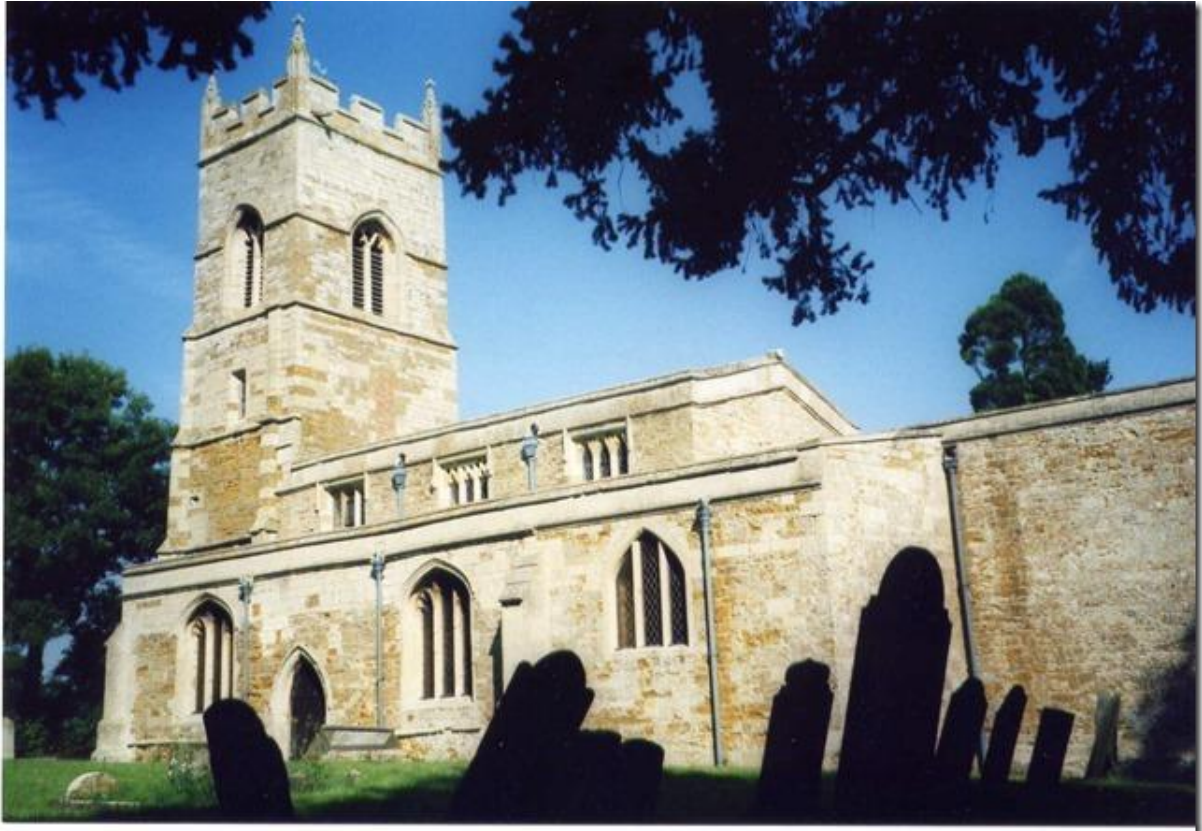


The Rectors of St John the Baptist's Church, East Farndon, Past and Present



St John the Baptist's Church is the parish church of East Farndon, Northamptonshire. An Anglican church, it is a Grade I listed building and stands at the top of the village.

The first reference to a Rector is in 1233, even though the style of the earliest parts of the church suggests it could have been built towards 1300. There may have been a less permanent structure of wood at first with a stone church built later. The patrons in those times were the Lords of Dingley and perhaps they funded its building?

The Rectors of St John the Baptist's Church, East Farndon

1233 -1234? **Simon de Dyngle**

1265 - ? **Simon de Dyngle**

1299 – 1300? **Thomas de Dyngle**

1300 -1301? **Richard de Dyngle**

1319 - ? **Hugh de Dyngle**

1331 - ? **William de Lubenham**

1349/50 – 1351 **Thomas de Dyngle**

1351 – 1361 **Hugh de Dyngle**

1361 **Roger de Hilton**

1374 - ? **Richard Hankyn**

1398/9 - ? **William Bray**

? – 1411 **John Beby**

1411 -? **Robert Holewell**

1454 - ? **Adam Browne**

? – 1477/78 **Ralph Sandon**

Ralph Sandon was the Rector of Little Bowden from 28th June 1442, the Rector of Lapworth, Warwickshire and the Rector of Gumley in 1456 before becoming the Rector of East Farndon.

1477/78 - ? **Thomas Fysher**

1480 – 1513 **Henry Draper**

Henry Draper was the Rector from 26th May 1480 – this is taken from the will of Wm Maydwell 20th October 1511, for whom he was a witness.

1513 - ? **Thomas Falke or Fowke**

Thomas Falke was the Rector from 27th May 1513

(1526 **Ralph Newton** - curate)

(1546 **Richard Baxton** – curate)

1553 – 1554 **Roger Massey**

Roger Massey was 'Compounded for East Farndon Rectory' on 5th July 1553 and was the Vicar of Desborough from 13th October 1554 to 1561?

(1556 **Nicholas Wicks** - curate)

(1561 **Humffery Harding** - curate)

14th April 1576 to 22nd June 1576 **Thomas Cowper or Cooper**

Thomas Cowper was the Rector of Arthingworth 1576-86. This is taken from a will of 1640, in which he says he is 'of Arthingworth'. He had 5 sons and 3 daughters.

1576 – 1588 **Richard Hickman**

Richard Hickman was the Rector of Sywell in 1559, the Rector of Arthingworth 1559-61, the Rector of Dingley 1567-76? and the Rector of East Farndon from 1576 until his death. He “desired to be buried in the chancel” and was buried in East Farndon on 13th April 1588.

1588 – 1622 Daniel Halford (Hawford or Harford)

Daniel Halford studied at Christ's College, Cambridge (he was the nephew of the Master). He received his M.A. in 1577 and was ordained in 1581. He was the Rector of Clipston 1580 – 1588. His wife Margaret died on 6th July 1640 and is buried in East Farndon. Their son Basil was baptised in East Farndon on 2nd January 1594/5 and was buried in East Farndon on 26th March 1617. Their daughter Goodyth was baptised in East Farndon on 25th June 1597. She married Thomas Barrodale (see below) and died in 1623. She left 20 shillings to the church of East Farndon.

Daniel died in 1622 and was buried in East Farndon on 7th November 1622. In his will he left money to the village, which later became the Halford Charity (see the Village Charities page of the village website for further details). When his widow Margaret died, she added £50 to the charity. It was initially known as the Margaret Halford charity, to be used for sending out young men as apprentices.

The following is taken from Cambridge University Alumni 1261 – 1900: Matric. pens. from CHRIST'S, Nov. 1568. Nephew of the Master. B.A. 1573-4; M.A. 1577. Incorp. at Oxford, 1584. Ord. deacon (Peterb.) May 18, 1580; priest, Aug. 10, 1581. R. of Clipston, Northants., 1580; and of East Farndon, 1588. Died at East Farndon, Nov. 11, 1622. Buried there. M.I. Will (P.C.C.) 1622. Left £5 for books for the library at Christ's College. Brother of Henry (1574). (*Peile*, I. 109; H. I. Longden.)

According to *The Buildings of England, Northamptonshire*, inside the church there is a “brass to Daniel Halford, rector, 1622. Brass plate with standing figure in gown.”

This brass remains on the church wall today. The translation of the Latin inscription reads *Here lies DANIEL HALFORD, Rector of this parish for 34 years, who died in the year 1622, in his 72nd year, on October the 11th.*



1622 – 1645 **Thomas Barrodale or Barrodell or Barrowdell**

Thomas Barrodale was born in 1591. He studied at Lincoln College Oxford and was sequestrated* in 1645. His first wife Goodyth Hawford (Halford), daughter of the above, died in 1623. His second wife, Mary Ward, was buried at Marston Trussell in 1680. All their children were baptised in East Farndon: John 1625, George 1626/7, Thomas 1628, Jonathan 1629/30, Samuel 1631, Joseph 1632/3, William 1634, Theodore 1641, Theophilus 1643/4, Mary 1637 (died 1638) and Frances 1639.

Around the time of the Battle of Naseby in 1645, when the Parliamentary side in the Civil War was gaining the ascendancy, there was a major clear-out of clergy who did not fit in with the new regime. Thomas Barrodale, who had been Rector since 1622, was removed from his position and replaced by Samuel Glover, who presumably subscribed to the same idea of worship as the Parliamentary authorities.

*Sequestrated: the act of taking temporary possession of someone's property until they have paid money that is owed or obeyed a court order. (Possibly related to the above clear-out of clergy).

1645 – 1649? **Samuel Glover**

Samuel Glover was a Fellow of Queens College, Cambridge 1644 -1648, and is noted on the Queens College website (queens.cam.ac.uk) as Samuel Glover (1644 -1648), M. A., Rector of East Farndon. He was buried on 6th January 1659.

1659 – 1696 **John Eyre**

John Eyre was quite a character and there is a really interesting article about his life, written by Alan Langley, on the village website: [A TURBULENT PRIEST \(eastfarndon.org\)](http://eastfarndon.org)

An article on waymarking.com states: The patrons of the church have changed many times since the Lords of Dingley held the advowson, the right to appoint the priest. In 1673 it passed for £300 to the Rector, John Eyre. He sold the advowson to Rev. William Bell, the Archdeacon of St. Albans. Rev. Bell had been a fellow of St. John's College, Oxford and 'in gratitude for his education therein' sold the advowson to his old college for a mere five shillings in early 1676. St. John's have been the patrons ever since and the Rectors up till recent times have been former fellows of the college.

John Eyre was intruded* as Rector on 9th April 1659. He was admitted on 20th April 1659 by presentation of John Holman of Warkworth, gentleman. In July 1659 he was accepted to the register of East Farndon. His wife Elizabeth was buried in East Farndon on 15th February 1692/3. Their children were: John (a priest), George buried in East Farndon 24th January 1660/1, Philip buried in East Farndon 24th January 1666-7, Benjamin buried in East Farndon 13th October 1695, Mary baptised in East Farndon 25th September 1659, Anne baptised in East Farndon 25th February ?1666.

John died in October 1696 and is buried in East Farndon.

*Intruded: there is an excellent explanation of what this means in the above-mentioned article

(1692 **John Horne** - curate)

1696 – 1733 **John Stileman**

John Stileman was born c. 1658. He died on 5th June 1733 and is buried in East Farndon. He was the son of a vicar and studied at St John's College, Oxford (the church's patrons). He was the Rector of both East Farndon and Sheepy Magna, Leicestershire in 1704, holding both posts together. According to records in 1705 and 1730, he lived in East Farndon, and died here in 1733. The inventory at his death was £78/10/0 including books worth £6/12/6. His widow was named Elizabeth and he was witness to the wills of J Martin, J Norman, D Cradock, E Lee during 1708-24.

1733 – 1734 **Stephen Bignell**

Stephen Bignell was born in London on 4th July 1691 and died on 10th January 1747. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, London. He was ordained Deacon by John, Bishop of London at Somerset House on 22nd December 1717 and as Priest by the same on 21st September 1718. He was curate of High Halden, Kent, chaplain at St John's College, Oxford in 1727, Rector of East Farndon from 17th November 1733 to 7th February 1734 and the Rector of Aston-le-Walls, West Northamptonshire from 1734 until his death.

1734 -1790 **Walter Saunders**

Walter Saunders was born in 1697, the son of John, a gentleman from Woolston, Hampshire. He studied at St John's College, Oxford. His wife Elisabeth died on 24th June 1787. Their children were: Walter baptised in East Farndon 6th September 1741, Francis buried in East Farndon 5th January 1759, Alicia? baptised in East Farndon 18th October 1736, Helen baptised in East Farndon 5th ? 1737/8, Mary baptised in East Farndon 11th February 1738/9, Harriote baptised in East Farndon 9th June 1744 and buried in East Farndon 4th February 1745, Catharine died 5th July 1787 age 51.

Walter died on 30th December 1790, aged 93 and still fulfilling his role as Rector, although he relied on the support of his curate Rev Thomas Thomas.

The brass plaque to Walter Saunders (see below) remains in the church and reads: *In memory of WALTER SAUNDERS, Rector of this Parish Church, who was instituted and inducted in February 1733/34. He died 30 Decr. 1790, aged 94 years. In memory of ELISABETH, the wife of WALTER SAUNDERS, Rector of this Parish. She died June 24 1787 in the 81 year of her age. "Mulierum, Ororum, Amicarum, una Optimatum."*



1791 – 1797 **Joseph Gill**

Joseph Gill was born in Reading, Berkshire in 1753, the son of Thomas, a gentleman. He died in 1797 in Oxford. He studied at St John's College, Oxford. His Fellowship was sequestered for a debt of £604. He became Rector of East Farndon on 25th May 1791.

1797 – 1833 **William Brooks**

William Brooks was born in Coventry in 1752, the son Samuel, a cleric. He died in Coventry in 1833. He studied at St John's College, Oxford, and was appointed Dean of Arts in 1779. He was Headmaster at King Henry VIII School, Coventry for 54 years, between 1779 and 1833. He was the Rector of St John's, Coventry between 1779-1833 at the same time as he was Rector of East Farndon. He didn't live here or appear to carry out any clerical duties. According to waymarking.com, the curate Rev. Thomas Thomas (see below) carried out all the usual duties of the Rector, and the parish registers bear his signature. Some correspondence between Rev. Thomas and Rev. Brooks has survived, much of it relating to the building of a new rectory in 1800.

(1780s - 1824 **Thomas Thomas** - curate)

The following fascinating article, written by Alan Langley and detailing Thomas's life, is on the village website: Thomas-Thomas-Curate-1780s-to-1824.pdf (eastfarndon.org)

(1824 **Robert Lafargue** - curate)

(1828 – 1830 at least **John Collins** - curate)

John Collins had a school in the Rectory. This information was discovered when Alan Langley was researching the Longville family, who were lords of the manor of East Farndon for 300 years during the Middle Ages. The biography of Henry Longueville Mansel, later Professor of Philosophy at Oxford and Dean of St Paul's, states that he "attended the rectory school at East Farndon, Northamptonshire, from 1828 to 1830 before going to Merchant Taylors' School at the age of ten". It said that the school was kept by Rev. John Collins.

John Collins was possibly the curate at Theddingworth and Foxton as well. He was 'Minister' at a Vestry meeting in 1832, probably standing in for William Brooks.

(1833 **William Roberts** - curate)

1833 -1834 **John Crosby Clarke**

John Clarke was born on 13th July 1783 in Bridewell, Middlesex, the son of Richard, City Chamberlain. He died in Chertsey on 31st July 1869. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, London. He then studied at St John's College, Oxford and was appointed Dean of Arts in 1809 and in 1817-1819. He was the Rector of Winterbourne (?) in 1834. He resigned in 1834, however on the 1851 census for Chertsey, Surrey he described himself as a clergyman of the Church of England.

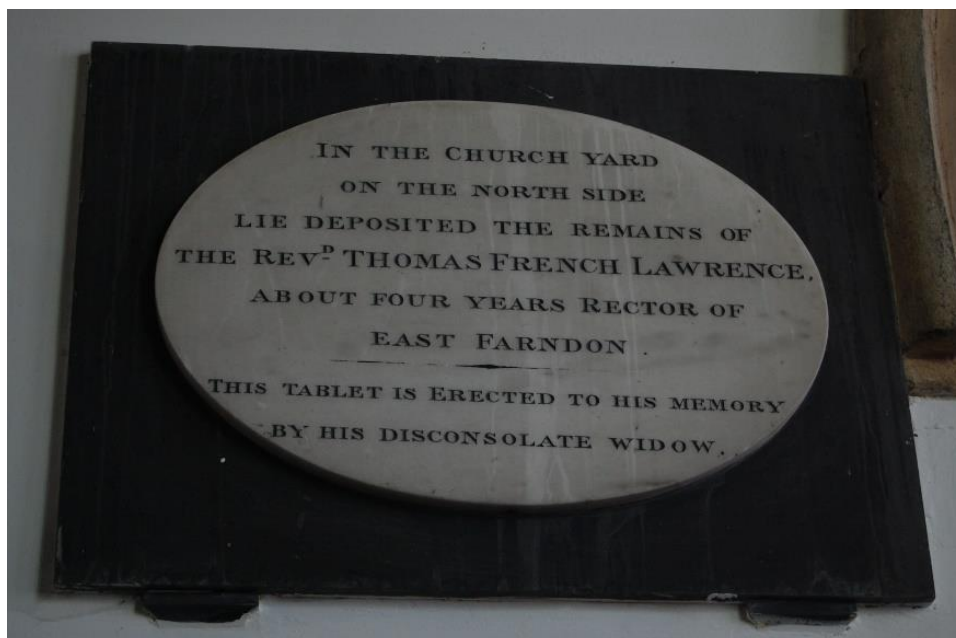
1834 - 1837 **Thomas French Laurence**

Thomas Laurence was born in Eltham on 30th August 1805, the son of John, an actuary. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, London and then studied at St John's College, Oxford, where he was Dean of Arts in 1833. He was the Vicar of St Lawrence, Reading in 1833. In 1834 he married Sidney Jane Clarke in Dublin. He died on 27th October 1837 and was buried in East Farndon on 4th November on the north side of the churchyard.



The inscription says: *Sacred to the memory of THOMAS FRENCH LAWRENCE, late Rector of this parish, formerly fellow of St. John's College Oxford, who departed this life the 18th of October 1837 in the 33rd year of his age.*

The following marble tablet is inside the church on the south wall:



N.B. Laurence is spelled Lawrence on the plaque and gravestone, but records indicate that Laurence was the correct spelling.

1838 – 1855 **George Adams**

George Adams was born on 6th October 1805 in Chastleton, Oxfordshire, the son of James, a cleric. He died in Rugby on 17th January 1855. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, London. He then studied at St John's College, Oxford and was Dean of Arts there in 1833. He was the Rector of Chastleton between 1832 and 1838. He married his cousin Georgiana Adams (29/1/1815 to 27/9/1879) and they had the following children: Henry Cockayne born 5th March 1840 and baptised in East Farndon in 1840. (He died in New Zealand 9th September 1901), Mary baptised in East Farndon in 1841 and died 26th April 1842, Edward baptised in East Farndon in 1844, William Borlase born 20th May 1843 and baptised in East Farndon in 1845. (He died in Australia on 26th June 1893), Mary baptised in East Farndon in 1847, Margaret baptised in East Farndon in 1850 and Louisa baptised in East Farndon in 1851.

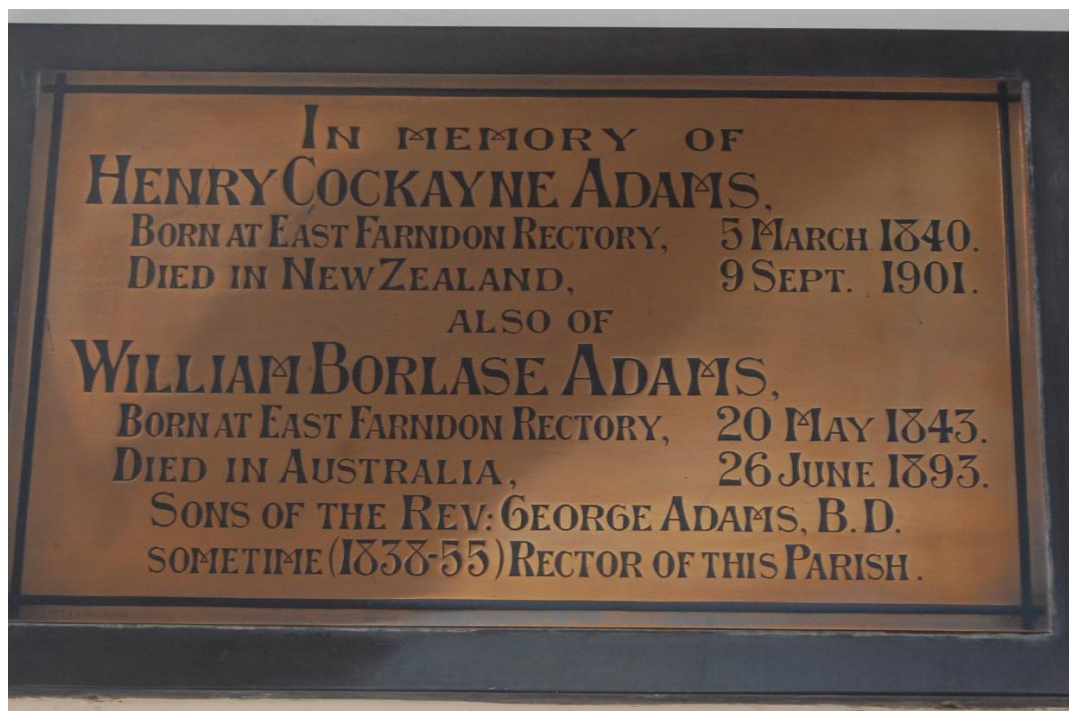
George and Georgiana were both buried in East Farndon:





The inscription says: *GEORGE ADAMS B.D., Rector of this parish, born Oct 6th 1805, died 17 Jany, 1855. GEORGIANA CATHARINE ADAMS, his widow, born 29 Jany, 1815, died 27 Sep. 1879.*

The following brass plaque in the church is in memory to two of George's sons:



1855 - 1868 **Henry Heming**

Henry Heming was born on 13th September 1812 and died on 10th February 1868. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, London. He then studied at St John's College, Oxford and was Dean of Arts there between 1840 and 1841. He was Bursar in 1844 and Vice-President in 1851. He was Curate of Northmoor, Oxon 1843 to 1855. He married Elizabeth Eaton in 1857. She died on 2nd December 1906.

Taken from *The Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Review* 1857:

At St Chad's, Shrewsbury, the Rev Henry Heming, Rector of East Farndon, Northants to Elizabeth Margaret, eldest daughter of the late John Eaton esq., of Claremont, Shrewsbury.

Henry and his wife Elizabeth Margaret were buried in East Farndon:



The inscription says: *HENRY HEMING M.A., Rector, who died February 10th 1868 aged 55. And ELIZABETH MARGARET, widow, who died 2nd Dec. 1906 at Colwich Vicarage, Staffs., in her 83rd year. "Till the day break and the shadows flee away."*

(1866 **G T Stuart** B.A. – curate)

This information is taken from *The Clergy List for 1866*. It also lists Henry Heming B.D. as Rector of East Farndon.

1868 - 1872 **Francis Beaumont**

Francis Beaumont was born on 23rd August 1838 in Winchelsea, the son of John, a Medical Practitioner. He died on 19th May 1915. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, London. He then studied at St John's College, Oxford. He was Assistant Master at Rossall School, Fleetwood, Lancashire 1862-5, Curate at Holy Trinity, Hoxton, London 1865-8, Vicar at Holy Trinity, Coventry 1872, which he exchanged with A.W. Wilson (see below).

The following article is taken from a copy of *Who Was Who 1897 - 1916*:

BEAUMONT, Rev. Francis Morton; Hon. Canon of Worcester, 1893; Canon of St. Michael's Collegiate Church, Coventry, 1908; b. Winchelsea, 23 Aug. 1838; * . of John Beaumont, surgeon. Education: Merchant Taylors'; St. John's Coll. Oxford. B.A. 1861; M.A. 1864; President of Oxford Union Society, 1860; Fellow of St. John's, Oxford 1859-69; Assistant Master of Rossall School, 1862-65; Curate of Holy Trinity, Hoxton, 1865-68; Rector of East Farndon, Northants, 1868-72; Vicar of Holy Trinity, Coventry, 1872-1912; Rural Dean of Coventry, 1885-1902; Surrogate, 1872; Chaplain of 2nd Vol. Batt. Royal Warwickshire Regt. 1880-1908; V.D. 1900; Past Grand Chaplain of England, 1905. Recreations: mountaineering, travel. Address: The Fields, Broxbourne, Herts. Clubs: New University, Alpine Norwegian. [Died 19 May 1915.]

1872 - 1894 **Alfred William Wilson**

This interesting article, written by Alan Langley about Alfred Wilson's life is on the village website: [Alfred-Wilson-Rector-1872-to-1894.pdf \(eastfarndon.org\)](http://eastfarndon.org/Alfred-Wilson-Rector-1872-to-1894.pdf)

Alfred was born in London on 25th July 1822 and died in Market Harborough on 7th October 1894. He was curate at Scaldwell 1845-7, Vicar of Walthamstow 1847-51, Rector at Sedgebrook, Lincs 1851-63, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Coventry 1864-72 (This was exchanged with Francis Beaumont in 1872 – see above).

Alfred married Mary Emily Cox (1822 -1900) on 25th June 1842 and they went on to have seven daughters and one son: Lydia Mary (1844), Edith Mary (1844), Emily Rose (1846), Mary A (1846), Anna Evelyn (1848), Helen Jessie (1850), Fanny M (1852) and Alfred Cecil Ernest (1861 – 1863).

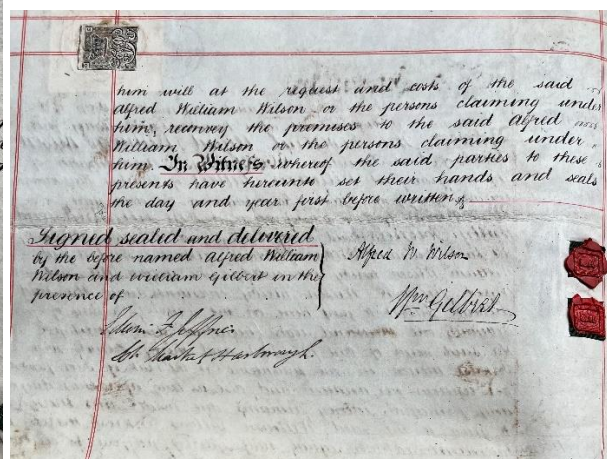
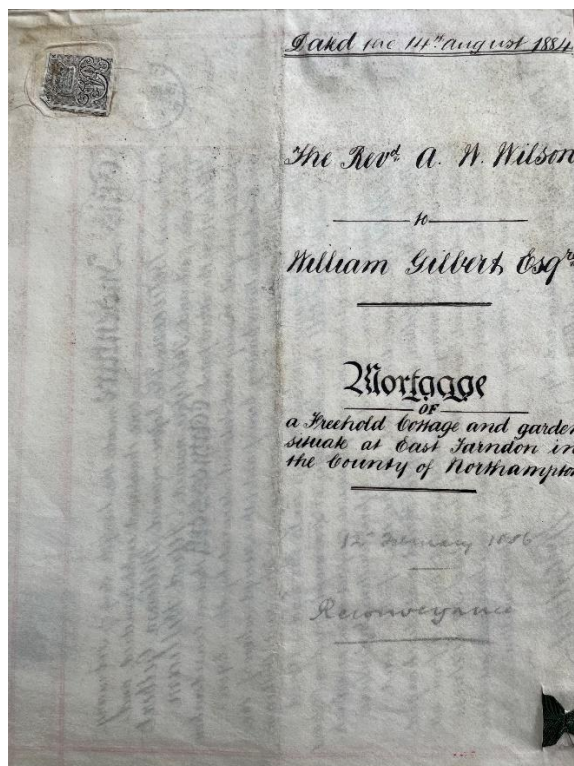
Alfred died in East Farndon on 7th October 1894 and was buried in Worton Over, Oxfordshire on 11th October. Probate was granted on 19th November to Bernard Francis Harris, stockbroker and Edward Francis Colston, stockbroker's clerk. Effects were £2340 8s 3d.

During his incumbency, Alfred undertook a very considerable programme of restoration. Most of it was done at his own expense. It appears that the church had been allowed to decline into a very poor state and it was Rev. Wilson who rescued it. He paid for the pulpit that is still in use today. He also built a house in the village with a reading room for village use, known as 'The Institute' – a place to go and socialise without alcohol. This is now known as "The Limes", Back Lane. He also seems to have instigated the building of a house attached to the school for the teacher to live in.

Alfred also purchased Red Brick Cottage, Main Street in August 1884. The property was described as the house, yard, garden, outbuildings and orchard (later sold off to build Linden Lea). Alfred bought it from the owner, Miss Elizabeth Palmer for the sum of £250. To buy the property, he arranged a mortgage of £130 through William Gilbert of Market Harborough. The terms of this were that interest was charged at £5 per centum per annum (5%) and that it had to be repaid by 14th February 1885. However, the mortgage was discharged on 12th February 1886.

When Alfred bought the property, it was already being rented out to Frank Russell (aged 26, joiner/carpenter) and his young family. He was still living there on the 1891 census, but when the house was sold after Alfred's death, the tenant was Herbert Watte.

See copies of the mortgage document below:

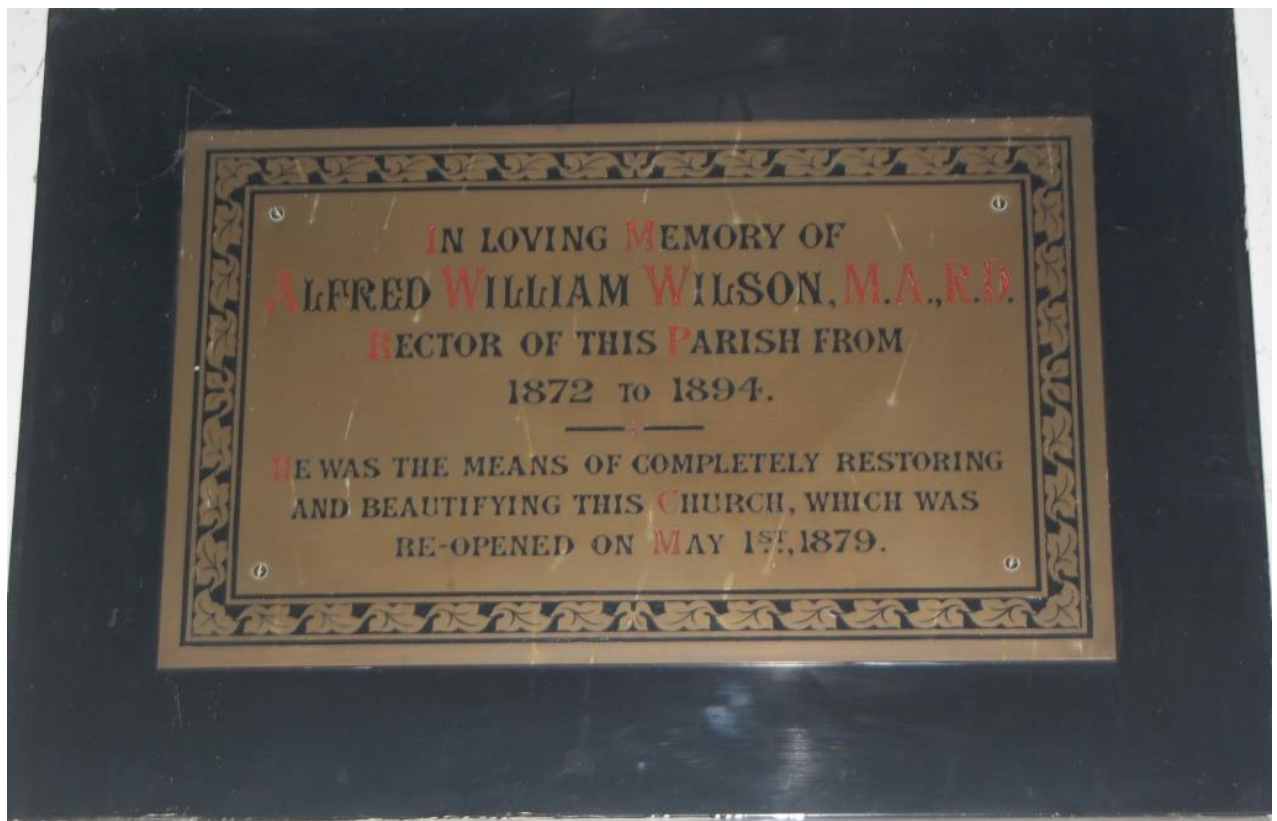


This purchase price appears to have been quite high, as the property was sold at auction on his death for £135. It was bought by James Dulleigh of East Farndon Hall.

Morning Post 11 October 1894

The valuable college living of East Farndon, Market Harborough, is vacant by the death of the Rev. Alfred William Wilson, rector, at the age of 72. Educated at Queen's College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1845 and the same year was ordained a deacon by the Bishop of Peterborough, he was for a short time a curate in Northamptonshire, after which he was for four years vicar of the then rural parish of Walthamstow, Essex. In 1851 he was presented to the rectory of Sedgebrook, Lincolnshire, remaining there till 1863, the following year being presented to the important vicarage of Holy Trinity, Coventry. From 1864 to 1872 he remained in the City of the Three Spires and was also rural dean, when in 1872 he received from St. John's College, Oxford, the presentation to the rectory of East Farndon.

The brass plaque below is on the south wall of the church:



1895 - 1905 James Trengove Nance

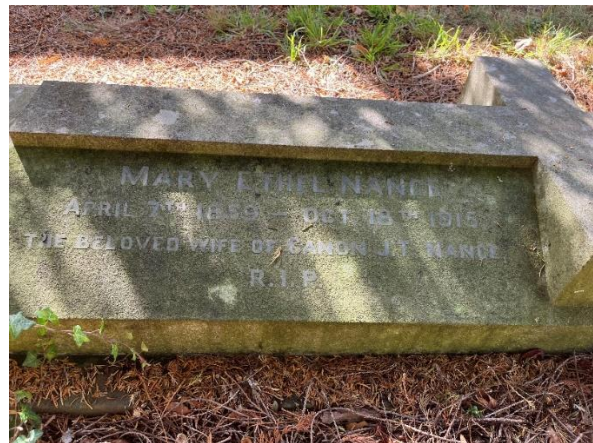


The following interesting article, written by Alan Langley about Rev Nance is on the village website: [Rev \(eastfarndon.org\)](http://Rev(eastfarndon.org))

James Nance was born on 5th April 1852, the son of James, a surgeon. He was educated in Winchester and then at New College, Oxford. He was a Fellow at St John's College, Oxford 1876-7, a lecturer there in 1877, a tutor 1878-86 and Dean of Arts in 1878. He was Rector of Polstead, Suffolk 1886-95, Rector of East Farndon 1895-1905, Rector of Cranham, Essex 1905-8, Vicar of St Mary, Leicester 1908-16, Rector of Wheathamstead, Herts 1916-21, Rector of Peakirk 1921-32, Hon Canon of Peterborough Cathedral 1911-37. He married Mary Ethel Ball in 1887. She died in Leicester in 1915 and there is a memorial window to her in East Farndon church, where she is buried. Rev Nance died on 19th November 1942 and is buried in East Farndon.

The following is taken from waymarking.com:

James Nance was Rector from 1895 to 1905. He was in his 40s when he arrived. He and his wife had no children and threw themselves into village life with great energy. They were ardent supporters of Temperance, 'the evils of drink' being a key issue of the day. They set up a village branch of the Church of England Temperance Society and such was their zeal that over forty village people became members - nearly a fifth of the population. The Society branch did not survive their departure. After a spell in Essex, they moved on to Leicester. During their time there, Mrs. Nance died and was buried in East Farndon. Presumably the village must have meant a lot to them. Rev. Nance went on to hold a number of other positions and finished as a Canon of Peterborough Cathedral. He died at the age of 90 in 1942 and was buried alongside his wife in East Farndon.



The inscription says: *JAMES TRENGROVE NANCE, Hon. Canon of Peterborough Cathedral, Rector of this parish from 1895 to 1905, died Nov 19th 1942 aged 90 years. MARY ETHEL NANCE, April 7th 1859 – Oct 18th 1915, the beloved wife of Canon J. T. Nance. “R.I.P.”*

1906 - 1911 **Cyril Travers Burges**



Cyril Burges was born in Bristol in 1855, the son of Daniel, a town clerk. He studied at St John's College, Oxford. He was curate at Hellidon, Northants 1881-2, Rector of St James' Church, Norlands 1882-5, Rector of St Paul's, Wimbledon Park 1885, Rector of St Matthew's, Lavender Hill 1886-8, Rector of Hammersmith 1882-92, Vicar of Fyfield 1892-1906, Rector of Frenchay, near Bristol 1911-24. This could have been an exchange with William Brooke (see below). Rev Burges died in Thorpe Market, Norfolk on 6th September 1936.

1911 - 1927 **William Brooke**

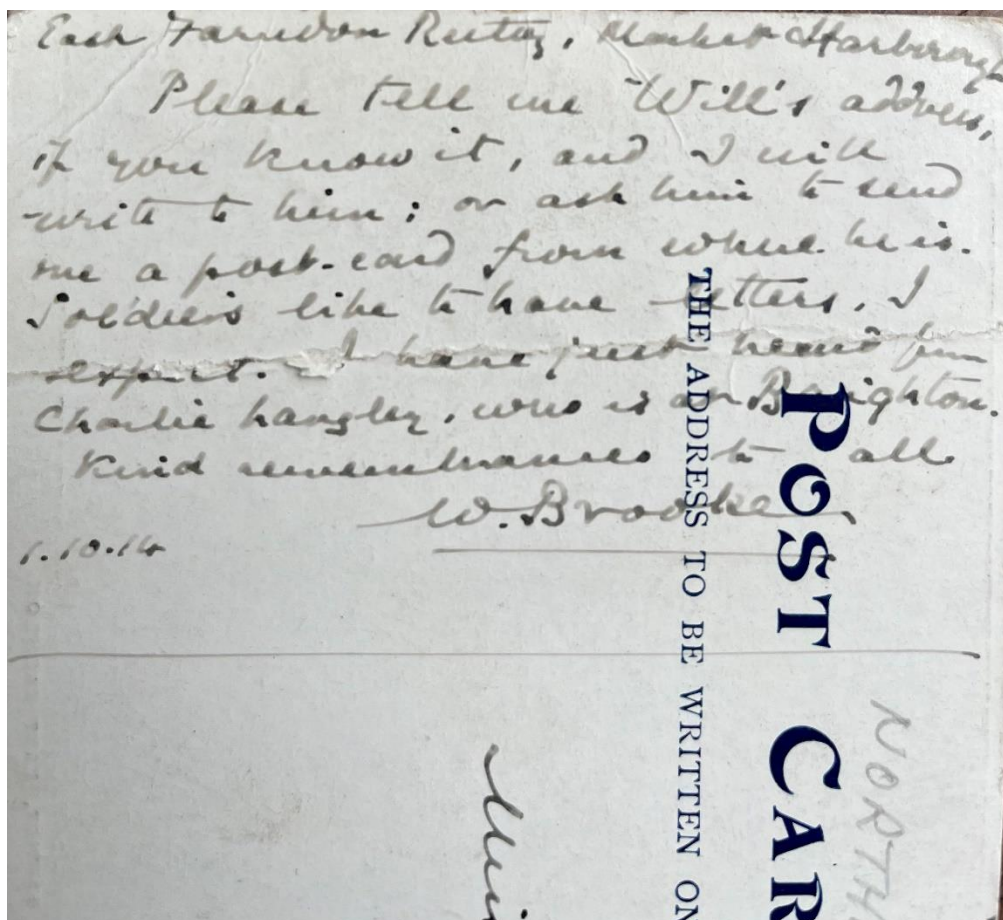
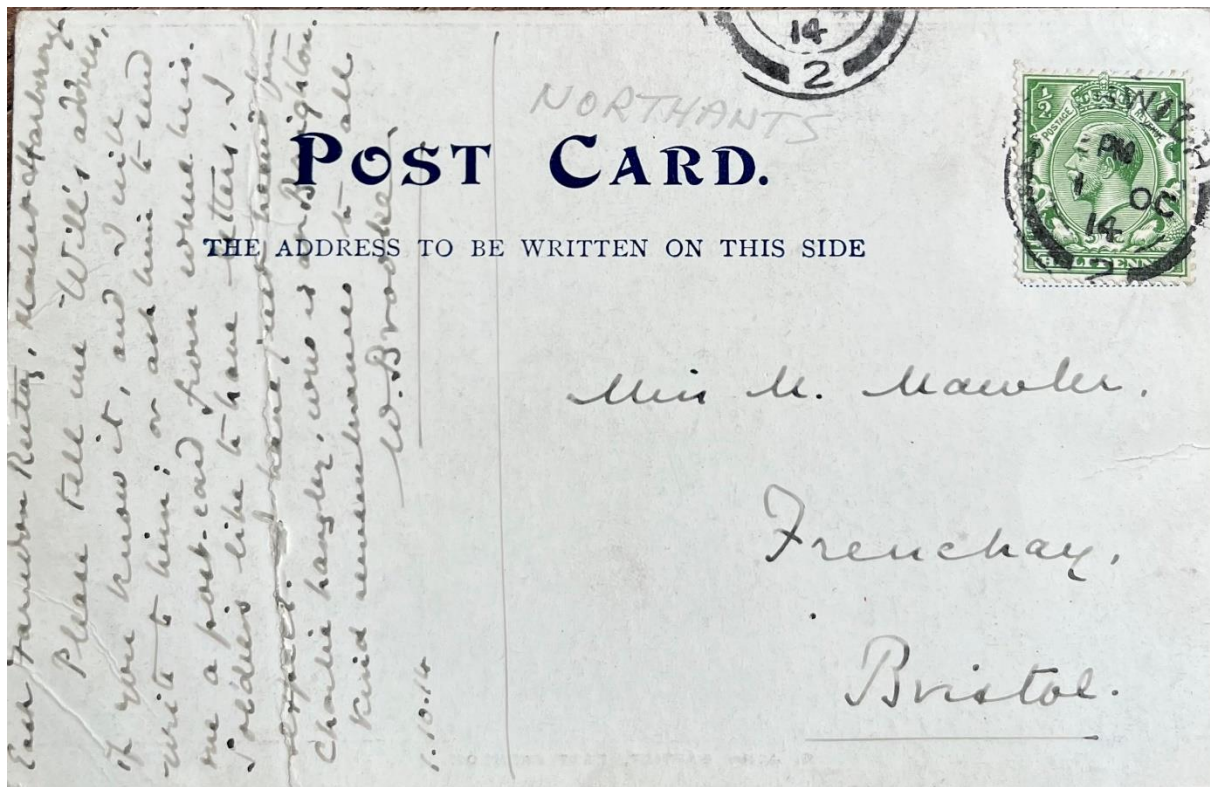


William Brooke was born on 16th May 1857, the son of John, a farmer. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, London and then studied at St John's College, Oxford. He was curate of All Saints, Acton 1880-85, Diocese Inspector and Archdeacon of Derby 1885-92, Rector of Frenchay, Bristol 1892-1911 (possibly an exchange with C.T. Burges – see above). According to the Market Harborough Advertiser, he retired to Felixstowe on 3rd December 1938, but it's unclear what he retired from. The date of his death is unknown.

The following postcard was spotted on eBay by local resident Sue Grant in April 2023. It was written by Rev Brooke on 1st October 1914 and sent to Mrs M Mawler, Frenchay, Bristol (it seems to have been delivered even though the address was rather sparse!). It appears to say: *East Farndon Rectory, Market Harborough. Please tell me Will's address if you know it and I will write to him; or ask him to send me a post-card from where he is. Soldiers like to have letters, I expect. I have past heard from Charlie Langley, who is in Brighton. Kind remembrances to all. W Brooke 1.10.14*



S. JOHN BAPTIST, EAST FARNDON.



1928 – 1930 **William Thomas Underwood**



William Underwood was born on 10th April 1869, son of Enoch, a gentleman. He was educated at Milton College, Ullesthorpe and then studied at St John's College, Oxford, where he played in the University hockey team. He was curate at Bathampton 1902-5, curate at Charlcombe 1906-8, curate at St Mary's, Bathwick 1906-14, Assistant Master at King Edward's School, Bath 1896-1915, curate at All Saints, Walcot 1908-15, Vicar at Burleydam, Cheshire 1915-23 and Rector at Kingston Bagpuize 1923-8, before becoming Rector of East Farndon. He left a widow, Ada Mary Underwood. Rev Underwood died while living at The Rectory, East Farndon on 8th February 1930.

1930 – 1951 **Thomas Fellowes Merriman**

Rev Merriman is pictured at the right-hand side of the photograph



Thomas Merriman was born in Marlborough, Wiltshire on 2nd February 1890. He studied at St John's College, Oxford and was curate in Kentish Town 1914-17. He served in the Royal Army Medical Corps 1918-19, was then curate in Kirkburton 1919-20, curate in Symondsbury with Eype, Dorset 1920-28, curate at Holy Trinity, Trowbridge 1928-30, before becoming Rector of East Farndon. He retired in 1951 to Eastleigh, Hampshire. He died in Winchester on 30th November 1954.

In 1946, the German prisoners of war at the camp on Farndon Road started attending Evensong on Sundays and Rev Merriman's service was translated for them. Rev Merriman told the Harborough Advertiser and Mail: "There has been no complaint at all from my congregation. I am not at all pro-German, but there is an opportunity of letting them become normal German Christians and they seem very anxious to play their part. I try to make them feel they are wanted and they are responding most nobly. The Colonel in charge of the camp asked me if I would allow them to come to my evensong if they had requested permission to attend and I agreed. They follow the service most attentively."

1952 – 1957 **Percival William Worster**



Percival Worster was born in Dudley, Worcestershire on 4th August 1891 and died in Northumberland in July 1978. He studied at Edward Hall, Oxford, was curate in Rugby 1915-21, Temporary Chaplain to the Forces 1917-19, curate in Rainbow Hill, Worcestershire 1921-23, curate in Evesham 1923-25, Vicar at St Paul's, Thornaby-on-Tees 1925-8, Vicar at St Mary's, Far Cotton, Northamptonshire 1928-35, Vicar at Lowick with Slipton 1935-52 and then Rector at East Farndon with Marston Trussell (he lived in Marston Trussell). He married Evelyn Sheasby (1900-1992) in 1925. He retired in 1957 to Ross-on-Wye, then to Northumberland.

1957 – 1963 **Henry Whiteman**



Henry Whiteman was born on 13th January 1893 and died in Northampton in October 1981. He won several Military Medals* in 1918, including the Croix de Guerre. He studied at Ridley College, Melbourne, Australia. He was curate in Tongala, Australia 1926-7, curate in Skipton-in-Craven 1931-3, Vicar in Cowling, Yorkshire 1933-7, Rector in Carleton-in-Craven 1937-43, Rector in Everdon, Northamptonshire 1943-57, plus Farthingstone 1947-57. He was Rector of East Farndon with Marston Trussell (he lived in Marston Trussell).

*The following is copied from Christie's website, when Henry's medals were sold on 27th April 1999:

A Great War M.M. and Second World War Service Group of Ten to Honorary Chaplain to the Forces H. Whiteman, Army Chaplains Department, Late Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers, Military Medal, G.V.R. (Cpl., Sig. Sub. Sec. R.E.); 1914-15 Star (Tpnr., R.F.A.); British War and Victory Medals (A. Sjt., R.A.); 1939-45 Star; Africa Star; Italy Star; Defence and War Medals; France, Croix de Guerre 1914-1918, with silver star riband emblem, very fine or better (10)

1964 – 1983 **James McCloghry**

James is pictured on the left-hand side of the photograph



The following photograph was taken by Alan Langley circa 1979, when he and his family were staying in one of James's cottages on the Durham/Yorkshire border.



James McCloghry was born on 8th April 1922 and studied at St Catherine's College, Oxford. He was curate in Marston St Lawrence with Warkworth, Northamptonshire 1961-4 and Rector of East Farndon with Marston Trussell 1964-7, then Rector of Oxendon with East Farndon & Marston Trussell 1967-83. He lived in Marston Trussell before moving to Great Oxendon. He shared his pastoral duties with a post teaching Religious Education at Robert Smyth School, Market Harborough 1964?-83. He was a very popular teacher and many of his ex-pupils asked to be married by him in East Farndon church. He was Rector of Lower Windrush, Oxfordshire 1983-89 and retired to Oxford in 1989. He and his wife took part in the filming of the Morse TV series as extras! He died in Oxford on 4th May 1994.

Though in his sixties or thereabouts, James rode a powerful motorbike and would appear helmeted and in black leathers! He was a jolly man and had a great gift for working with young people.

1984 – 1999 **Timothy Hamilton Roper**



Timothy Roper was born in Coventry in 1934 and studied at Queen's College, Cambridge. He was curate at Kingsthorpe, Northants 1959-62, curate at Kirkby, Liverpool 1962-5, Chaplain at Rossall School 1965-84, Rector of Arthingworth & Harrington with Oxendon & East Farndon and he was also Rural Dean of Brixworth 1998-9, then Canon. He retired to Market Harborough in 1999. Tragically he suffered a severe stroke just a few months before he was due to retire. He died in 2014 and is buried at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Harrington.

Tim was a popular, hard-working and caring person. He involved himself in many of the villages he served, at that time East Farndon, Oxendon, Arthingworth and Harrington. He cared for and visited anyone in need whether they were churchgoers or not.

Tim had a rich baritone voice and would perform to everyone's delight at entertainment evenings in the village hall.

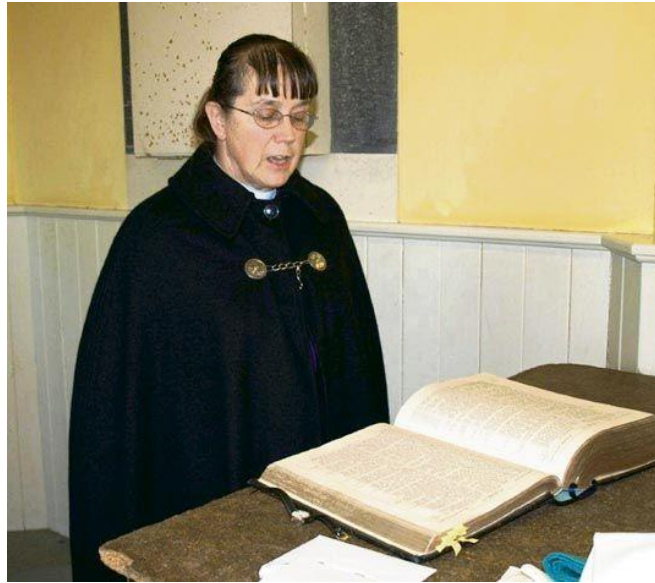


2000 – 2005 **David Isiohoro**



David Isiohoro was born in Windsor in 1958 and studied at Liverpool Polytechnic, Warwick University and Bradford University (Ph.D.). He trained at Westcott House, Cambridge and was curate at Nuneaton St Mary 1990-3, Priest in Charge at Bradford St Oswald 1993-6, Priest in Charge at Brereton, Staffs 1996-2000, Priest in Charge at Arthingworth and Harrington with Oxendon & East Farndon 2000-5, plus Maidstone, Draughton, Lamport with Faxton 2001-5. He moved to look after 3 coastal churches in Cornwall and then to Loggerheads, near Market Drayton in 2021. He is married to Linda, also a priest. He published a book called *Mission, Anguish, and Defiance: A Personal Experience of Black Clergy Deployment in the Church of England* in 2019.

2005 – 2018 **Mary Garbutt**



Mary Garbutt was born in 1945 and studied at Ripon College. She was curate at Desborough, Brampton Ash, Dingley & Braybrooke 2002-5. She is married to Robert (Bob).

This is an interesting article from 2010 about Mary speed-reading the Bible to raise money for the churches in the Faxton Group, plus their linked churches in Bungoma, Kenya!

[PETERBOROUGH: Reading every word \(churchtimes.co.uk\)](http://churchtimes.co.uk)

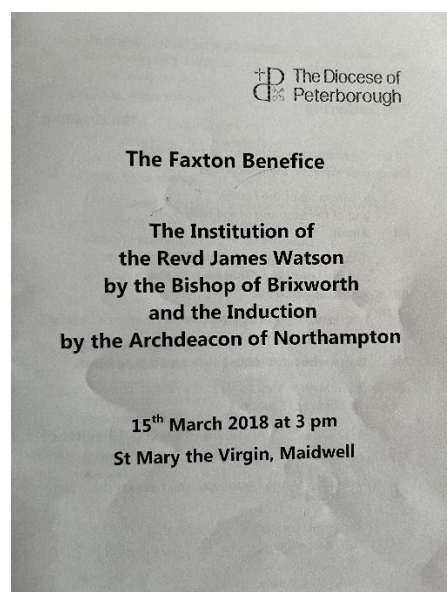
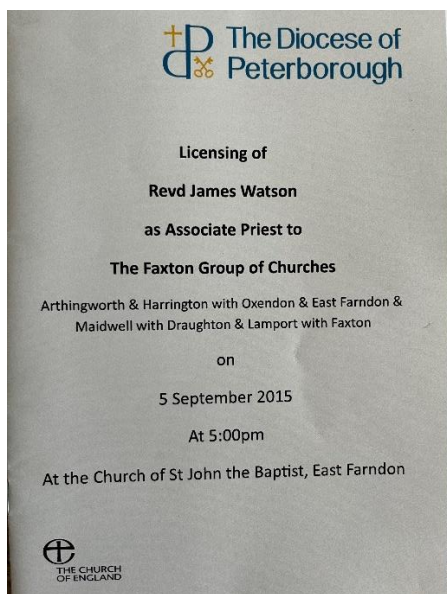
Mary (the Reverend Canon Mary Garbutt) was the Rector for Great Oxendon and the Faxton Group and was Priest in Charge for Great Oxendon and the Faxton Group. Mary was also a non-residentiary Canon at Peterborough Cathedral. She retired in October 2018 after 12 years in the Benefice.

2018 – to date **James Watson**



Reverend James Watson is the Vicar of the Faxton Group of Churches: a group of 7 parishes, 9 villages joined together as two benefices, and part of the Brixworth Deanery, which is in the Diocese of Peterborough.

James was appointed Associate Priest on 5th September 2015, at which time he also worked as part-time Chaplain at Maidwell School. On 15th March 2018, he was Instituted as the Rector of the Faxton Benefice.



In putting this document together, a huge thank you must be given to Alan Langley. Most of the information contained in this article was researched by Alan, over many years. Thank you also to Sonya Fraser (Church Warden) for providing information on the rectors she has known throughout her time living in East Farndon. My contribution has been to add in further information that has come to light in recent years.

Judy Hodgetts, Alan Langley

April 2023