

Churchwardens at All Saints 1680 – 2010

Dorothy Toyn

While looking in the large safe during 2009 I came across a list of Churchwardens typed out by Mr RT Andrews in 1902, together with a handwritten list of wardens since then up to 1997. There were some interesting notes written by Mr Andrews. It was fascinating reading and I decided to complete it and get it onto a computer so it can be saved and easily viewed for future interest, before the original went back into the safe. Kay Povey-Richards kindly copied it onto the computer.

The original list was printed, in instalments, in the Parish magazine of 1902, so I thought it would be interesting to print it again 108 years later with all the additional names. Many names are well known around Hertford and shaped the history of the town. There are wonderful names from the 1700's like Bostock Toller, Boord Packer and Theophile Chastanier. There seemed to be less wardens in the 1800's as the length of office increased to around 3 or 4 years with notable exceptions - James Hancock remained in office from 1831 to 1872 – 41 years, and he was followed by R Cocks who served 23 years!

Generally a pattern of a few years of office seemed to continue through to the 1970's when a distinct pattern of a 4 year term of office became the norm with a new warden every 2 years. I am sure many readers will remember this occurring. In 1978 Mrs Christine Ricketts became the first woman to hold the office of Churchwarden and to date there have only been 4 of us – Mrs Connie Murkin, Mrs Janet Bird and myself!

I hope you enjoy reading of some of the history of All Saints' and the information written by Mr Andrews over 100 years ago.

The Vicar has kindly given me leave to publish in these pages, from month to month, until finished, the remainder of the historical notes I have compiled upon the Old Church of All Saints, Hertford; and I hope that they will be interesting and

acceptable to at least a few of the readers of this Magazine, besides forming a more permanent record. It is expected that these will reach so far as to include at least the month of September next.

R T ANDREWS Hertford, December 1902

From various sources I have been able to compile almost complete lists of the names of the Churchwardens and other officers of All Saints Church, Hertford from the year 1680, as follows.

CHURCHWARDENS

1680	Andrew Goodman, Robert Warner
1681	Andrew Goodman, John Williams, Robert Warner
1682	John Matthews
1684	John Lawrence
1686	Thomas Milward
1688	to 1690 John Gurry
1691	to 1692 George Dikes
1693	John Axtell, Thomas Bard
1694	Edward Hold Jnr
1695	(Calton?), Robert Devall (to July 7 th), John Hockley (from July 7 th)
1696	John Hockley, James Saban
1697	John Hockley, Samuel Hopkins
1698	Samuel Hopkins, William Oker Jnr
1699	William Oker, William Dawson
1700	William Dawson, George Boydes
1701	Jonathan Smith, George Boydes
1702	Walter Dickenson, George Boydes
1703	John Humberstone, Richard Bridgeman
1704	Edward Blacknoe, John Archer
1705	John French, John Archer, Thomas Ashby
1706	John French, Thomas Ashby
1707	Thomas Coulson, Thomas Ashby
1708	James Knight, Robert Benson
1709	Thomas Coulson
1710	Jas Keynton, Robert Devall, Robert Benson, Humphrey Mumford
1711	Thomas Sibley, Humphrey Knight
1712	Thomas Sibley, James Canfield
1713	G Haydon, James Canfield
1714	F Wooden?, T Coulson, Henry Gew
1715	E Blacknoe, T Coulson, Henry Gew
1716	Phillip Neale, T Coulson, Henry Gew, Richard Nightingale
1717	John Bush, R Coulson, Phillip Reilly
1718	M Alington, J Bush
1719	Robert Dimsdale, Thomas Clarke, Phillip Neale

All Saints Alive

- 1720 D Haydon, P Neale
 1721 to 1722 D Haydon, E Coulson
 1723 J Archer, J Oxinton
 1724 D Haydon, Thomas Coulson
 1725 Harrison Green
 1726 Harrison Green, Thomas Clarke
 1727 D Haydon, Thomas Clarke
 1728 D Haydon, J Bush
 1729 T Clarke, Jeremiah Hammond,
 Thomas Yenty, Bostock Toller,
 James Shute
 1730 Theophile Chastanier, Thomas Archer
 1731 Boord Packer
 1732 to 1733 John Taylor, John Ward
 1734 John Taylor, Jeremiah Hammond
 1735 William Webster, William Whittenbury
 1736 Richard Hall, John Wright
 1737 William Andrews, Jacob Burnapp
 1738 Isaac Oxinton, Jacob Burnapp
 1739 - Lawford, Jacob Burnapp
 1740 John Bassil, Isaac Taylor
 1741 Jacob Burnapp, Benjamin Clarke
 1742 to 1743 Edward Lucas, Thomas Simpson
 1744 John Camp
 1745 John Camp, Daniel Hickman
 1746 Andrew French, Thomas Marlborough
 1747 Caesar Saunders, Andrew French
 1748 Andrew French, William Murrey
 1749 Caesar Saunders, William Murrey
 1750 Henry Barnard, William Murrey
 1751 to 1752 Henry Barnard,
 Thomas Cadmore
 1753 to 1754 Cornelius Willson, James Young
 1755 John Archer, James Young
 1756 to 1757 John Archer, James Gatcliffe
 1758 to 1759 John Archer, William Turner
 1760 to 1761 William Hanscombe,
 Samuel Mann
 1762 to 1763 Daniel Haydon, Henry Bowker
 1764 Thomas Flack, Caesar Saunders
 1765 Richard Iles, Robert Wren
 1766 John Gillman, James Hanley
 1767 John Gillman, Thomas North
 1768 to 1769 Thomas North, John Kensey
 1770 James Osborne, Sharp Coulson
 1771 James Osborne, Thomas North
 1772 John Nickless, Thomas North
 1773 William Brown, Carter Knight
 1774 Carter Knight, N Farmbrough
 1775 John Hankin, Kyffin Phillips,
 N Farmbrough
 1776 to 1777 Cornelius Willson, William Dawson
 1778 to 1779 Cornelius Willson, Edward Ellis
 1780 William Silversides, Thake Stallibrass
 1781 to 1782 Samuel French, Robert Silversides
 1783 to 1784 Thomas North, Samuel French
 1786 Thomas North, Charles Beecroft
 1787 to 1789 Charles Beecroft,
 William Kimpton
 1790 Charles Beecroft, Richard Corrie
 1791 Charles Beecroft, John Evans,
 Thomas North
- 1792 John Evans, Charles Medcalfe
 1793 Thomas Simson, R Medcalfe
 1794 Thomas Simson, Charles Medcalfe
 1795 Thomas Simson, Benjamin Gillman
 1796 John Nickless, B Gillman
 1797 to 1798 B Gillman, John Greenell
 1799 Thomas Gilbertson, Samuel French
 1800 Thomas Gilbertson, Samuel French (not
 appointed)
 1801 Thomas Gilbertson, Samuel French
 1802 Samuel Andrews, Samuel French
 1803 to 1807 Samuel French, Moseley Gillman
 1808 to 1814 Samuel Andrews,
 Moseley Gillman
 1815 Samuel Andrews, William Plumer Willson
 1816 to 1818 James Nunn,
 William Plumer Willson
 1819 to 1824 James Nunn, John Simson
 1831 to 1843 J Hancock, James Nunn
 1844 to 1862 R D J Evans, James Hancock
 1863 to 1870 John Tasker Evans,
 James Hancock
 1871 W M Armstrong, James Hancock
 1872 R Cocks, W M Armstrong
 1873 to 1874 R Cocks, G Ludlow
 1875 to 1876 R Cocks, M S Longmore
 1877 to 1879 R Cocks, J T Evans
 1880 to 1897 R Cocks, T Odell
 1888 Dr Tasker Evans, R Cocks
 1889 to 1891 W F Andrews, R Cocks

There is no record in existence of the names of the Churchwardens before the year 1680.

The foregoing list shows some remarkable tenures of office, notably that of James Hancock, from 1831 to 1872, or 41 years continuous service as the people's Warden; during which time he was able to effect a great many very beneficial changes, alterations, and improvements, not only in the fabric of the church itself, and in its general and constant oversight, but also in the churchyard, the Cemetery, the subordinate officers of the Church, the Visitations and Vestries, and the numberless matters connected therewith. He had all the law bearing upon every part of the duties of a Churchwarden and the Parochial Charities, at his finger's end, and oftentimes proved himself to be right in his opinion and practice, even though it appeared to be in direct opposition to that of his fellow-parishioners. He held the reins wisely and discreetly, and gave great satisfaction.

(The list from 1892 will appear next month)