thomas Stevenson  
William Wright.

The Abp. makes a note to ask for a Terrier of the Poor Lands here.

### 9. West Bridgford, Bingham.

- I. Fifty One two of which are Dissenters
- II. We have no Meeting House
- III. There is no School.
- IV. We have one yearly Charitable Endowment left to the Poor by Dame Frances Pierpoint who gave to the Chapter of Southwell the Annuity or yearly Rent of Thirty Pounds of lawfull Money of England to be paid to the said Chapter and their Successors for ever. In trust that the said Thirty Pounds shall be employed and distributed amongst Thirty of the most Poor aged Sick and indigent Persons of the Parishes of Holmpierpoint West Bridgford Cotgrave and Cuckney in the said County of Nottingham Scardecliffe\* in the County of Darby and the Towns of Southwell and East Redford in the County of Nottingham viz Ten Pounds to the Poor of Southwell Ten Pounds to the Poor of East Redford Five Pounds to the Poor of Holmpierpoint, Bridgeford

\* i.e., Scarcliffe.

and Cotgrave aforesaid which said Five Pounds hath time out of mind been distributed in this manner Twenty shillings to Holmepierpoint Forty shillings to Bridgford and Forty Shillings to Cotgrave untill the year 1740 when only twenty shillings hath been given to a poor Woman of Gameton in the Parish of Bridgeford by his Grace the Duke of Kingstons Steward.

- V. I reside in the Parsonage House
- VI. There is no Curate in this Parish.—
- VII. There are none that I know in this Parish who come to Church and are not Baptized nor any that being Baptized, and of a competent Age are not confirmed
- VIII. The Publick Service is duly performed twice every Lord day
- IX. I Catechise during the Time of Lent
- X. Four times in the year. There are about an hundred and fifty Communicants in the Parish and there are about Twenty that usually receive and at Easter some few more than that Number.
- XI. I always give Warning of the Sacrament the Sunday before it is administred. The Parishioners do not send in their Names as required. I have not refused the Sacrament to anyone in this Parish.

JOHN STOKES Rectr.

R. JOHN STOKES. Inst., 25th July, 1723. D. York, 2nd Nov., 1718; P. York, 4th June, 1721. Exeter Coll. Oxon. B.A., 1717; M.A., 1720. C.W. : John Billings.  
Joseph Marriott.

### 10. Bingham, Bingham.

- I. We have about six score Families; no Dissenters but one Family of Quakers, and an Inmate of the Church of Rome.
- II. We have no Meeting House of any Sort.
- III. We have a School endow'd with half the interest of one hundred pounds. The number taught in it, is generally near twenty. proper Care is taken of their Instruction; and to bring them to Church.
- IV. There is no Charitable Endowment. no Lands belong to the Church. A Close of about 30 Shillings p year has been left to the poor; and 115£ to the same Use; The Profits are regularly distributed according to the Directions of the several Donors.
- V. The Rector has been held for many years with an uncommon Phrensy. He resides in his Parsonage House
- VI. I am the residing Curate and qualified according to the Canons; my Allowance is fifty pounds p year.
- VII. I know of no such.