

**DIOCESAN  
HISTORIES. CHESTER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649478897

Diocesan Histories. Chester by Rupert H. Morris

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**RUPERT H. MORRIS**

**DIOCESAN  
HISTORIES. CHESTER**



DIOCESAN HISTORIES.

CHESTER

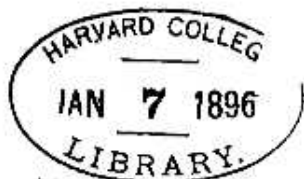
BY THE  
*Rupprecht*  
REV. RUPERT H. MORRIS, D.D., F.S.A.,  
PREBENDARY OF MATHRY IN ST. DAVID'S CATHEDRAL,  
VICAR OF ST. GABRIEL'S, WARWICK SQUARE, S.W.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE TRACT COMMITTEE.

LONDON :  
SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE,  
NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, CHARING CROSS, W.C. ;  
43, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C.  
BRIGHTON : 129, NORTH STREET.  
NEW YORK : E. & J. B. YOUNG & CO.

1895.

*Br 37149*  
~~III 4177-7~~



*Minot fund.*

RICHARD CLAY & SONS, LIMITED,  
LONDON & BUNGAY.

## PREFACE

THE facts recorded in the following pages have been gleaned from many different sources. The valuable collections of manuscripts at the Public Record Office and the British Museum have been of great service. The Visitation Books of the diocese, which were most courteously and generously placed at my disposal by Mr. John Gamon, the Registrar of the diocese, have afforded invaluable information, and much that has been gathered from them is now published for the first time. Selections have been made from the Churchwardens' Accounts of different parishes in the diocese. Peck's *Desiderata Curiosa*, and the volumes of the Chetham Society, have frequently been laid under contribution. Especial thanks are due, and are hereby heartily tendered, to the Rev. F. Sanders for many useful hints, and for permission to make use of his interesting monograph, "Historic Notes of the Bishops of Chester." Free use also has been made of the author's *Chester in Plantagenet and Tudor Times*, in treating of the Abbey of St. Werburgh.





## CONTENTS

### CHAPTER I.

Early traces of Christianity—Alfred's victory—Battle of Chester—Christianity in Wirral—Sandbach, Halton, and Winwick crosses—"The Terror of the Northmen"—Ancient dedications ... .. p. 9

### CHAPTER II.

Benedictine foundations—St. Werburgh's Abbey—St. Mary's Nunnery, Chester—Birkenhead Priory—Hospital for lepers and the infirm—"Hilbre Light"—Austin canons—Cistercian foundations at Stanlawe and Whalley, Combermere, Fulton, and Farness—Architecture of the religious houses ... p. 25

### CHAPTER III.

The Abbey of Vale Royal—The Coming of the friars—Their violent and riotous conduct—Foundations of chantries—Repairs neglected—Hermits and anchorites—Privilege of sanctuary—Churches used for secular purposes ... .. p. 57

### CHAPTER IV.

The Barons' War—Violence to churches and ecclesiastics—Abbots of St. Werburgh's—Ravages of the Black Death p. 79

### CHAPTER V.

Political leanings of the clergy—Waning influence of the Abbot of St. Werburgh—Suppression of monastic houses—Abbot of Norton's Insurrection—The Pilgrimage of Grace—Abbots of Whalley and Sawley hanged—Riotous conduct of the religious ... .. p. 89

## CHAPTER VI.

Foundation of the Bishopric of Chester—Its extent—John Bird, first bishop of the new diocese—Dr. George Cotes—Cuthbert Scott—Visitation articles—Changes in ritual p. 102

## CHAPTER VII.

Vestments and Ornaments in use 1557-1572—The Recusants—Bishop Downham reproved for laxity in enforcing the law—Church fabrics ruinous—Public penance—King's Preachers—Bishop Chaderton—Vigorous measures adopted ... p. 124

## CHAPTER VIII.

Puritanism in Lancashire—Mar-Prelate Press—Non-use of the surplice—Omission of preaching and perambulations—Bishops Hugh Bellot, Richard Vaughan, George Lloyd—Growing importance of the pulpit ... p. 141

## CHAPTER IX.

Social life of the diocese in Tudor and Stuart periods—Chester Mysteries—Midsummer Show—Football prohibited—Wakes, Church-ales, Welsh-weddings—Rush-bearing—Cocking—Bear-baiting—Severity of punishments—Collections for the poor—Child marriages ... p. 159

## CHAPTER X.

Bishop Morton—The *Book of Sports*—Bishop John Bridgman—Efforts to establish order and uniformity—Appropriation of seats—Trials for witchcraft—Visitation of the plague—Recusants dealt with—William Prynne's scurrilous attacks ... p. 178

## CHAPTER XI.

Petition against Root and Branch Bill—The Cheshire Attestation—Protest against seditious preaching—Cheshire clergy deprived—The Engagement—Visits of Commissioners for Pious Uses—Sacrament certificates ... p. 192

## CHAPTER XII.

The Restoration—Bishop Brian Walton's reception—Bishops Henry Ferne and George Hall—Ejected ministers—Warden Heyrick conformed—Sir Geoffrey Shakerley's raids on conventicles—Bishop Wilkins "universally curious"—Incompetent clergy admitted into benefices—"Repetitions"—Nonconforming ministers ordained—Bishop Pearson—Monmouth's rising—Bishop Cartwright ... .. p. 202

## CHAPTER XIII.

The Revolution—Reforms of Bishop Stratford—Society for Reformation of Manners—Sir William Dawes—Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestrensis*—Bishop Peplae—Bishop Keene builds a new Palace—Bishops Markham and Forteus—Sunday Schools and Observance of Sunday—The Shakers—Bishops Cleaver, Majendie, and Sparke—Bishop Law—Augmentation of livings—Restoration of Chester Cathedral—Foundation of St. Bees—Bishop Blomfield—State of diocese ... .. p. 221

## CHAPTER XIV.

Bishop Sumner—Subdivision of the diocese—Bishopric of Manchester—James Prince Lee, first Bishop of Manchester—Bishops James Fraser and James Moorhouse—John Graham—William Jacobson—Foundation of Liverpool See—John Charles Ryle, first Bishop—Bishops Stubbs and Jayne—Sunday Schools ... .. p. 234