

**THE REGISTER OF BISHAM,
CO. BERKS.
BAPTISMS, BURIALS,
MARRIAGES, 1560-1812**

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The Register of Bisham, Co. Berks. Baptisms, Burials, Marriages, 1560-1812 by Edgar Powell

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EDGAR POWELL

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The Register

OF

Bisham,

CO. BERKS.

Issued by

THE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY.

(XV.)

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CO. BERKS.

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BURIALS	1560-1812.
MARRIAGES	1560-1812.

TRANSCRIBED AND EDITED BY

EDGAR POWELL.

AND PRINTED BY THE PERMISSION OF THE VICAR,

THE REV. THOMAS EDWARD POWELL.

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LONDON :

PRIVATELY PRINTED FOR THE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY.

1898.

PREFACE.

The parish of Bisham lies in the Hundred of Beynhurst and the County of Berkshire. It is bounded on the west and north by the River Thames, which divides it from the parish of Great Marlow in Buckinghamshire, and on the east and south by the parishes of Cookham, White Waltham and Hurley. The original parish contained two outlying hamlets, one called Stubbings, now separate from the mother parish, and situate on the top of the hill towards Maidenhead Thicket, the other called Temple, which lying on the river has given its name to the Mills and Lock.

The Church, with its chalk built Norman Tower, stands close by the river, and has, as noted in the Register, suffered in consequence from occasional floods.

The Manor of Bisham, after the dissolution of the Monastery here, eventually passed to Sir Philip Hoby, ambassador at the Court of the Emperor Charles V., who was succeeded by his brother Sir Thomas Hoby, ambassador at Paris in 1566. The Hoby family becoming extinct, towards the end of the eighteenth century the Manor and Abbey passed into the hands of G. Vansittart, Esq., whose descendant is the present owner.

The fall of the Monasteries and consequent cessation of such functions as they performed as chroniclers and recorders of local events, may well have drawn attention to the necessity of having some official records of births, deaths and marriages kept in trustworthy hands: but be this as it may, the idea of the official registration of such matters seems to have taken practical form in more than one way during the first half of the sixteenth century.

The first definite step towards the institution of ecclesiastical

registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, seems to have been taken when a Royal mandate was issued by Thomas Cromwell as Vicar-general in 1538, throwing on the parochial clergy the duty of keeping such registers.

At Bisham however this mandate does not appear to have taken effect for some twenty years or more, for it is not till 1560 that our parish register begins.

The first volume is of parchment, enclosed in a cover of the same material; the leaves measure $7\frac{5}{8}$ " \times $11\frac{1}{4}$ " and they are thirty-eight in number being paged in pencil—pp. 1-76. This volume covers the period 1560-1708 for Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; it appears to be complete with the exception of the last leaf which has disappeared and taken with it the burials for 1708, which are thus missing.

The Marriage Register in this volume has only one entry between 1647 and 1660, that being of a marriage in 1655, performed by one Anthony Baxter, a Justice of the Peace, in accordance with the Act of Parliament of 1653.*

All the entries in this volume from 1560 to 1605, *vis.*, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, are written in the same handwriting, and were evidently transcribed from the original records into this parchment book, in accordance with the Canon of Convocation of 1603. This Canon besides directing the Ministers to keep the parish registers, ordered that the earlier records should be transcribed on to parchment, and that copies of the register should be regularly transmitted to the Bishops' Registry.

It may be pointed out here that in this transcript there is an error of a year in the entry of the burial of Sir Thomas Hoby, which is given in the Register as taking place in 1565, whereas he did not die till 1566; his body being brought home from Paris for interment here.

The second volume is also of parchment and is bound in a vellum cover, lettered on the side in gold thus:—

BISHAM.

JAMES HARDING.

ROBERT LAWRENCE.

CHURCH WARDENS.

1708

* By this Act marriages thus performed by a Justice of the Peace were alone to be recognised as legal. Cf. Scobell's *Collection of Acts*, London, 1658.

It contains eighty-four leaves, measuring 8" x 10", the two first and two last being of paper, nine of these are blank, viz., those preceding the register of burials for 1709.

This volume covers the periods as under:—

For Baptisms, 1709-1812 (inclusive).

For Marriages, 1709-1753 "

For Burials, 1709-1812 "

The third volume is of paper bound in brown calf, folio, and lettered MARRIAGE REGISTER, BISHAM, BERKS, 1754; it contains Marriages and banns of Marriage, from May, 1754, to May, 1789.

The fourth volume is also of paper bound in brown calf, folio, and contains Marriages from September, 1789, to November, 1812, and banns of Marriage from July, 1789, to the present time.

Then follow three folio volumes bound alike in parchment and lettered in black on side, "Baptisms," "Marriages" and "Burials". Of these the volumes of Baptisms and Burials begin in 1813 and end in 1849, and the volume of Marriages begins in 1813 and ends in 1837, after these follow the volumes now in use.

There are also, in the custody of the Vicar, two parish rate books giving the names of those who paid to the rates, and a list of the items disbursed. The earlier of these begins in 1769, and ends in 1784; the second begins in 1800, and ends in 1813.

In examining the register for the first half of the eighteenth century one can hardly fail to notice the large number of Marriages celebrated here, in which neither party appear to have had any connection with the parish. Thus taking the twelve years from 1728 to 1739 inclusive, we have altogether sixty-three marriages, and in no less than thirty of these both the parties are described as of places other than Bisham.

With regard to the writing, that of the years 1560-1605 is by far the best, the worst period being the latter part of the seventeenth century. On the whole the register may be described as in very fair order, both as to writing and general condition.

E. POWELL.

List of the Vicars of the Parish of Bisham, taken from the Registry of the Bishop of Salisbury and other authorities as mentioned :—

CLERICUS.	DATE OF INSTITUTION.	PATRON.
Galfridus	(Vicar Oct: 1312. Close Roll 6 Ed II)	
Rogerus de Barneby	3 Non March 1313	King Edward II
Gilbertus Uterny	18 Kal May 1314.	Thomas Earl of Lancaster
Johannes de Est Cleydon	14 Kal Aug 1314 .	Willelmus de Tothale Prior of Hosp: of St John of Jerusalem in England.
Adam de Landputtes	15 Kal. Jan. 1317	The Bishop by lapse
Andreas de Norton	5 Ides May 1320 .	Nicholaus de Segrave Miles
The five preceding clerks appear to have been presented only, owing to dispute as to right of presentation.		
Everardus de Holebech	11 Aug 1334 .	Leonardus de Tybertis Prior of Hosp: of St John of Jerusalem in England
Johannes de la Porte de Bourghton	8 Ides Nov 1335 .	Philippus de Thame Prior of Hosp: of St John of Jerusalem in England.
Johannes Toly	1 May 1351 .	The Bishop
Thomas de Puttenham	11 Oct: 1352 .	Philippus de Thame Prior of Hosp: of St John of Jerusalem in England
Willelmus Shirewode	20 June 1376 .	Robertus Hales Prior of Hosp: of St John of Jerusalem in England
Ricardus Cook	25 July 1386 .	Hildebrand Inge locum tenens of Prior of Hosp: of St John of Jerusalem in England
Nicholaus Chamberleyn. Johannes Orston	19 May 1391 .	ditto.
Ricardus Saundre	15 Oct: 1398 .	Robertus Normanton locum tenens of Prior of Hosp: of St John of Jerusalem in England
Johannes Martyn Robertus Atte Mylle	2 Dec 1412 .	Walter Grendon Prior of Hosp: of St John of Jerusalem in England
Johannes Inglewode	22 Feb 1413 .	ditto
Radulphus Grove	12 Aug 1413 .	ditto
Ricardus Bytham	7 Dec 1414 .	ditto
Johannes May	5 Aug 1417 .	Prior of Hosp: of St John of Jerusalem in England
Johannes Whytebrede	18 Mar 1431 .	Willelmus Hules Prior of Hosp: of St John of Jerusalem in England
Johannes Aston	14 Nov 1439 .	Robertus Malow Prior of Hosp: of St John of Jerusalem in England