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History of the Parish and Manor of Ruardyn, alias Ruardean

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HISTORY OF THE PARISH AND MANOR OF RUARDYN, ALIAS RUARDEAN.

By SIR JOHN MACLEAN, F.S.A.

RUARDYN is bounded on the north by the parishes of Walford and Hope Mansel, on the east, south-east and south by the Forest of Dean, on the south-west by the Parish of English Bicknor, and on the west by Welsh Bicknor, now in the county of Hereford but formerly forming an outlying portion of Monmouthshire, from which it is divided by the River Wye. It is said to be nine miles in circuit and contains 1590 statute acres. It is wholly agricultural, except that in the valley of the Lyd there have been extensive iron wire and tin-plate works, but the latter have recently ceased to work, creating great distress in the families of the workmen. In 1815 the annual value of real property in the parish was £1753. The gross estimated rental is now £3360.

The following table shows the population and number of Houses—Inhabited, Uninhabited, and Building according to the Census Returns for the several decennia during the present century:—

		1801	1811	1821	1831	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881
Population		845	735	729	858	929	1033	1054	1090	1293
Houses.	Inhabited.				182	194	226	242	250	260
	Uninhabited.				7	28	10	5	10	
	Building.				3	1				

The derivation of the name of Ruardean would seem to have been somewhat mistaken. Atkyns says that it was anciently written *Riverdean*, because it is bounded on one side by the river Wye, to distinguish it from the other Deans, or Denes; but in

all our researches among ancient records we have never seen an example of this orthography. It was not a separate manor at the time of the Domesday Survey and was, like Abenhale and Dene Parva, gilded under the great manor of DENE. We have not found any very early mention of the name. The first instance is in 1239, when the name is written Ruwarden. In 1293 it appears as Rwardyn. In 1295 as Rewardyn, in 1303 as Ruardin, and in 1255, 1285, 1301, 1303, 1304, 1316, 1324 and 1407 as Ruardyn, and so down to modern times. These examples seem sufficient to show that anciently, with few exceptions, and these of simply a phonetic character, the name of the place was written and pronounced Ruar dyn. A place so prominent as this hill, which rises some 800 feet and more above the level of the sea and some 600 above the river Wye at its foot, would lead to the conclusion that it must have received its name long before the Saxon period, and hence we must, for the derivation of the name, look to the Celtic or Cynic languages. Not being ourselves skilled in these languages, we sought the assistance of a friend, a learned Celtic scholar, who states from O'Reilly's Irish Dictionary that $\mu\alpha\delta\ddot{o}r$, pronounced "ruar," the dotted "d" being silent, which signifies a *declivity*. O'Reilly also gives $\mu\alpha\rho\grave{r}\grave{g}\alpha\beta\alpha$ pronounced "ruara," of which the English explanation is elevated. O'Reilly further gives in Irish "dinn," a fortified hill,¹ and in Welsh "din," with the same meaning, we have numerous instances in which we find "din" or "dun" used in this sense, so that Ruar-dyn would be a *strong hill*, or elevated *strong-hold*, and from its elevated situation on the border land, it was in early times doubtless a defensive position, though we do not know of the existence now of the remains of any earthworks. The Manor of Ruardyn was not an original manor. The first notice of it which we have found is an extent taken on the feast of St. Mark the Evangelist in 40th Henry III., (1255) after the death of William de Albamara (Albemarle), described therein as of Ruardyn, of the lands of which he died seized. The jurors, who were freemen living in the district, were:—Reginald Paumer (Palmer) Jobpe Avel, William Le Bland, John Paumer, Ralph Wodeward (? Woodward), Walter

¹ He says it means a fortified house or hill, a fortress, fastness.

Wodeward, Walter Gorwy, William Miller, William Adam, Richard de Berne, William son of Nicholas, and William Ludebroke, who say upon their oaths that the said William de Albamara held two carucates of land in demesne in the Manor of Ruardin and the value per annum is 26s. 8d. and they say there is a mill of the value per annum 40s. and that there are certain rents of assise amounting per annum to £10 2s. 9d., and that the perquisites of the halimote¹ are of the value per annum of half a mark, and that the house, garden and cortilage are of the value per annum 2s. They say further that the said William held the said manor *in capite* of the King by serjeanty and the rent of 23s. per annum, and that he should appear at the summons of the Constable of St. Brevell's Castle with one horse and one lorica (habergeon) and go with him by the whole of the boundaries of the forest upon his own costs, and that he should appear at the pleas of the forest when summoned; and they say that the work due from the tenants is of the value per annum of 48s. 8d. They further say there are five heirs to the said manor, viz: Thomas Deversy, Isabel sister of the said William, Richard de Stanlege, who are of full age, Matilda sister of the said William, of full age, and William Hathewy of the age of 12 years and in the custody of Philip Wyther by the sale of the King.² We have been particular in giving the substance of this extent that our readers may see the character of the manor, the services by which it was held, and the value per annum; the latter being net. £15 3s. 1d. not a small sum at that date. Another inquisition was held for this manor on the 12th of February following, which, as far as the manor is concerned, does not materially differ in the finding of the jurors, but they state further that the said William died seized of the Manor of Stinchcombe, held of the Barony of

¹ Halimote Court was the Saxon name for that Court which we call a Court Baron. The derivation is from the meeting of the tenants of one Hall or Manor. The name was retained in Herefordshire until lately.

² The King in 1250, for a fine of 20 marks, granted to Philip Wyther the wardship of the lands and heirs of William Hathewy; with the marriage of the heir (ante Vol. III., p. 351) William here named was the son of Nigel, and was granted seizin of his father's land in the Forest of Dene by the King's mandate to the Constable of St. Briavel's Castle. Test. at Windsor, 27th April, 1248. Rot. Fin., 32nd Henry III.

Berkeley,¹ a carucate of land in La Trop (Thorp) held of the lord of Sudeley, and two virgates of land in the Manor of Hamme, held of the Bishop of Hereford.² We do not know for how long a period previous to this date the manor had been held by William de Albamara or his ancestors, probably for at least two or three descents. He died without issue, and his heirs, as we have seen, were his nieces, daughters of his brother Robert and their issue. The inquisition returned for Herefordshire is somewhat more specific. The jurors say that Annora, Isabella, Katerina, Matilda, and Agnes daughters of his brother Robert de Alba Mara are the nearest heirs of the said William, which Annora, Katherine and Agnes and their heirs are of legal age, except, nevertheless, that the said Agnes had heirs but they know not whether they are living or dead. We have seen however that William, son of William Hathewy,³ was the heir of Agnes as found by the Gloucestershire jury.

It is somewhat difficult to trace a Manor divided into five purparties at this early date. Annora the eldest co-heir, married Thomas Deverty—Deversy, or d'Everey, for the name is variously written, and, as stated above, had issue a son and heir named Thomas, who was of full age in 1256. This Thomas, described as Sir Thomas Deverey, Knt., died at Ruardyn. We do not, however, know the date of his death, but it must have been some time before 1292, for in that year William de la Marsh, Bishop of Bath and Wells, held the Manor of Ruardyn as the guardian of Thomas son and heir of Sir Thomas Deverty,⁴ knt., and in 1300, paid for the relief of the said Thomas of the fourth part of all the lands which had belonged to William de Alba Mara, 100s. It would appear from this that one of the coparceners, probably Matilda, who is not shewn to have married, had died s.p. The jurors

¹ Smyth mentions that this office in his time was at Berkeley Castle, stating that the lands held in Stinchcombe within the Manor of Berkeley were held by W. Albamara of the Barony of Berkeley (*Lives of the Berkeleys*, Vol. I., p. 31. ² Inq. p. m. 40th Henry III., No. 34.

³ This William in 1287 was Constable of St. Briavel's Castle to which pertained the Keepership of the Forest of Dean and all its perquisites, held in farm at the rent of £160 a year. (*See Ante Vol. III., p. 261.*)

⁴ Trinity, Receipts, 20th Edw. I.

say that on the day on which he died he was seized of one messuage with curtilage of the value per annum of 40d., also of 60 acres of land value per annum 10s. and the *third part* of a mill value per annum 20s. He had there free tenants who paid rents amounting to 105s. 6d. and he received customary rents amounting to 10s. and the pleas and perquisites of the Courts were worth 40s. per annum. He held the whole of the king *in capite* by divers services and the payment of a rent of 20s. per annum at the Castle of St. Briavel's and the jurors found that Thomas son of Thomas Devercy, Knt., was his nearest heir, and was aged 23 years and more.¹ This Thomas, 'as Thomas de Everty, was constable of St. Briavel's Castle in 1293, and probably continued to hold that office until 1301, when he was succeeded by Ralph de Abenhall.²

On Monday next after the feast of St. Michael, 1305, an inquisition was held at Ruardin touching half an acre of land which Hugh de Redmon held on the day on which he was hanged for felony, and the jurors found that the said Hugh held the said land with appurtenances, in Ruardin of William Hathewy, and that it was in the King's hands, who would hold it for a year and a day, and that the value of it per annum was 8d.³ After the expiration of this term it would revert to William Hathewy Lord of the Manor, as an escheat.

On 8th June, 1306, an inquisition was taken at Ruardyn to enquire by a jury if any damage or prejudice would arise to the King or others if the King granted to Alexander de Bykenore one messuage, 1 carucate of land, 3 acres of meadow, 6 marks rent, and two parts of one mill, with appurtenances, in Ruardyn and Ludebrook which are held of the King *in capite*, and which to him and his heirs were acquired of Robert Viry, and for which transgression the premises had been taken into the King's hands. The jurors say the aforesaid lands, &c., are held of the King *in capite* by the service of keeping a certain part of the Forest of Dean, called a bailiwick in Ruardyn, and rent per annum of 20s. paid at the Castle of St. Briavels, and they say that the capital

¹ Inq. p. m. 21, Edw. I., No. 10. ² *Vide* Ante Vol. III., p. 361.

³ Escheats, 33rd Edw. I. No. 89.

messuage is of the value per annum 12d, and that the aforesaid carucate of land is of the value per annum 15s, price per acre 3d, and that the aforesaid three acres of meadow are of the value per annum of 3s, and there are thirty free tenants who render per annum six marks of rent, and that the two parts of the mill are of the value per annum 13s. 4d.¹ It thus appears from these inquisitions that the two carucates of land in Ruardyn, of which William de Alba Mara died seized, were now held by Thomas Deverty and Alexander de Bykenore, each holding a carucate of 60 acres.

In 1316 the manor is stated to be vested in Alexander de Bykenore——Deverty and William Hathewy,² and in the same year Alexander de Bykenore, clerk, and William Hathewy are noted as holding the Manor of Ruardyn.³ An inquisition was taken at Newenham on Thursday next after the feast of St. Thomas 1316, after the death of William Hathewy. The jurors, of whom it should be mentioned that John de Bykenor was one, found that the said William held in his demesne as of fee at St. Breauvell on the day on which he died of the King *in capite*, by the service of serjeanty of finding in time of war at the Castle of St. Briavels one man for forty days with horse and arms at his own cost, and of being the Chief Forester of the whole Forest of Dene, one messuage with garden worth 12d. per annum, and 24 acres of arable land worth per annum 4s, price per acre 2d, and the jurors say there are there thirty free tenants who hold divers tenements and render per annum rent of assise 30s. They say also that he held in his demesne as of fee at Lidenaie of the Earl of Warwick, by the service of one rose, 2½ acres of meadow worth per annum 3s. 9d. They say further that he held in his demesne as of fee at Ruardyn one messuage and garden value per annum 12d. 30 acres of arable land of the value per annum 5s, price per acre 2d, the fourth part of one mill, value per annum 5s, and they say that there are free tenants who hold divers tenements and render per annum rent of assise 30s, and this is held not of the King *in*

¹ Inq. ad quod damnum, 34th Edw. I. No. 216.

² Nom. Villar. ³ Parl. Writs, Vol. II., Div. III., p. 364.

capite but of Alexander de Bykenor at the rent of 4s. 9d. per annum for all services. And the jurors say further that William Hathewy, son of the aforesaid William, is his nearest heir, and is aged 30 years and more.¹ We have not seen any record of the alienation by William Hathewy of his share of the manor, and as a fact, as we shall see presently, it was not so alienated, and the fee must have been temporarily vested in Alexander de Bykenore for some special purpose.

Before we proceed further we must say a few words with respect to the family of Bykenore. The earliest note we have of the name is 30th January, 1249-50, when Walter de Bicknor and John his son and others were in Guildford prison, being accused of the death of an abortive boy, and were admitted to bail.²

In 1266 Walter de Bykenovere (Bykenore) held an acre of land in Frocester of the Abbot of Gloucester at the will of the lord at a rent of 8d. for all services.³ He held also in the same manor a virgate of land, containing 48 acres by divers villan services.⁴ In an inquisition taken at Mucheldean, on Monday in the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, 12th Edw. III. (1338), to investigate a claim of the Abbot of Gloucester to a certain wood in Hopemaleysel (Hope Mansel) William Hathewy is named among the jurors as Forester in Fee of the Forest of Dene, and Henry Hathewy and William de Bekinore as foresters on foot of the same forest.⁵ This is a very interesting perambulation of the forest at that date. An assart of Alexander de Bikenore, junior, is mentioned in an instrument relating to the same matter in the following year.⁶

In 1307 the King granted to his beloved and faithful clerk, Alexander de Bykenore, the office of Treasurer of the Exchequer in Ireland,⁷ and three years later, at the request of his beloved clerk, Alexander de Bykenore, his Treasurer of Ireland, and for the good services which Roger de Wythiford did in Scotland, granted his pardon to the said Roger for the death of William,

¹ Inq. p.m. 10th Ed. II. No. 57. ² Rot. Claus, 34th Hen. III. m. 18.

³ Cart. Monast. S. Petri, Glouc., Vol. III., p. 90. ⁴ Ibid. p. 91-92.

⁵ Ibid. p. 235. ⁶ Ibid. p. 217. ⁷ Rot. Pat., 1st Edw. II., m. 14.

son of Peter Egemundone.¹ And at the same time he granted to the same Alexander by Royal licence his mansion at Ruardyn in co. Gloucester, built of stone and lime, to strengthen and crenelate, and the said mansion thus strengthened and crenelated to hold to him and his heirs for ever without any impediment from the King and his heirs.²

On the feast of SS. Peter and Paul, 4th Edw. II., Sir Edmund de Langeley, Knt., granted to Alexander de Bykenore, clerk, the marriage of Geoffrey his son and heir for Margery niece of the said Alexander, and agreed to give to the said Geoffrey and Margery and the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, his Manors of Atherstone, Chesterton, and Schorteley, and all lands and tenements which might fall to himself by hereditary right, reserving to himself for life the same manors, &c., also to levy a fine before the quinzaine of St. Martin (Nov. 11) following. In return for which grants Alexander de Bykenore agreed to settle heritably on the said Geoffrey and Margery his Manor of Ruardyn, which is held of the King *in capite* in the form aforesaid, and it was further agreed between the parties that if either of them should contravene the agreement so made he should be bound to pay £200 sterling immediately after the quinzaine aforesaid.³

It is probable that this marriage took effect, and that Geoffrey not long afterwards died without issue, for the Manor of Chesterton, juxta Cirencester, co. Gloucester, was vested in Alexander de Bykenor, who, by his charter (without date), for himself and his heirs, restored it to Edmund de Langeley, Knt., and Johanna his wife and the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, and by his power of attorney, dated on the feast of the Purification of the B.V.M., 3rd Edw. III., he appointed his nephew Walter Pyroun, his attorney, to deliver seizin.⁴

After an Inquisition, *ad quod damnum*, taken at Gloucester, on Wednesday in Easter week, 1325, a licence was granted to Mr. Richard de Clare to hold one messuage, one carucate of land, £6

¹ Rot. Pat. 4th Edward II., part II., m. 6.

² Tested at Berwick-upon-Tweed, 1st June, 4th Edward II., by writ of Privy Seal, Rot. Pat., part. II., m. 6.

³ Harl. MS. 7. ⁴ Langeley Cartulary, Harl. MS. 7, fo. 21 & 23, Brit. Mus.

rents, and two parts of one mill with appurtenances in Ruardyn, to him and his heirs by the services due and accustomed of Alexander de Bykenore, who held of the King *in capite*, which, by reason of transgression, were in the King's hands, but of which he had had peaceable seizin, and had granted the same to the said Alexander de Bykenore for the term of his life, and after his decease remainder to Richard de Karent and Margery his wife to hold to them and the heirs of their bodies, and in default of such issue remainder to the right heirs of the said Alexander.¹

We do not find any further record for a considerable period, but these lands continued in the tenure of the family of Karent or Carent, for on the 3rd Feb., 1375-6, an inquisition was taken at Magna Dene, after the death of Alexander de Karent, and the jurors found that the said Alexander held, on the day on which he died, of the King *in capite* in his demesne as of fee, one water mill in Ruardyn, worth per annum, beyond reprises 20s, rents of assise 26s. 8d, and the pleas and perquisites of the courts of the value of 40d. per annum, the whole being held of the King at the rent of 16s. ; and they say also that the said Alexander held on the day on which he died one carucate of land in Bykenore, held of Robert Ferrers *in capite* as of his Manor of Bykenore by the service of 20s. per annum ; and they say further that the said Alexander held at Ashton Karent one water mill and one toft with a certain meadow adjacent, and certain other tenements which have no concern with our enquiry. The jurors say further that the said Alexander died on the vigil of St. Michael last past (28th Sept., 1375) and that John Karent, son of the said Alexander, is his nearest heir, and is aged 12 years.²

John Carent, son and heir of Alexander Carent, deceased, died on Friday next after the feast of St. Michael, 1382, and it was found upon the inquisition taken thereupon at Ruardyn, on 20th May following, that he died seized of the same lands as are described in the inquisition last above abstracted, and that Edward Carent was the brother and nearest heir of the said John, and

Inq. ad. q.d., 18th Edw. II. No. 28.

Inq. p.m. 50th Ewd. III. 1st Nos. No. 34.

was aged 15 years and more, and that he was betrothed to Johanna daughter of Thomas Maynstone, in the life of the same John without the King's license.

There cannot be any doubt, we think, that Alexander Carent was the son of Richard and Margery before mentioned, and probably he received the name of Alexander from Alexander de Bykenore. What became of Edward Carent we know not, but it will be observed from the last two inquisitions that the Ruardyn estate had become considerably diminished in extent, and, possibly, was soon afterwards altogether alienated.

We left the Hathewy purparty of the Manor of Ruardyn in the possession of William Hathewy, in fee in 1317. From him it passed to Thomas Hathewy, who died 2nd January, 1376-7, and in the inquisition taken thereupon, at Magna Dene, on the 3rd February following, it was found that he held of the King *in capite* on the day on which he died in his demesne as of fee one messuage at Ruardyn of no value beyond reprises, one dovecote, of the value per annum 2s, four score acres of arable land of the value beyond reprises 6s. 8d. per annum, and 26s. 8d. rent, by the service of 4s, paid at the castle of Bravell, and the jurors say further that the said Thomas held in his demesne as of fee in Seyntbrevell, one messuage of no value beyond reprises, 40 acres of land, of the clear annual value of 40d, held of the King *in capite* by the service of 28s. per annum, and the Chief Forestership of the whole Forest of Dene, that Elizabeth first daughter of the said Thomas, aged 10 years, and Sibella second daughter, aged 8 years, Elena third daughter, aged 7 years, and Matilda, fourth daughter, aged 5 years, are the nearest heirs of the said Thomas.² Another inquisition was held at Ruardyn on the following day to enquire as to the heirs of the aforesaid Thomas Hathewy, and the jurors then found that on the day on which the said Thomas died he had three daughters then living, viz:—Isabella the eldest, aged 16 years and more, Sibella, aged 15 years and more, and Elena, aged 13 years and more, and the jurors add that the said Thomas had no other daughter on the day on which he died.³

¹ Inq. p.m. 6th Richard II. No. 21.

² Inq. p.m. 5th Richard II. No. 27. ³ Ibid.

Isabella, the eldest coheir, being of full age (16 years) in the same year married Thomas Wallewyn, and having done fealty for her purparty of her father's possessions, a mandate was sent to the escheator of Gloucestershire to give seizin thereof,¹ and a partition was made of the said lands into three equal parts, the purparties of Sibella and Elena being retained in the King's hands, they being still minors in ward to the King. The deed of partition is inrolled in Chancery. Sibella having attained her legal age in 1390, she did fealty for her purparty and was granted livery of seizin. Elena's portion was still retained in the King's hands, and of her we are unable to give any further information. Thomas Walwyn was Escheator for Gloucestershire in 10th Rich. II.²

Thomas Walwyn, according to Burke, "married Isabella, *said to be* a daughter of the ancient family of Baskerville," but there cannot, we think, be any reason to doubt that she was the lady above-mentioned, for Burke says that among his possessions Thomas Walwyn held the Manor of Ruwarden, in Gloucestershire. He made his will on Tuesday in the feast of St. Gregory, 1414, and added a codicil dated 19th May, 1415, which was proved by Isabella his relict, and Richard Walwyn his son, on the following day. In it he names Isabella his wife, his sons, Richard and Clemens his wife, Maclum (Malcolm) and William; his daughters Johanna wife of Hugh Folyot, and Christian, and his brother William. He desires to be buried in the Church of Michel Marcle, and devises the third part of moneys arising out of Dene and Chalford, which he directed should be sold, to the making of the steeple of that church. He directs his trustees to enfeof, *inter alia*, Richard his son and Clemens his wife, in Kyngsheane, Hyde, and Byllyngeslond in Ruwaren (Ruwarden?) to hold to them and the heirs of their bodies.³ Richard settled at Longford where the family remained until the present century.

Of William it is said he was Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1410, and by Jane daughter of Sir Robert Whytteney, Knt., left two sons, William who died unmarried, and John, who, by Agnes daughter of Simon Milborne, had *nine* sons and three daughters.

¹ Rot. Fin. 5th Rich. II. ² Inq. 10th Rich. II. No. 22.

³ Prob. 32 Marche, P.C.C.

Of the nine sons, John the eldest, Thomas the second, Fulco the fifth, George the eighth, and Edward the ninth, only are named, so that the third, fourth, sixth and seventh sons are not mentioned, and of the omitted ones we conjecture was William of Bickerton, co. Hereford, who received as parcel of his portion the lands of Bickerton and of Ruardyn, co. Gloucester.

William Walleweyn, described as of Bykerton, co. Hereford, in a charter dated 21st January, 21st Henry VI. (1432-3), in which he was appointed one of the feofees of certain lands in Bicknor English, and afterwards by his charter, dated 20th March, 32nd Hen. VI. (1453-4) in which he is described as of Ruardyn, Esquire, granted the same to a certain John Asshehurst. And by another charter, dated 6th September, 8th Edw. IV. (1468), William Walleweyn, described as of Ruardyn, Esquire, and others therein named, granted to Thomas filley and Alice his wife certain lands, also in English Bicknore, which they had received of the gift of the said Thomas in Bekenor.¹

The last named person was undoubtedly the same William Walwyn, after whose death an inquisition was taken at Gloucester, on Saturday next after the feast of All Saints, 1471. The jurors say the said William Walwyn was seized in his demesne as of fee of one messuage, 60 acres of arable land and 5 acres of meadow, with appurtenances, in Ruardyn, called Hathewy's, and the value per annum in all issues beyond reprises is 11s, and held of Richard Whyttington as of his Manor of Rewardyn aforesaid by the service of one peny for all services. They say also that he held one messuage, 20 acres of land and 2 acres of meadow in Bykenore, held of Walter Lord de Ferrers, as of his Manor of Bykenore by fealty, and being thereof so seized he enfeoffed William Whyttington, Thomas Whyttington, Thomas Monyngton, and John Morny in the same to hold to them and their heirs, by virtue of which enfeoffment the said William, Thomas, and John were thereof seized in demesne as of fee. And the jurors say the said William died on Tuesday next after the feast of St. Michael 11th Edw. IV., and that Alice wife of Thomas Beynam, Esq

¹ Trans. B. & G. Soc., Vol. I., p. 88 et seq.

is daughter and heir of the said William, and is aged 27 years and more.¹

Alice Walwyn was the second wife of Thomas Baynham Lord of the Manors of Dene Magna and Abenhale, by whom she had a son and heir Sir Christopher Baynham, who, through her, inherited the Manors of Ruardean and Clowerwall, and became the founder of the family of Baynham of the latter place. Her great grandson Thomas Baynham, of Clowerwall, died in 1611, leaving two daughters his coheirs, Cecilia who married Sir William Throckmorton, of Tortworth, and Johanna who became the wife of John Vaughan, of Kinnersey, co. Hereford, and in the partition of the estate, Clearwell and other lands were apportioned to the elder coheir, and Ruardean and other lands to Johanna the younger. John Vaughan her grandson, died in 1694, without issue, and by his deed, dated before his death in the same year, he conveyed the Manor of Ruardean, *inter alia*, to certain trustees for the payment of his own debts and those of his brother Thomas Vaughan who a little predeceased him.²

Of the Parish of Ruardean it may be observed that it has no ecclesiastical history. From a very early date it has been simply a chapelry of Walford, in the Deanery of Ross and Archdeaconry of Irchinfield, in the county and diocese of Hereford. On 20th April, 1340, in the Inquisitiones Nonarum it is described as the Chapel of Ruardyn, and it was not separately taxed to the ninth sheaf, the ninth fleece and the ninth lamb, which were included at the value of 60s. in the taxation of Walford.³ In Wolsey's Valuation the Chapelry is returned at the annual value of £5 4s. 4d. viz :—

Tithes of Milk, &c.	-	-	-	2	10	0
Oblations	-	-	-	26	8	
Tithes of lambs and wool	-	-	-	10	0	
Other small tithes	-	-	-	18	8	
				<hr/>		
				5	5	4
Less Sinodals to the Archdeacon	-	-	-	1	0	
				<hr/>		
Clear	.	-	-	£5	4	4

¹ Inq. p.m., 11th Edw. IV. No. 26.

² For further particulars of the descent of the manor from its acquisition by the Baynham family in 1471 to the death of John Vaughan in 1694, see ante, Transactions of the B. & G. Archæol. Soc., Vol. VI., pp. 123-209.

³ Nonarum Inquisitiones, p. 147.³

A memorandum is attached stating that the chapel of Ruardean is held between Dr. Parker, Precentor of the Cathedral Church of Hereford, and the Vicar of Walford.¹

The Vicar of Walford, until of late years, always provided for the ministrations.

Before the conquest Walford was appropriated to the canons of the Church of Hereford,² and was eventually assigned to the Precentor of the Cathedral, who from that time held the great tithes and the patronage of the vicarage.

In a Diocese Book, earlier than 1758, in the Bishops' Registry at Gloucester, Ruardean is stated to be a chapel dedicated to St. John Baptist, nominated to by the vicar of Walford, of which the Precentor of Hereford is patron. Following Atkyns, it is stated that "The old name is said to have been River deen, because bounded by the River Wyc. Its value £15, the small tithes belonging to the curate. Mr. Philips has lease of the tithes from the Precentor of Hereford. Nine parcels of land had been given for the repair of the church of the value of about £6 per annum, and £60 was left by Mr. Greenway, the interest to be applied to the teaching of poor children. Service once a Sunday in the afternoon, but on the first Sunday in the month in the morning. Incumbent Walwyn Morgan, M.A.". Edward Kidley, B.A., Rector of Welsh Bicknor, was licenced to Ruardean at the whole income, population 300.

In 1830 Ruardean is described in the records in the Registry of the Bishops of Gloucester as a chapel of ease to Walford, of which Mr. Fosbrook was incumbent, and the Rev. William Walhal Cazalet was curate at Ruardean, at the stipend of £50 a year and the small fees, to reside in the parish, and the Rev. Thomas Huntingford, Precentor of Hereford, is stated to be patron.

Jan. 25, 1844. Henry Formby, Clerk, M.A., was licensed "to perform the office of curate in the parish church of Ruardean," on the nomination of Thomas Huntingford, Clerk, Precentor of Hereford.

This is the first instance, we believe, that the church was recognised as a Parish Church. Mr. Formby resigned 16th Dec.,

¹ Valor Ecclesiasticas, Vol. III., p. 25. ² See ante pp. 116-117.

1845, and the church was sequestrated to the churchwardens, and on

Mar. 2, 1846, Theophilus Morgan, Clerk, was licensed to the perpetual curacy upon the nomination of Thomas Huntingford, Clerk, as before. Mr. Morgan resigned on the 30th of the same month, and on

Nov. 23 following, Edward Mansfield, Clerk, was licensed in the same manner, on the nomination of the Bishop of Gloucester by lapse, Mr. Mansfield resigned 23rd Sept., 1850, and on

Mar. 9, 1851, William Penfold, Clerk, was licensed to the perpetual curacy on the nomination of Thomas Huntingford, Precentor of Hereford. During Mr. Penfold's incumbency by an Act of Parliament, perpetual curates were authorized to designate themselves *Vicars*, and upon Mr. Penfold's death the present incumbent

J. R. Beesley, clerk, was collated by the Bishop of Gloucester as *Vicar*, being the first *institution* that has ever taken place to this church, but inasmuch as the great tithes were, in 1875, assigned to the benefice, it has become, *ipso facto*, a Rectory.

The tithes were commuted on 7th January, 1847, when, upon the survey of the parish, it was found to contain the gross area of 1590a. 3r. 35p. viz.—

Arable	-	-	-	-	643
Meadow and pasture	-	-	-	-	796
Homesteads and gardens	-	-	-	-	60
Woodlands	-	-	-	-	42
Roads	-	-	-	-	34
Part of bed of the River Wye	-	-	-	-	12

It is stated that the tithes of corn and grain are attached to the Precentorship of Hereford Cathedral, and that all the other tithes belong to the vicar of the Parish. To the former a rent charge of £135 a year was allotted, and to the latter £100—total £235. About the year 1871 a small house was purchased from subscriptions raised through the influence of the Rev. John Burden, Rector of English Bicknor, and conveyed to the Ecclesiastical

Commissioners, which has since been appropriated in augmentation of the benefice. This building has recently been partially re-built and enlarged.

By the Act of 3 & 4 Vic. c. 113, sec 41, called the Cathedral Act, the patronage of all benefices with cure of souls which were held by Prebendaries in right of their Prebends were transferred to and vested in the Bishops of the dioceses in which the benefices were situate, by virtue of which enactment the patronage of the benefice of Ruardean became vested in the Bishop of Gloucester, and by sec. 49 of the same Act the profits arising from such benefices became vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. This being the case, the Rectorial Rent Charge of Ruardean amounting to £135 a year, as above stated, was annexed to the Benefice by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners as from Lady-day, 1875, the instrument of annexation having been published in the London Gazette on 7th May following, from which date the incumbent became, *ipso facto*, Rector of the parish.

THE CHURCH.

Ruardean church consists of chancel, nave, western tower, a south aisle divided from the nave by an arcade of five bays, large south porch, and a western tower with an elegant spire (*See plan Pl. IX*). Over the door of the porch is a figure, apparently a representation of the Virgin Mary, and in the tympanum over the south door is a remarkable sculpture, which appears to be of the date of about the middle of the 12th century. It is almost identical, as regards the treatment of the subject, with a sculpture in the tympanum over the door of Brinsop Church, in Herefordshire. The latter church is dedicated to St. George, but Ruardean Church is said to be dedicated to St. John the Baptist. However, probably in ancient times, this church was also dedicated to St. George. The figure over this door is evidently a representation of St. George, though some persons have supposed it to be that of St. Michael; for upon a careful inspection it will be seen that the flowing sculpture from the shoulder of the figure is not a wing but a mantle. The head piece is of the form called Phrygian, and is exactly like that which

appears in the monumental effigy of Geoffrey Plantagenet, Earl of Anjou, father of Henry II., and like those on the great seals of King Stephen and Henry II. The tunic and mantle also resemble those in the effigy of Geoffrey, who died in 1150. The tunic fits closely about the body, and is apparently belted at the waist, whilst the skirt is open at the side; and over this is the flowing mantle, which is fastened in front by a brooch. The prick-spur has a recurved point without any neck. There is a *portraile* around the breast of the horse, and a high cantle to the saddle. It is of Norman work.

The arcade which divides the south aisle from the nave is of the Early English period. The columns would appear to be of 50 years later than the south door, which would therefore indicate that the latter belonged to an earlier structure; but as the south wall has been entirely re-built, it affords no assistance in fixing the date of the aisle. Probably the original foundations remain. The chancel, so far as any of the original work remains, appears to be of the Decorated period—say between 1300 and 1370. The east window is a modern insertion, of Perpendicular character. The elegant window in the south wall is an original one of the Decorated period, and of the date of the first quarter of the 14th century, but some of the mullions have been renewed. A third of the lower part has been walled up. The north window is of Perpendicular date. In the south wall is a very pretty piscina. There are no apparent traces of a chancel arch, but probably such might be found on excavation. The doorway to the rood loft staircase remains, but the staircase itself has been walled up, though traces of it still exist. The roof is of Decorated date, and is a good example of the period. There is a recess for a founder's tomb in the north wall of the nave, which is the most interesting object in the church, though it contains no memorial. It is of Decorated date. We found it blocked up. The north wall has been much pulled about, and some of it re-built. The north door is walled up, and so are the ancient windows, and new ones have been inserted. The font bears the date of 1657, and is remarkable, not for its beauty, but as being one of the very few fonts erected during the period of the Interregnum. Possibly it was erected through the



influence of John Vaughan, then lord of the manor and a resident in the village, who, though a Roman Catholic, seems to have attended the church, for his pew yet remains at the foot of the pulpit stairs, bearing his name and the date 1694, in December of which year he died in the 56th year of his age, without issue. He was grandson of Johanna, daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Baynham of Clowerwall, and wife of John Vaughan. They were strict Romanists, and suffered greatly on account of their religion. Joan Vaughan, in 1641, being then a widow, was arrested and committed to Gloucester gaol for affording shelter to a priest, then a capital offence. There is a tradition in the family that she was hanged, but probably, in consequence of the political disturbances of the period, she escaped that fate. The tower is of the Perpendicular period, and has a very lofty and fine arch with continuous mouldings, which should connect it with the church, but which is now obstructed, not only by a singing gallery, but also by a false floor set in the tower for the purpose of making a vestry, concealing also the vaulting of the roof. The singing gallery was erected by subscription of the inhabitants towards the end of the last century, upon the plea that there was not sufficient room in the chancel for the "company of singers." The chancel, however, if properly arranged, would accommodate a large choir, and it is to be hoped that whenever the church is restored the whole of the erections just mentioned will be cleared away, the tower thrown open to the church, and the "company of singers" remitted to their proper places in the chancel. There are six bells in the tower, all of modern make. The oldest bell was cast in 1725, and the others in 1866, when the Rev. John Burden, late rector of English Bicknor, before mentioned, spent large sums upon the repair of the church.

The Bells bear the following legends :—

	Diam.	Ins.
I.—RECAST BY MEARS AND STAINBANK, LONDON, 1866	-	20½
II.—PROSPERITY TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND 1725	-	31
III.—The same as No. I. - - - - -	-	33
IV.—Blank - - - - -	-	35½
V.—FEARE * GOD * THAT * IS * THE * BEGINNIGE : OF : WISDOME CY * HM * IB * 1	-	30
VI.—The same as No. I and III. - - - - -	-	44

¹ The stops where these * marks occur would appear to be fleurs-de-lis reversed.

COMMUNION PLATE.

The only article of silver is the Cup, which is modern and of a bell-shaped form 7¼ ins. high. It is inscribed IOHN BENNETT, IOS^{II}. EVANS, Churchwardens, 1746 and the hall mark is a Roman small  within a lobed or shaped shield being the hall mark for the same year. The maker's mark  is in an oblong die, a mark not given in Mr. Cripps's valuable work on Old English Plate. All the other articles are of pewter.

PARISH REGISTERS.

The old Registers of the Parish, that is of a date prior to George Rose's Act of (52nd. Geo. III., c. 148) 1812, consist of :— Vol. I. This volume, now bound in sheep-skin, and somewhat decayed, consists of two books and several leaves of vellum of irregular sizes bound together. The first Register Book, which contains 52 leaves, 11 ins. by 7½ ins., begins as early as 1539, the year after Cromwell's injunctions, which were dated 25th Sept., 1538. Some few Registers exist of an earlier date, and it is not improbable that this was begun earlier, for there is writing on the first existing page, though it had become almost entirely obliterated by wear and exposure before the documents in this volume were collected and bound. The outer margins of the first three or four leaves are, from the same causes, so damaged as to be in some places illegible. The entries down to 1600 are all in the same hand-writing, shewing this register to have been a transcript made from an earlier book or memoranda, in conformity with an Ordinance of the Convocation of Canterbury in 1597, approved under the great seal, and afterwards embodied in the 70th canon of 1603. From 1600 to 1627 the entries are made with tolerable regularity, but between the latter date and 1631, there were few made. From 1631 to 1641, when the book ends, it seems to have been pretty well kept. The second part consists of 27 leaves of vellum of various sizes, and contains entries of baptisms, marriages, and burials, promiscuously recorded, from 1642 to 1695. The entries are comparatively few and irregularly made between 1645 and 1661, from which date the registers are more carefully kept. After 1681 the marriages, christenings, and burials are separately entered under each year. The third part commences

with April, 1696, and consists of 29 leaves of vellum, 11 ins. by $5\frac{1}{2}$ ins., and contains entries to 9th October, 1726.

Vol. II. Contains entries of baptisms, marriages and burials, from April 19th, 1727, to Dec. 25th, 1759. Some of the leaves of vellum are discoloured and a few cut. The writing is fairly legible. Two slips of vellum with entries of marriages have been pinned in for preservation.

Vol. III. This is also a vellum book, $13\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by $8\frac{1}{2}$ ins. The leaves are loose and in some cases discoloured. The entries are made very irregularly. The writing is good and distinct throughout. It contains a record of baptisms and burials only.

Vol. IV. This volume contains entries of marriages from 1754 to 1772.

Vol. V. Contains entries of baptisms and burials from 1785 to 1812, and are carefully made until 1810, but subsequently they are made in a very slovenly manner. In 1812 the register is attested by the officiating clergyman "THOMAS DUDLEY FOSBROOKE, Minister." The parish clerk seems to have thought his signature also necessary and writes, "Joseph Harper Parish Cleark 1769 and now Tis 1813. 46 years."

Vol. VI. Contains entries of marriages from 1777 to Sept. 3rd, 1812.

OLD ACCOUNTS, &c.

There are in the parish chest many deeds relating to the charities, and a series of churchwardens' accounts extending over six years, from 1677 to 1683 inclusive. The vellum has suffered very much from damp and neglect, so that the greater portion of the writing is illegible, but we have been enabled to gather a few notes of interest :—

1677

Rec ^d for Bread and Wine on Lowe Sunday	-	-	-	2	6
Rec ^d for Bread and Wine on Whitsunday	-	-	-	4	8
Rec ^d off Richard Jolfe for one halfe years rent	-	-	-	12	0
Rec ^d off Georg Eddy for one yeares rent	-	-	-	12	6
Rec ^d off Widow Marten for one yeares rent	-	-	-	2	6
Rec ^d off William Cooper for one yeares rent	-	-	-	4	0
Rec ^d off Mr. - - - - - rent	-	-	-	3	2
Rec ^d off Henry Dublock for one yeares rent	-	-	-	1	0

Rec ^d off Robert Munjoy for one years rent	-	-	-	16	0
Rec ^d off Henry Rudge for one years rent	-	-	-	1	0
Rec ^d for Bread and Wine on Palm sunday	-	-	-	3	0
Rec ^d for Bread and Wine on Easter Day	-	-	-	illegible	
Rec ^d by Assessment	-	-	-	4	16
				<hr/>	
				The som. rec.	£8 18 0

Mem^d.

Some items have been omitted and some portion is illegible. It shows that there were only four celebrations of the Holy Communion in the year : viz., on Low Sunday, on Whit Sunday, on Palm Sunday, and on Easter day, and that these four took place in a period of two months, so that during ten months there was not a celebration. It would appear also that special offerings were made for the provision of the elements on these occasions. These receipts may have been the amount of the respective offertories.

Among the disbursements for this year we can decipher the following items, but not all with certainty.

ffor one quarter of rye	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	0
ffor mending the clapper of the Great Bell	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	0
ffor signing the poors Bookes	-	-	-	-	-	illegible		
ffor Parchment	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	
at two Visitations	-	-	-	-	-	19	2	
ffor Bread and Wine for Lowe sunday	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	
ffor bread and wine for Whitsunday	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	
ffor the hanging of Baker off Little Dean	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	
ffor going to Gloster on parish (business?)	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	
ffor mending the lead	-	-	-	-	-	12	0	
ffor tyling to William Brown	-	-	-	-	-	14	0	
ffor making a new whele for the lyttle Bell	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	
ffor awarren to remove Richard Goodman out of the parish	-	-	-	-	-			?

The rye, it is supposed, was provided for making bread for the poor. The charge of 1s. 6d. for hanging Baker is very remarkable, and is not understood. Possibly the next charge in the account for a journey to Gloucester may be connected with it. It will be observed that the amounts expended for bread and wine do not agree with the moneys received for that purpose. The accounts for the years 1678 and 1679 are so damaged that the writing cannot be read, but in 1680 it becomes more legible as regards expenditure. We find among the items the following :—

To Anthony Mutlow for keeping the bells	-	-	-	3	4
ffor Bread and Wine for Easter	-	-	-	4	2
Anthony Mutlow for mending the clock	-	-	-	4	0
Bell rope	-	-	-	3	6
Joan Dobbs for moss	-	-	-		6
ffor Bread and Wine at Whitsuntide	-	-	-	5	0
Washing surplice	-	-	-	1	0
For making a terrier and presentment	-	-	-	2	6
Visitation at Newent	-	-	-	9	0
Bread and wine at Christmas	-	-	-	1	9
For ringing the peale at Christmas	-	-	-	5	0
For a Communion Prayer Book	-	-	-	4	8
To Anthony Mutlow for keeping the clock	-	-	-	6	8
For a Cummunion Table Cloth	-	-	-		illegible
To Mr. Moore for making a new seat by the pulpit	-	-	-	5	1 0
To mending the seat in the lower range	-	-	-	3	0

There are charges in this account for 12 Foxs' heads @ 1s. each and there are similiar charges in every year. It would appear from the accounts for this year that an effort was made to improve the appearance of the interior of the church, which we conclude had fallen into a bad condition, but it will be observed that the Celebrations of Holy Communion had been reduced to three: Easter, Whitsuntide, and Christmas; but in the following year an improvement was made in this particular. Among the receipts we find contributions for the provision of bread and wine for Low Easter, Whitsuntide, Christmas, and Easter. Among the Disbursements Charges are found for Trinity Sunday also. The Terrier charged for is printed in the Appendix. The following entries may be noted:—

Rec ^d from Elizabeth Mutlow for making her mother's burial place	-	-	-	3	4
Rec ^d ffor ringing the peal at Christmas	-	-	-	5	0

And among the payments we note

To Mrs. Jones for writing presentment	-	-	-	2	0
To Mrs. Jones for puting down the buryings and such things	-	-	-	2	6

In the Expenditure for 1682 we observe the following items:—

For to make the companye drinke going on prosessioning and for a peall to ring them home	-	-	-	2	0
For a booke of Artickills and Wols his fees	-	-	-		illegible
For a frame for the clock	-	-	-	4	0
To John Jones for a balring for the bell	-	-	-	1	0
To Mary harris for ale while the clock was setting up	-	-	-	8	2
For ringing the peal at Christmas	-	-	-	5	0

To Anthony Mutlow for nails and his assistance in putting up the clock	1 0
To Henry Waldin for a lock for the clock house dore and nails	2 6
To Alice biddle at the casting of the bells and fetching on them home	4 0
To Philip Hatton for ale for to make the company drink when we bargend with the founders and workmen that assisted them	8 0
To Mary harris for ale at the plucking up the bells and bringing them home	2 6
For five new Ropes	13 0
For ringing the peal at Christmas	5 0
To Steephen Reece his son bit with a mad dog	7 6
to take off David Morgan's orders	15 4
to Daniell Collins and Cowmeadow for work and three new ropes	1 2 4
For to set forth Edward Landen's sonn	10 0
To John Bennet for carring and fetching home the bells	12 0
to the founders	11 0 0
For the Clock	6 1 0

On the other side of the account £20 are credited as raised by assessment for the Clock and the Great Bell.

It would seem that the clock was a new one, but there was a clock here previously for we observed in the earlier accounts charges for repairs and keeping it. It is not very evident how many bells were re-cast in this year. None of the bells now remain. The oldest bell now in the tower was cast in 1725. One has no epigraph, and three, including the great bell, were re-cast in 1866. The charges for taking off David Morgan's orders is not understood.

APPENDIX.

Ruardeane

Oct. 2 1680.

Dioces : In Answerc to the Instructions for the making of Terriers &c.
Glouc :

There is no Parsonage, or Vicarage house nor Gleab lands belonging to our parish or Min^r.

The Tyths commonly called Privy Tyths, as Offerings, Wooll, lambs, Milk, Calves and the like do belong to our Min^r. or Vicar.

All the other kinds of Tyths comonly called Cock or Sheaf are paid to the Church of Hereford ; our Church being a Chappell vnder the Church of Wallford in the Diocess of Hereford.

Ja. Jones

Cler. & Curat *ib*.

Georg Edy

John B. Bennett

} Churchwardens.



Ext in Registrū Glouc
14 Oct 1680

Johēs Marston,
Reg. Depu^r.

Ruardeane

Sept : 25 : 1683 Gifts for Pious uses in the pish of Ruardeane

1st.	One Tenem ^t & garden adioyning to y ^e Church yard at the vsuall rent p annum	0 : 2 : 0
	One other Tenem ^t . & garden now held by lease by Mr. Hen : Wensley, p annum	0 : 4 : 0
	One other Tenem ^t & garden at y ^e Towns-end at y ^e vsuall rent p annum	1 : 0 : 0
	One pcell of Land called y ^e pish pleck at the vsuall rent p annum	0 : 12 : 6
	Another pcell called y ^e pish pleck rent p annum	1 : 15 : 0
	Another pcell called y ^e pish pleck rent p annum	0 : 1 : 0
	Another pleck called the Ewes ¹ at the vsuall rent p annum	0 : 15 : 0
	Annual rent paid out of y ^e Church-meadowe	0 : 1 : 0
	Annual rent paid for a back-side	0 : 1 : 4
	tot.	4 : 12 : 4

2^y The Lands, Tenem^{ts}: & rents aboue-specified were designed for repation of y^e Church & reliefe of the Poor as need requireth.

3^y The evidences for the said Lands, Tenem^{ts}, & rents are now in the custody of John Bennett sen^r. of y^e pish aforesaid

Yet : We haue no other charitable gifts as yet bequeathed to our pish
This account is approved & attested vnder y^e & Seal of



Ja : Jones Clerk and Curat is^m.

Richard Jelfe	} Church wardens	Henry Wensley,	} Sidesmen
Henry (H) Dubberley		John Bennett	

All good signatures except that of Henry Dubberley who writes H as his mark.

Ruardeane
Decembr^r y^e

21st 1704 A new and exact Terrier made December the one and twentieth One thousand seven hundred and four, at a Parish-Meeting held for that purpose at the Parish Church of Ruardeane in the County of Gloucest^r in psuance of the instructions sent in the said year from the Chancell^r of the Diocese of Glouce. to pserve the Rights of the Minister from pttended and unjust compositions &c.

1st. There is no House, Outhouse, Garden or Orchard belonging to the Minister of our Parish.

2^y There is no Glebe belonging to y^e Minister of our Parish.

3^y There are no Lands, or Estates that pttend to be Tith-free, nor are there any Compositions in Leeu of full Tithes in our Parish

1 This close of land was by deed Poll dated 10th June, 1674, granted by John Williams, of Ruardean, yeoman to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the use of the poor and impotent folk.



SCULPTURE OVER THE SOUTH DOOR OF THE CHURCH OF
RUARDEAN.—*See pp. 148-49.*

- 4^{ly} No Mortuary is paid to the minister in our pish. The custom therein for Offerings is two pence at Easter for every person able to pay.
- There is nothing paid y^e Ministr^r in our pish for after meath, Agistment, or Herbage, tho' a vast number of Horses are kept in it on purpose for the carriage of Cinders & Char-Cole to the Iron Works that lye in the neighbourhood: & fforest-Cole into most parts of the country round about. The Custom in our pish is one peny per annum for the milk of each cow; an half peny for every calf bred, y^e tenth peny if sold, & y^e left should^r if killed & an half peny fore very Lamb that any Parishion^r hath under seven. There is no right of comon belonging to the Ministr^r in our pish, except it be in y^e Forrest of Deane.
- 5^{ly} All y^e great Tyths of Corn & Hay belong to y^e Inpropriat^r in our pish & all y^e Small Tythes belong to y^e Vicar, nor is any Portion of Tithes due to or from our Church
- 6^{ly} There hath no augmentation been added to our Church since y^e 12th year of the Reign of King Charles the Second.

—

A particular account of all Charitable Gifts in our Parish to Church or Poor

- 1st There are no Goods, Stocks of Money, or Pensions, that have been given to any pious use within our Parish.
- 2^{ly} There have been given by Persons whose names are unknown unto us, for y^e Reparacōn of the Church at several times, in Rent-Charges of very ancient standing, upon both Lands & Houses lying in our Pish y^e yearly sum of four pounds one shilling four penec.
- 3^{ly} No Charitable Gifts bestowed on our Parish have been lost, detained, or mis-employed, as we know of.
- 4^{ly} There is no free-School, or Hospital within our Parish erected or endowed, only Thomas Wade of the City of Glouc^r Gent hath lately allowed a School-Mistris five pound per añum to teach 12 poor children to learn to read English, to say without book y^e Assemblies lesser Catechism instead of the Catechism appointed to be used in the Book of Comon Pray^r; which practis of Chateshising in a publick School being contrary to the Canons of our Church we desire that Mr. Wade may be admonished by the order of the Chancel^r to have it altered.
- 5^{ly} There hath no other Charity been given to our Parish since 1683 but Godfrey Taylor, a Londoner who gave in the year 1697 thirty pounds towards the Relief of the Poor of our Parish w^{ch} is secured by y^e Purchase of an House, Garden & orchard called y^e Mean lying in our Parish.

Witness our hands the day & year aboue named.

Richard Greenway Vic: ibid:

George Edly }
Stephen Teme } Church-wardens