

Holy Trinity rectors

Holy Trinity may have been founded in the mid-10th century when Guildford was made into a royal borough. This made it a centre for trading, justice and defence, with a mint. St. Mary's already existed, and having two parish churches gave the town more importance. It is not clear when St. Nicholas was founded, but it was certainly during the Middle Ages, making Guildford the only town in Surrey with more than one parish church.

After Augustine's conversion of the Anglo-Saxons from 597, Guildford was served by priests from the community at the minster church at Woking (now Old Woking), probably near St. Peter's church.

There are no records of the early priests of Holy Trinity, until around 1200, and there are gaps until about the 1440s. There is no single list of rectors: they have to be found in sometimes random references in the bishop of Winchester's papers. There would not have been a single priest. There would have been the rector, and at least a deacon, sub-deacon and some acolytes. Later there were two chantry priests, and curates.

Around 1120, Holy Trinity and St. Mary's were given to the newly-founded Merton Priory, as a source of income. This was still a fairly new idea, and unlike later in the Middle Ages, the great tithes – the major income - were not given to the Priory, and the priest kept the title of 'rector' instead of being a vicar. The Priory nominated the rectors, who had to pay a pension, which led to some trouble in the 14th century.

c.1180-after 1210 Robert de Shalford.

The first priest we know about was Robert de Scaldeford, or Shalford, clearly a local man. He is mentioned as parson of Holy Trinity and dean of Surrey in a letter dated somewhere between 1178 and 1188, and again in a letter of 1189 to 1192. He seems to have been in post in c.1210, but we don't know when he left or died. Around 1210 it was noted that Robert dean of Guildford had witnessed the settlement of a land dispute between the abbot of Chertsey and the rector of Cobham. This is probably the same man as the rector of Holy Trinity.

by 1238 to ? John

John was noted in the bishop of Winchester's register as witnessing the institution of the vicar of Sparsholt, Hants., at Farnham in June 1238. That is all we know about him.

? 1299 ? William

William, rector of Holy Trinity, was mentioned in 1299 in connection with a meeting held in the church to enquire into the conduct and character of a priest called Richard de Guildford. About twenty men were involved, including two chaplains of Holy Trinity, Peter and Alan.

1304-1330 Robert Curteys

Robert was admitted as rector on September 6th 1304. He was an acolyte at that stage, one of the lower orders of priesthood, and was presented to the church by Merton Priory. In 1305 he

was ordained deacon and in 1306 was given leave to study for two years – perhaps to prepare himself for full ordination.

He was still there in 1326, but was dead by May 1330. In 1326 he and the rector of Clandon had to check whether any priests were imprisoned in Guildford castle, and later that year he had to have the churchyard reconciled after blood had been spilt there. After his death his sister Cecily and a man claimed that the goods he had left them had not been passed on. The executors claimed that the goods were insufficient, and the bishop ordered that all who were at fault were to be admonished publicly in the churches of the deanery. We don't know the end of the story.

In 1329 there was an enquiry into whether Merton Priory was claiming excessive pensions, but the bishop did nothing about the report. In 1331 the two rectors were still refusing to pay the pension and Thomas le Constable of St. Mary's was hounded by the bishop to pay.

At about this time the archdeacon had asked all vicars and rectors in Surrey to show him the title to their living: the rectors of Holy Trinity and St. Mary's did not do so. Was this part of their rebellion?

In about 1309 the dedication feast of Holy Trinity was moved from just before Christmas to September 24th.

1330- ? Richard de Wylde

Richard was presented by Merton Priory, at a ceremony at Esher, where the bishop had a residence. In 1331 the prior complained that the Guildford churches were not paying their pension to the priory. Thomas, rector of St. Mary's, seems to have caused more trouble over this than Richard did.

before 1350 William de Bradelegh,

William was rector before 1350, when he exchanged the living with that of West Farleigh in Kent.

1350-58 Thomas Mere

Thomas Mere presumably came from West Farleigh, but moved on to East Horsley.

1358-61 William Tysour

1361 Lawrence de Alwarthorpe

Lawrence was admitted in July 1361 and in October exchanged churches with Richard de Ely, of Sandal Parva, near Doncaster. Lawrence's surname suggests that he came from Yorkshire.

1361 Walter Zelot

Three weeks after Lawrence's exchange, Walter Zelot was admitted to Holy Trinity. In 1328 he was ordained to the first tonsure (a minor order). In 1348 he was ordained deacon, to serve in Sandown Priory, and soon after he became a priest at Sandown. This may be a different man, though the name is unusual.

- 1377** **Nicholas Modford**
- 1392** **William or Richard Yewdale**
- 1395** **Nicholas Hardy** mentioned as parson, concerning a house in Guildford.
- 1397** **David ...**
- 1404** **John French**

[A gap in the records] Holy Trinity rectory was extended in 1415.

- 1441** **Walter Wylmot**
- 1447** **John Gayle resigned**
- 1448-1453** **William Clerc/Clerc.** William resigned in 1453.
- 1453-1456** **John Towker.** John resigned in 1456.
- 1457-1464** **Reginald Bassett.** Reginald resigned in 1464.
- 1464-1466** **Richard Appylton.** Richard resigned in 1466.
- 1466-1470** **Thomas Cole/Coke.** Thomas died in 1470.
- 1470-1473** **John Seton.** John died in 1473.

1473-1487 **John Clopton**

During Clopton's time, in 1486, Henry Norbridge and Thomas Kingston established a chantry in Holy Trinity for a priest to say mass daily for the king, the queen, his mother and others, and themselves, for ever. Land was bought to produce an income to pay the priest, and is still called The Chantries. John died in 1487.

1487-1495 **William Asser** William left Holy Trinity in 1494 for St. Nicholas, but died the next year in March 1495. He was buried in Holy Trinity with a brass on his gravestone. (It is no longer there.)

1495 **Thomas Bekerton.** Thomas died the same year as he became rector.

1495-1497 **William Lathes.** William resigned in 1497.

1497-1503 **Robert Lathes** He was instituted in 1497 and deprived in 1502: we don't know why.

1503-? **John Southwode**

John Southwode was mentioned in wills of 1522 and 1524. He presumably died or left between then and 1529. He was a bachelor of divinity – BD; one of the first rectors we know to have had a university education, though others may have done. It was not essential in the Middle Ages. A few churchwardens' accounts survive from 1509 to 1528, showing that the parish owned land, probably given by parishioners to provide an income. The accounts show

a lively parish raising money through church ales, from parish guilds and in other ways, and beautifying the church, the vestments and the paintings and statues of saints.

Thomas the chantry priest is mentioned in 1516 and 1523. He may have been Thomas Colynton the chantry priest mentioned in Henry Norbrige's will of 1512.

Richard Chapman was described as parish priest in a will of 1512. At the time this may have meant that he was assistant to the rector.

John Denryge, priest, witnessed a will in 1519, but may not have been the rector.

by 1532-1539 John Johnson

John Johnson was mentioned as the priest in wills of 1529, and 1531 to 1535. He had a curate, Richard Curling, in 1537-1538 and another, John Fitzherbert, in 1538, who was still there in 1541. Nicholas Walters was mentioned as chaplain in a will of 1531, along with chaplain Robert Russell. There is some confusion about whether John Johnson was also rector from 1540-1542. He died in 1543.

Humphrey Lyle witnessed a will in 1539 as parish priest.

1539-1542 John Clever

John Clever is recorded as resigning in 1542, but he also appears in lists as rector from 1543-1558, when he apparently died, though he is not in the parish burial register which starts in July 1558. Around 1540 Sir Richard Weston of Sutton Place, in Woking parish, had built a family chapel next to Holy Trinity. When he died in 1541 he established a chantry for masses for his soul. Anthony Cawsey, his chaplain, became his chantry priest until chantries were abolished in 1547.

1540-1542? John Johnson

Thomas Heybell was curate in 1540.

Thomas Awdus was appointed rector in 1540 or 1542, but little more is known about him. He is said to have been rector until 1558, but so was John Clever – below. However, in 1546 he was assessed at 2½d for a barn, in a list which was perhaps about contributing to Henry VIII's wars. There is an entry assessing Trinity church for 7½d. The barn may have been his tithe barn. He was mentioned as parson of Holy Trinity in a will of 1556.

1543-1558 John Clever

Clever lived through the religious changes of the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary. Sadly, we know nothing about him. He was appointed by the Earl of Southampton, William Fitzwilliam, but the right to present returned to the crown for the next rector. Clever was rector when Edward VI's commissioners listed the very extensive vestments and equipment in the church, such as vestments of cloth of gold. These all had to be given up. Some of the money from selling church goods was used to whitewash the church and paint Biblical texts on the wall. Chantries were closed down in 1547. John Glover was Norbridge and Kingston's chantry priest and Anthony Cawsey was still Weston's. Cawsey was 50 in 1547, said to have 'no learning' but was earning money from saying masses for the dead for other

people. He became rector of Compton from 1547-1554. He witnessed a Guildford will in 1560, as Anthony Cawsey, clerk. **John Glover**, was 32 in 1547, and had no other living; there were 328 communicants in the parish, and no other priest except the curate (probably meaning the rector) and the other chantry priest. One John Glover was vicar of Dorking from 1552-72.

John Frere was a clerk in the parish in 1539 and in 1544 he was described as chantry priest.

In July 1558, in Mary's reign, an inventory was made of the church goods, which included many vestments and other textiles, service books, candlesticks, a hearse cloth, an organ and an old portable organ.

1558-1593 George Shirewood/Sherwood

George Sherwood was appointed by the crown, as had been the case since the dissolution of the monasteries. In this case, it was Queen Mary and her Spanish husband Philip, who were Roman Catholic. However, George survived until 1593 so must also have been acceptable to Protestants.

In the 1560s and 1570s there were several curates: Thomas Dickens 1564; Roger Street 1565; Thomas Holland 1567, perhaps Roger Goad master of the grammar school in 1569, and **Francis Taylor 1574**. Francis was master of the grammar school from 1575-80 and became vicar of Godalming in 1578. He taught some of the Abbot boys, and George Abbot made him vicar of Lambeth in 1611, though he continued to live in Godalming. His eldest son Caleb succeeded him as vicar of Godalming. Francis had five children, whose Biblical names suggest that he was a Puritan: Caleb, Damaris, Abigail, Bezaliel and Phoebe. (Bezaliel was a fallen angel in the Book of Enoch, but possibly had some other significance for Elizabethan Puritans, because the name means 'Shadow of God'.) Francis owned books by Calvin.

1581-92 Peter German

Peter German was ordained priest in 1574. He was mentioned as curate in 1581 and 1582 during the bishop's visitations. He had six children baptised in Holy Trinity between 1587 and 1592, and was usually referred to as 'Mr.' Peter German, which suggests a parson or other educated man. They were Daniel, Sarah, Nathaniel, Bezaliel, Susan and Jane, mostly Biblical names. He died as the vicar of Farnham in 1597. A son, Peter, was born in Farnham in 1596.

1593-6J John Sanford/Samford BA

John Sanford had been master of the grammar school from 1580, probably until he became rector in 1593. He had three children baptised in Holy Trinity in the 1580s. He moved on to Wonersh, and died there in 1614.

1596-1599 John Crowe MA

John Crowe was also master of the grammar school, from 1594 to 1603. He became rector in 1596, and moved on to Stoke in 1599. William Hammond of Guildford had arranged that the right to appoint the rector of Stoke was given to the corporation, so they could appoint the schoolmaster to it. As it was a rich living, Crowe moved there until his death in 1633. In 1600 when John Burchall made his will, he asked that Crowe, Wilson and Sadlington should preach two sermons each. Wilson was presumably John Wilson of St. Nicholas.

1599-1603 Mark Sadlington MA

Mark Sadlington married at St. Olave's, Bermondsey in 1593, where he was master of the grammar school, and had a daughter there, but no children seem to have been baptised in Guildford. He became vicar of Sunbury in 1603 and was buried there in 1647.

1603 - ? John Kaye

There is some confusion about the Kay/Key/Keyes parsons in Guildford. Two sources list John as rector in 1603 but it is difficult to pin this down. Thomas Key was rector of St. Nicholas from 1580, coming from Puttenham. He died young in 1597. William was rector of St. Mary's from at least 1606 -1631. In 1607 John, son of John Kay, minister, was baptised at Holy Trinity.

1606 - ? Thomas Karr

Thomas Karr, minister of Holy Trinity, witnessed a will in 1606, along with William Key of St. Mary's. It is possible that the spelling of 'Karr' is a misreading of Key.

1617-1623 John Wright

John Wright attended Christ Church, Oxford from 1610, and held other livings while at Holy Trinity. His children Nathaniel, Hannah and Robert were baptised at Holy Trinity; Olive was baptised in 1623 when Wright was vicar of Shalford, from 1623 to 1675.

1623-1633 William Hill

William Hill was another school master who was also rector of Holy Trinity, and like John Crowe, he moved on to become rector of Stoke. He died in 1662. There were Hills in Guildford before and after his time but it is not clear whether William was born in Guildford. He wrote a poem to the town, in Latin and in English, in 1623. He had six children, two of whom were recorded in the registers of both Holy Trinity and St. Mary's, for some reason.

From now on all the clergy definitely had degrees.

1633-1642 George Bladworth MA

George was born in Guildford in 1608, the son of James Bladworth, the schoolmaster after John Crowe. He went to Peterhouse, Cambridge, in 1625, and Guildford was probably his first incumbency. He married Sherlie Tichborne of Sussex in 1637, but she died in 1638 giving birth to a son Sherlie, who lived. George married again in 1639, to Agnes Roots, and they had two more boys. He moved to Kent in 1642 and died in 1658. It is not known

whether his move was linked to the civil war. Unusually, he signed the pages of the parish register from 1638 to 1641, with the churchwardens.

1642-1645 Thomas Wall MA

Thomas Wall was born in Dymock, Gloucestershire in 1601 and went to Oriel College Oxford in 1618. He then received an MA from King's College, Cambridge, in 1639. In 1633 he was a preacher and deacon at Mickleham, then moved to Merston, probably near Chichester. In April 1645 he was 'sequestered' or removed from his post at Holy Trinity by the Puritan Westminster Assembly for his alleged 'scandalous life, drunkenness and other misdemeanours'. This was during the civil wars: the allegations were unlikely to be true. His real crimes were probably that he was a royalist and supported the established church. He seems to have stayed in Guildford, because his daughter Margaret was baptised in Holy Trinity in 1646, and another daughter Bathsheba was buried there in 1647.

1645 Stephen Geery

Stephen was appointed a preacher to various dioceses in 1627 and 1628, and was presumably of the Puritan persuasion. He was vicar of Womersley from 1629-31. One source says that he was appointed minister of St. Nicholas and Holy Trinity in 1645, very briefly, then moved to Abinger in 1655, when he died. He may have been looking after St. Nicholas, which was without a minister at that time.

1645-1654 Roger Percevall (lived 1602?-1654)

Very little is known of him, except that his widow died in 1658 and was buried at Holy Trinity. He died in 1654. He was probably the son of Thomas Percivall, minister of Hardingstone, Northants., baptised in 1602. He was briefly rector of St. Mary's in 1649. His name was listed in the Holy Trinity parish register in April 1654 but after that births (not baptisms) marriages and deaths were registered by a clerk appointed by the mayor. Percevall was probably a Puritan who was acceptable to the Commonwealth authorities, and he presumably carried on taking services, but without the Prayer Book, which was banned.

1654/1661-1665 John Holland (lived 1626?-1690)

John was born around 1626 and became rector of St. Mary's in 1650 and rector of Holy Trinity in 1661, or probably from 1654, in the confusing years of the Commonwealth. He was also rector of Albury from 1667-1691. In 1661 he noted in the parish register that he had received the book from the churchwardens in April 1661, after the changes during the Commonwealth. So he was perhaps already in post. He resigned from Holy Trinity in 1665. He must have had curates helping him.

He was made master of Abbot's Hospital in 1655 as well as being rector of the two churches, and was very active in sorting out George Abbot's manufacturing charity, which was not working as intended. He also borrowed money from the charity to build a wall around the rectory garden, which he paid back in 1663. He would have been born around 1630, so was far too young to be master of the hospital, who should have been at least fifty. He had married in the late 1650s, which again, was not allowed. His first wife died in 1660, three

months after giving birth to their first child Barbara, who died a few weeks later. In 1662 he married Honour Westbrook of Stoke. Two sons called John died young, but three daughters survived: Elizabeth, Honoria and Ann. All these entries were in the Holy Trinity registers, rather than St. Mary's. The family were presumably living in Abbot's Hospital, which was certainly more up-to-date than the medieval rectory.

Holland came from a landed family in Gloucestershire, and his will shows that he was wealthy. He died in 1691, leaving books, money, rings and pictures to his daughters. He asked to be buried in the chancel of Holy Trinity, with his wives and children.

1665-1670 William Ong.

William was ordained in 1663. (The unusual name is from Suffolk.) He was apparently rector of Farnborough from 1663-70, and curate and preacher of Holy Trinity in 1669. He died in 1670.

1671-1679 Giles Thornborough.

Giles went to Oxford, and was rector of St. Nicholas from 1660-70. He was made a chaplain to Charles II in 1673. His son Giles took over from him at St. Nicholas in 1671. Little is known about Giles at Holy Trinity.

1679-1698 Jonathan Jones.

Jonathan was ordained in 1674. From 1681 he was also rector of Hambledon until his death in 1702. In the 1690s work was being done to improve Holy Trinity. It included putting in a west gallery, which meant altering the roof and windows.

1698-1715 Michael Woodward.

Michael came from Bedfordshire and was ordained in 1685. He was rector of St. Nicholas from 1693 until his death in 1717. He was also rector of Holy Trinity from 1698. By 1698 he was chaplain to the dowager countess of Westmoreland, and by 1715 the chaplain to the bishop of St. Asaph. He became vicar of Godalming from 1715 to 1717 when he died, and was buried in St. Nicholas. He had a curate called Robert Hewat in 1694 and another in 1700, John Price. There must have been others. In 1712 the present gates were made for the main entrance in the old church. Woodward sometimes chose a rector's warden, but both churchwardens were usually elected by the parishioners until William Bannaster's time.

In 1699 the benefices of Holy Trinity and St. Mary's were united, to provide a better income for the rector. When Michael Woodward moved to Godalming in 1715 this came into effect, and Edward Vernon of St. Mary's was the first joint rector. The parishes remained separate. The joint rectors are also described under St. Mary's, with an emphasis on that parish.

1715-1721 Edward Vernon. (lived 1659-1721)

Vernon came to St. Mary's from Merrow. Little is known about his time at Holy Trinity. He presumably continued to live in the St. Mary's rectory.

1721-1755 William Bannaster. (lived 1689-1755)

William was the son of the vicar of Wonersh, and succeeded his father there in 1718, holding both that post and Guildford. During his time at Holy Trinity a great deal of building work continued, but it all came to nothing in 1740 when the tower collapsed and destroyed the church. In the 1730s there were disagreements between the rector and churchwardens about the collection, and about the building work. Things did not improve during the rebuilding, which began in 1749. In 1751 John Shotter, a Guildford attorney and town clerk published a satirical pamphlet about his correspondence with Bannaster over his demands for tithes.

Bannaster died in 1755 when the church building was complete, but still needed to be furnished and completed. He was buried in the chancel with his two wives, who had died in 1731 and 1743. His gravestone is now in the churchyard, probably moved during the 1888 enlargement of the church. There were no children. His brother Henry was vicar of Cobham, and died in 1728.

The new church was a triumph – a fashionable Georgian brick building by a London architect. It would have greatly improved the look of the High Street, for most people.

Cornelius Jeale (lived 1696-1762)

Cornelius was born in Cirencester, and went to Oxford. He was curate for Bannaster in 1725, and was also his curate in Wonersh, where he taught in the school. He became vicar of Pyrford and Wisley in 1736, and also of Thursley, but seems to have lived in Guildford. His daughter Sarah was a friend of William Bray in the 1750s, when he was training to be a solicitor in Guildford. She married in Holy Trinity in 1757. In 1762 Jeale became master of Abbot's Hospital, but died soon after. He was buried in Holy Trinity.

George Stephens was appointed a preacher in Guildford in 1725, but left in 1727 for Waddesdon.

1756-1772 Charles Burdett, DD (lived 1700-1772)

Burdett was born into a wealthy family of St. Helen's Bishopsgate, London, in 1700. In 1723 he became curate of St. Helen's until 1751, when he moved to Kennett, near Newmarket, as a curate. He came to Guildford in 1756, and was briefly chaplain to the 1st baron Edgecumbe, a Whig politician who died in 1758. He was also rector of Little Bookham, from 1767 until his death. He did not marry. His niece lived with him, and three servants. Holy Trinity was finished during his time, in 1763. There had still been a lot of work to do, money to find and bills to pay, even after the church opened. In 1769 the bells were re-cast into a ring of eight. Burdett donated five guineas to the fund for finishing the work in 1767, more than most people. When he died in 1772 he asked to be buried in the family vault at St. Helen's.

1772-1774 James King DD (lived 1715-1795)

James was born in Yorkshire in 1715, and spent many years as vicar of Clitheroe before moving to Guildford. His cousin Fletcher Norton, later Lord Grantley, was MP for Guildford in 1769 and in 1770 when he became Speaker, he made James his chaplain. He used his

influence to get James the position of rector. (His brother William helped King's son James in his navy career, which included sailing with Capt. Cooke on his last voyage.) James moved to Windsor, then became dean of Raphoe in Donegal. Edmund Burke, the philosopher, was a friend of the family.

1774-1832 James Weller DD (lived 1742-1832)

James was the son of James Weller, gentleman, of Guildford, and was born in 1742. He is said to have been rector of Worth in Sussex, but this seems unlikely. He certainly married there in 1767, only one year after being ordained priest, so may have been the curate. In 1765 he was curate of Puttenham. He had several domestic chaplaincies: in 1772 to the 13th earl of Glencairn, in 1776 to George Onslow who became the first Earl, and in 1784 to George, Prince of Wales who became George IV.

He had been curate to Burdett and King and became rector in 1774 when King left. His first child was baptised at St. Mary's in 1771, and the others in Holy Trinity between 1772 and 1778. He was also vicar of Woking from 1784-6, and East Clandon from 1788. He lived at East Clandon from at least 1804: the house was a fine modern building. The old St. Mary's rectory was probably thought unsuitable for a clergyman by this time. The Holy Trinity rectory was sold in 1806. When Weller died in 1832 aged 90, he asked to be buried in the vault under the tower of Holy Trinity. This was presumably a family vault, which is otherwise unknown. His wife died in East Clandon, but was buried in Holy Trinity, in 1812.

1824-1838 Henry Parr Beloe (lived 1790-1838)

Henry was curate to Weller from 1821, who married him to Elizabeth Elkins in 1824 in St. Mary's. Henry's address was Stoke, so he presumably, like Weller, did not think the rectory suitable. He soon changed that by rebuilding it in 1825. He was probably living the Upper High Street, which was in Stoke parish.

Henry's initials – HPB – are in the railings outside Holy Trinity, with the date 1824. Nothing special is known to have happened that year, unlike for the other initials and dates in the railings. Perhaps Henry celebrated becoming rector by paying for more railings.

His son William Henry was baptised in Holy Trinity by his father in 1826, but died aged two months. Henry Edmund was baptised in 1828. He died aged 17 when living in London, and was buried in St. Mary's in 1845. His father was dead, but his mother was living in the Upper High Street. William Alciphron was baptised in St. Mary's in 1829, when his father was still living in Stoke. He was named after an ancient Greek author. Henry's father William had translated some of Alciphron's work into English. William senior was rector of All Hallows London, and a prebendary of St. Paul's, and Lincoln cathedral. He was an important writer, who founded a quarterly journal. He was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and became a librarian at the British Museum, so Henry would have grown up in a learned household. His middle name (still unusual at the time) may have come from Dr. Samuel Parr who taught his father at Stanmore. When Parr became headmaster of Norwich

school he made William Beloe his assistant. Beloe then moved to London to be master of Emmanuel Hospital, Westminster, where Henry was born. Henry died aged only 48, living in St. Mary's rectory, and was buried in the church.

1838-1851 Henry Ayling. (lived 1793-1872)

Henry was born in Eastbourne, then still a small town, but already known as a seaside resort. He went to school in Midhurst and on to Oxford. He was headmaster of the Royal Grammar School in Guildford from 1822 to 1837, then became rector in 1838. He had been ordained in 1820 and was curate of Haslemere. In 1824 he was curate of East Clandon, presumably for James Weller. He married Sarah Edwards in Cranleigh. She was born in Ripley and was a lot younger than him. He moved to Frampton, a Gloucestershire parish in 1851. In 1871 he was living in Kingston with his wife and adult daughters, still rector of Frampton but classed as an imbecile (perhaps meaning he had dementia). He died in 1872. In 1879 some old boys of the Grammar School subscribed to a window for him in Holy Trinity: the Ascension window which was in the chancel, but was moved aside when the east end was enlarged in 1888. In about 1840 the low wall around the churchyard was built, inspired by a similar improvement at St. Mary's. The steps at the west end of the churchyard may have been built at this time – they are not original.

1851-1863 Thomas Ludlum (lived 1809-1863)

Thomas was born in Leicester. He went to Cambridge where he became a fellow of his college, Peterhouse, in 1838. In 1839 he became vicar of Ellington, Hunts., and married Mary Jane Kingdom in Devon in 1841. He came to Guildford in 1851, and also served as rural dean. He arranged for St. Mary's to be restored in 1863 but died before it was finished, aged only 53. The funeral was in St. Mary's and he was buried in the Mount cemetery. His wife's funeral was also there, in 1890. In 1900 a drawing of the old pulpit in St. Mary's which had belonged to Ludlum was given to the church. In 1891 his son Edward gave a home communion set to the parish.

1863-1881 Robert Trimmer (lived 1821-1900)

Robert was born in Worcester, the son of a gentleman (though his occupation was brewer). Robert married Helen Douglas at Leckhampton, Glos., in 1847. By 1849 he was curate of Adlestrop where two children were born. In 1852 he moved to Hamstall Ridware, Staffs., as an assistant tutor for the rector. In 1858 he became vicar of Stoneleigh, Warks., until he moved to Guildford. He built a new rectory in Harvey Road, in Gothic style, in 1867. The Quarry Street house was barely forty years old, but with tradesmen either side of him Trimmer presumably thought it unsuitable. Harvey Road was only just being developed, and at first the rectory was isolated. He also arranged for Holy Trinity to be altered in 1869. The side galleries were taken out, and the side windows enlarged.

Mrs Trimmer died in 1879, and as her funeral procession passed through the streets most houses and shops had their curtains drawn. In 1881 the Resurrection window was put in the apse in her memory, and moved to the Queen's chapel when the chancel was extended in

1888. Shortly after her death their son Hargreave became curate in Guildford, and lived in the rectory with his father.

Mr Trimmer had got to know Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) in 1868 when he moved his family to Guildford, and called on the rector. In 1880 Trimmer chaired a lecture by Dodgson's brother Edwin on his work as a missionary in Zanzibar. Edwin was clearly well known in the town. The next month, at a tea following a confirmation service, Trimmer's son Robert gave an entertainment with 'the wonders of the microscope'. In October, Hargreave, referred to as the Precentor, intoned the prayers at the harvest festival. (It is not clear if this was a new thing.) In 1881 Hargreave became the curate at Clapham and that same year Mr. Trimmer was living with his daughter Helen in Clapham. She had married Percy Woods, later to be the historian of Godalming. Trimmer was still rector, but resigned soon after. He married again that year, to a widow, Penelope Smith. He died in 1900 and his funeral was held in St. Mary's.

A parish magazine was started in 1874. It gives us a lot of information about the parish, showing the huge number of clubs and societies, and activities for helping both the congregation and the parishioners who may not have come to church. Examples include free breakfasts for schoolchildren in winter, social events, evening services for working men, a lending library in the vestry, and a soup kitchen.

1882-85 Ferdinand Edward Tower. (lived c.1820-1885)

Ferdinand Tower was welcomed to the parish in the magazine for January 1882. In April he was at a meeting about free seats in church, which he strongly supported. They were usually occupied by the owner of a particular house, who paid rent for them. This was useful income, but very unfair on the poor. In June a petition was available to sign in a local shop. Mr. Tower formed a Communicants' Association in 1882. He clearly had many ideas, including enlarging the church, but died before this could be done. Two of his sons went to Lancing College, and Tower became a fellow of the college. Part of the painting in the apse was in his memory: his name can be seen on a plaque.

Services were frequent at this time: three at each church on Sunday, two services a day at Holy Trinity and communion once a week, with morning prayer once a week at St. Mary's. The large number of services and other activities needed several curates, but there are too many to list.

1885-95 Arthur Sutton Valpy. (lived 1849-1909)

Arthur was the son of a civil servant in the Board of Trade, Richard and his wife Emily, living in Kensington. Arthur was a curate in Kensington, after a spell in Middlesborough, then went on to Farnborough in 1878. He was living with his parents in 1881, with eight servants, including a butler and a footman. In 1891 he and his wife Jessie had four servants in the rectory in Harvey Road. They had no children. Jessie died in 1897 after they had moved to Winchester where Arthur was a canon. He formed a chapel in the north transept

there with windows by Burne-Jones. He married again in 1900. He died in Winchester in 1909.

He revived the project to enlarge Holy Trinity. The plan was to replace the whole church but only the east end was built. Part of the apse painting was a memorial to his wife, suggesting that they had an attachment to Holy Trinity. He started Boxing Night Teas in 1887. When he left in 1895 600 people attended a garden party for him. In 1909 the iron screen from the nave to the organ area was given in his memory, in the same style as the screen across the chancel.

Mr. Valpy was the first rector to use a deaconess in 1894: a sort of social worker, not in holy orders. A parish nurse was also appointed; both paid for by the parish.

1895-1907 Cyril Fletcher Grant. (lived 1845-1916)

Cyril was the son of a parson in Romford who moved to Aylesford. Cyril was a curate at Chatham, Gravesend and Lee before succeeding his father at Aylesbury in 1876. He married Isabel Witherby in 1877 and they had three sons: Hubert, Ivan and Arthur. Isabel died in 1906 and Cyril resigned in 1907. He married again in 1909, and died in 1916.

Mrs Grant was active in the parish, including running working parties to raise funds. There was a Grant Club for young professional and business women, perhaps started by Mrs. Grant. The South African war had an impact on the parish, especially when the Grant's son returned home safely and a peal was rung for him in 1903. The Queen's chapel was fitted out with the reredos and the side panels, an iron screen and new steps.

1907-1936 Ernest Cecil Kirwan. (lived 1867-1936)

Like many clergy, Ernest was the son of a parson. His father died in a swimming accident when Ernest was a small boy. He came from a well-known Irish family from Galway who had converted to Protestantism in the 18th century. They had strong links to the army and the church. Ernest went to Keble College Oxford, and trained at Cuddesdon College. He came to Guildford in 1894 as curate to Mr. Grant. One of his first actions was to revive the Lads' Bible Class on a Sunday afternoon, after people had had their walk. He did a lot for the youths, such as cricket, providing a gym and taking them on outings. He was also very much involved in Charlotteville, where a Mission Room was opened in 1898, followed later by St. Luke's church in Addison Road. He became vicar of Yorktown and Camberley in 1901. The vicar's widow and children were still in the house, so he let them stay and found somewhere else to live. When he returned to Guildford as rector in 1907 he felt the rectory was too big for him as a bachelor, so he moved to a smaller house in Epsom Road. He was clearly energetic and kindly, and worked very hard. He had the church hall built in 1910, on the site of old houses which had been used as parish rooms. The Queen's chapel was finished in his time, with the panels on the east wall, new steps and the iron screen. In 1913 he went to the Holy Land, and brought back stones which were fitted into the new vestry built that year.

Ernest was the first provost of the cathedral. Holy Trinity was used as the cathedral when the diocese was created in 1927 but was soon found to be too small and the decision was taken to build on a new site. Building began in 1936, the year Kirwan died, but he must have been very much involved. He continued to live in Epsom Road, though the Provost's House in Hillier Road was built around this time. If it had been available it would be typical of him to prefer a smaller house, near to his flock.

1937-1944 Eric George Southam. (lived 1884-1952)

Southam was born in Manchester, and by 1911 was a clergyman in Poplar, in the east end of London. He married the daughter of a baronet in 1915. He was later the vicar of Bournemouth before coming to Guildford. He lived in the Provost's House in Hillier Road, and retired to live near Bournemouth where he died.

1944-1951 Ronald Sutherland Brook Sinclair. (lived 1894-1953)

Ronald Sinclair was born in Fulham where his father was a priest. He too worked in the east end, then became a canon of Chester Cathedral. He died in 1953 as vicar of Maidstone.

1952-1961 Walter Boulton. (lived 1901-1984)

Walter Boulton was born in Staffordshire, and spent at least twenty years working as a priest in India. He was a popular provost, but was not appointed Dean when the cathedral finally opened. He moved to a parish in Rutland and died in Sussex in 1984.

1962-1978 Hugh Michael Warwick Hocking

1978-1986 Ronald Clive Adrian Carey

1986-1996 Kenneth William Stevenson

1996-2023 Robert Lloyd Cotton

Mary Alexander December 2020