

A HUGHENDEN VICAR AND HIS PERAMBULATIONS.

The Reverend John Batchler, A.M., was presented to the Vicarage of Hitchenden, or Hugendon,—now Hughenden,—in 1713 by Philip, Lord Stanhope, eldest son of Philip Stanhope, second Earl of Cheserfield:* He was Vicar for fifty-two years, from his appointment, in the last year of the reign of Queen Anne, until his decease in 1765, the fifth year of King George III.

Mr. Batchler was evidently a man of vigour. He did things, and when done, like Captain Cuttle, he “made a note of it.” He has left behind the record of many interesting events in the parish during his time of office, for he seems to have made it a regular custom to make an entry or memorandum in odd pages of the Parish Register to record any event of importance which he was responsible for in the performance of his duties. The memoranda are entered in Registers III. and IV., and for some part are in his own handwriting, but for the most part in the hand of clerk or some person evidently of education.

The date of his presentation, Aug. 11, 1713, must have found him a young man at the University,—evidently at an interesting period! In Register 3, under christenings, is the entry:—

Ric^d the son of John Batchler Vic^r and Mary his wife, born at Cambridge Aug. 18, and baptised there Aug. 27.

* The Manor of Hughenden passed in 1709 to Lady Elizabeth Dormer, eldest daughter and co-heir of Charles, Earl of Carnarvon. She married, as his third wife, Philip, second Earl of Chesterfield. Their eldest son Philip, Lord Stanhope, and third Earl of Chesterfield succeeded. The latter bequeathed it to his youngest son, Sir William Stanhope, Kt. of the Bath, who in 1738 sold the estate to Charles Savage, a London merchant.

The first perambulation of the bounds of his parish took place in May, 1714. The Perambulation is entered in full at the end of the third volume of the Registers of Christenings, Marriages, and Burials. It is in the handwriting of an educated person, scholarly and clear, and very fairly easy to read.

A Terrior of th^e Antient Bounds and Limits of the Parish of Hitchendⁿ otherwise Hugendon in the County of Bucks Reviewed and Taken by th^e Revnd Mr. John Batchl^r Vicar Ananias Barnaby and John Th^{ed} Churchwardens (et alias) Inhabitants of th^e said parish by their p^erambulation on Monday Tuesday th^e 3^d and 4th days of May 1714, and is enter^d into th^e Register of th^e said parish and Subscribed by th^e Minister and Churchwardens afor^esaid.

* First Began at th^e Cross† on y^e Bank in y^e Road below th^e Gr^{een} from Thence Cross^d over th^e Road and Mr W^m Widmers paddock Straight to Gr^{een} Mead, and thence along my Lord Shelburns ‡ meadow by Gr^{een} Mead hedge including y^e Hedg^e to Chitwell Spring, and through Chitwell Spring into my Lord Shelburns field Clos^e by Mr. Thomas Widmers Chitwell field Hedg^e including th^e Hedg^e So up to Tinkers wood ditch and along Tinkers wood ditch to a Cross in

* The perambulation began at the most southern point of the parish, the boundary stone on the road High Wycombe—Hughenden, and proceeded westward, where the boundary touches Chepping Wycombe, then West Wycombe, and thus on, keeping the adjoining parishes always on the left. The distance would be quite fifteen miles, and fairly rough walking up and down hill. The parishes lying on the bounds of Hughenden are Chepping Wycombe, West Wycombe, Bradenham, Princes Risborough, Monks Risborough, Great Hampden, Great Missenden, Little Missenden, and Penn.

† The "crosses" so frequently mentioned were marks cut in the ground for the most part (though some may have been on boundary stones) to denote the limit of the parish in that particular direction.

‡ Henry Petty, Lord Shelburne, second son of Sir William Petty, created Earl of Shelburne 1709. Lord of the three Manors in Chepping Wycombe, 1700—1751.

Tinkers Lane and along Tinkers Lan^e to a Cottage now inhabited by William Widm^r Clos^e by th^e walls ther^eof but left out th^e sam^e, and so to Thre^e other Cottages Inhabited by John Gutteridge Robt Harris and Robert Adkins clos^e by th^e Walls ther^eof but left th^em out, Thenc^e along th^e ditch by th^e Hedg^e to Rinny Cross wher^e th^e Vicar Re^ad and Mr Thomas Widm^r provided and brought it thither Thenc^e ov^er th^e Comon into th^e Comon wood and so along by th^e Ston^es ov^er th^e bottom to a Mark^d ash on th^e next Bank abov^e now decayed and gone thenc^e Straight to th^e Ditch of th^e next adjoining Comon wood and along th^e same wood by th^e stones to th^e End of th^e wood thenc^e Straight along th^e Common to a Cross near John ashbys Hous^e wher^e Mr. John Morton and Mr. Stennett provided on acc^t of lat^e Mr. Nortons Estat^e.

thenc^e along th^e Common Through Broad pond to a Cross Thenc^e to a Cross by two dells Thenc^e to a Cross on th^e North sid^e of th^e footway which le^ads from old Mr. Wigg's to Braddenham Thenc^e to a Cross by a way which Le^ads from Mooseley House to Braddenham Thenc^e adjourn^d by the same way into Moosley House Hall y^e Estat^e of young Mr. Wigg to y^e Spire* wher^e y^e Vicar Re^ad and Thomas Bampton his Tennant provided and back again by th^e sam^e way to th^e sam^e Cross, thenc^e to a Cross at Davids Hol^e and through Davids Hol^e to another Cross Thenc^e Straight to th^e Corner of Springwells Callins^es Closes and along th^e ditch by y^e sam^e Clos^es to Walters ash Cross wher^e y^e Vicar Re^ad a psalm was sung according to Custome and Ralph Towne provided on y^e acc^t of Mr. Gyl^es Estat^e and lik^ewis^e Andrew Leakey provided on his own acc^t and brought it to y^e Cross, Thenc^e through Jacob James's barn and Straight ov^er his Orchard

* "Spire"—generally a fixed screen near to the door with a seat attached to it; intended to keep the draught from the fireplace. The word is rare nowadays, but more commonly used in the North country.

and Martyn Jam^es's orchard through a pond to an ash on a stubb on the other side Thence Straight over Martyn Jam^es P^eddocks into Northfield at y^e Corner of Hous^e Croft thence all along Northfield leaving the Hedg^e on the left hand down to R^eddings Grove, so to the bottom of Velly up Winchfield Hedg^erows and up Mr. Piddingtons Can^efield wood and Sand pit Clos^e Still leaving the Hedg^e on the left hand, thence to a Cross in Bonnetts, Thence down Great Bonnetts and Little Bonnetts Straight to a Great Cherry tree in the Common, Thence down the Gr^een way to a Cross in the bottom just above the way which leads from North Dean to Sp^een thence adjourn^d into John Fastnidg^es house who provid^d on his Broth^er Edwards acc^t, and then down to upper Hall and Lower Hall otherwis^e Lower North Dean wh^ere William Lan^e Rich^d Wade and John Fastnidg^e provid^d and brought it to y^e Bench in the Str^eet wh^ere w^e Eat and Drank it under W^m. Lan^es Elms and this was Mondays work.

Tuesday morning May th^e 4th Met at upper North Dean wh^ere Robert Burnham Thomas Mason John Field Ananias Wright Thomas Wright and John Jones provid^d and brought it out into y^e Gr^een against Ananias Wrights Thence to y^e Cross w^e left off at wh^en w^e adjourn^d into John Fastnidg^es hous^e Thence Cross the Bottom way directly to the Corn^er of Monk^ewood and along up Monk^ewood ditch to y^e turning off ther^eof on the left hand, Thence along the way Straight forward by som^e mark^d trees on y^e Right hand to a Cross on the Bank just on this side above Brians hous^e So directl^y over D^enner Hill bottom and up D^enner Hill Coppic^e Ditch to N^ew Cross at Denner Hill wh^ere y^e Vicar R^ead and John Mason and y^e widdow Smyth provid^d and Joseph Coleman lik^ewis^e provid^d on Edw^d Ston^es acc^t and brought it to y^e Cross Thence along the ditch in the Comon by John Masons h^edge to Rolls Lan^e and down Rolls Lan^e

to y^e bottom against Mawkins and turn^d along th^e bottom way to Stony Green and thenc^e turn^d into th^e ditch on y^e left hand to a Cross by Mawkins h^edge^e and so along y^e sam^e ditch by som^e mark^d trees to th^e Lan^e which leads from Stony Green into lat^e Gilmor^es Warren and so along y^e Said Lan^e and Highway up through lat^e Gilmor^es Warren by som^e mark^d trees on th^e left hand to a Cross on th^e Right hand of th^e said High way thenc^e along th^e said highway to a mark^d apple tree in th^e h^edge^e on th^e Right hand of th^e said way belonging to th^e uppermost close of th^e said lat^e Gilmor^es Estate adjoining to Prestwood Common Thenc^e Straight over th^e said Close to a Cross in th^e Common just by th^e stil^e Thenc^e along th^e ditch in th^e Common by Tyt^e field Hedge to th^e end of an old Ditch in y^e Common against Geor^ege Beaumonts Hous^e so along th^e sam^e Ditch in y^e Common near th^e Hous^es to y^e End of Knives Lane thenc^e along th^e Ditch in Knives Lan^e next Dish^et Wood till w^e cam^e against Knives Hous^e, wher^e w^e adjourn^d into Knives Hous^e and th^e Vicar Read at th^e Spir^e in th^e Hall wher^e Geor^ege Fry^er provid^d on Mr. Wingfields acc^t and th^en R^eturn^d into th^e sam^e Ditch again and so to a Cross at th^e End of Peterly Lan^e Thenc^e into Ninning wood Ditch and along th^e sam^e by Great Kings Hill Green to Norwood Cross wher^e th^e Vicar Read and John Winter of Knives Lan^e Edward Tucker John Winch Martha Fry^er widow Ananias Barnaby Richard Terry and Robert Dell on lat^e wid Charsley acc^t provid^d and brought it thither, Thence along a way up th^e Common which leads to Lot^emore pond and through th^e sam^e to a Cross on y^e oth^er side thenc^e along an old Ditch up th^e Common to a Cross on th^e further side of London Road wher^e th^e old poll'd Oak formerly stood thenc^e along th^e sam^e ditch to th^e turning ther^eof wher^e ther^e is another Cross, Thenc^e turn^d along in th^e ditch and went to th^e next turning ther^eof

just by the Road which leads from Agmondisham to Cheping Wycomb where there is another Cross, Thence Turned in the same ditch and went down the same (by Agmondisham road) to Deadman Dean bottom. Where we adjourned into Mr. Bisco's House y^e Vicar Read at the Spire in his Hall who should have provided for us there according to Custom but did not (though he Carried provisions for us to the Cross at Hazlemore but there we would not Receive it) Thence back again into Deadman Dean bottom to the Ditch and up the same to a Cross at Hazlmore thence along the side of Green Street next Tarryers hedge to a Cross on the Topp of Green Hill on the Bank between Hollow Lane and Brands Lane Thence Straight over Mr. W^m Widmers Romans Grov^e to a marked Oak in the Hedgrow next his Hill field now Grubbed and a stone there placed, Thence Straight down his Hillfield to an ash marked in his Kitchen field Hedge near the Dell thence over the dell and Knoll Straight down Kitchen field to the Cross in the Road where we began. Thence to Mr. William Widmers House at the Green who provided, Thence to Mr. Batchlers the Vicars who provid^d (only al^e) and So to our own homes.

Witness our hands

J. Batchler Vic^r

Ananias Barnaby

John Theed jun.

} Church Wardens.

There are various entries in Register 3 as to the erection of private seats in the church. Mr. Batchler seems to have allowed this to be freely done. In the extracts given here he voluntarily gives away the Vicarage seat! There is no mention of a faculty, and the arrangement is evidently not approved by a later Vicar.

Register 3. 1716.

Memorandum that in the year of our Lord 1716

Richard Sydenham Gent for Piggotts House.

William Widmer Gent did at their own Charge
Equally Between them Erect a new Seat in the

parish Church of Hugendon in the County of Bucks in the place where the Vicarage Seat was (by the Voluntary Resignation and Consent of Mr. John Batchler Vicar and by the Consent of John ffastnidge and Richard Terry Churchwardens of the aforesaid parish the Same ffasteing the Ministers reading desk and pulpit and being noways incommoding to any person in the parish whatsoever) In Testimony whereof we have hereunto Set our hands

J. Batchler Vic^r

John ffastnidge

} Church Wardens.

Leaf stuck in cover of Register 4. 1740.

Whereas a Pew was erected in the Parish Church of Hitchenden in the County of Bucks opposite to the Pulpit in the year 1716 at the expense of Richard Sydenham late of Piggotts Esq^r and William Widmer late of the Green Gent. and the said Pew not being large enough and sufficient to contain the familys of the above mentioned houses Richard Warre Esq^r sole Executor and Representative of the said Richard Sydenham has for the use and convenience of himself and family with the advice and consent of us the Minister and Church Wardens of the Parish of Hitchenden built and erected at his own cost and charge a gallery on the North Side of the said Church, the same being in no way incommodious to any person or persons claiming by custom or otherwise a Seat in the said Church: reserving to himself a right for him or his family to sit in the Pew over against the Pulpit as he or they shall think proper, and in the same manner as they used to do before this gallery was erected. To obviate and prevent any dispute which may hereafter arise from any Claimant to the said Gallery or Pew, we have thought proper to enter this memorandum into our Parish Register, in Testimony whereof we have set our hands

the Seventh Day of June in the Year of our Lord, 1740.

John Batchler Vicar
 John Anthony } Churchwardens

Loose leaf in Churchwardens' Box., 1829.

It appears, from the Memorandum of Rev^d J. Batcheler, and Mr. John Anthony, dated June 7. 1740 that the Pew claimed by Mr. Hussey of the Green, in behalf of that Farm, is free for him to sit in conjointly with the Inhabitants of Piggotts Farm. but inasmuch as the said Pew could not be legally alienated from the Parish, so as to become the private Property of any Individuals, by the above named John Batcheler, and John Anthony, nor without a regular Faculty having been obtained, the Churchwardens for the Time being have doubtless a right to place in it any Persons they may think fit during the Periods of divine Service, whenever it shall remain unoccupied by either of the Parties claiming a Right in it, or by their friends, at the Termination of the first Lesson.

Fredk. Vincent, Vicar.*

May 21. 1829.

Mr. Batchler leaves the following—written amongst the unused pages of the 3rd Register in his own hand:—

Memorandum.

The Ellms before the Vicarage House of Hitchenden in the County of Bucks were planted by the Vicar John Batchler at his own expence by leave from Mr. Spencer who rented the Farm then of the R^t Hon^{ble} The Earl of Chesterfield. And the other Ellms leading from the Farm Yard to Church Field Gate were also

* Frederick Vincent, Vicar of Hughenden, 1825—1835, presented by John Norris, Esq., whose daughter and co-heir, Louisa, he married in 1826. Resigned 1835. Succeeded cousin as 11th Bart., 1880.

planted by the said Vicar J. Batchler at his own expence in the Year 1734. The Little Garden before the Vicarage House was also wall'd in at the expence of the said Vicar J. Batchler, Mr. Tho Spencer being then dead and the Vicar J. Batchler one of his Executors and occupying the Farm upon Lease for the use and benefit of Mr. Spencers Children.*

N.B. The Ellms before the Vicarage House were planted February 13, 1723. And the other Ellms leading from the Farm Yard to the Brick Wall and those Ellms leading from the said wall to Church Field Gate were planted in the Year 1734 by

J. Batchler Vicar.

Again, in a short entry in the same volume:

Memorandum. John Batchler Vic^r of this Parish did at his own cost and charge plant the Six Ellms before the Vicarage House and erect those Rails wherein they are enclosed in Feb 1723. This was done by leave of Thomas Spencer Tenant to y^e Earl of Chesterfield y^e ground on which they are planted being part of his Farm. The same year The Cellar was sunk and built at the charge of J. Batchler as also The Passage or Entry which leads to y^e Pantry.

Most of the Elms still stand, and the additions to the Vicarage House have been doubtless to the convenience of many Vicars since 1723.

In 1725 the Vicar of Hughenden became a pluralist, becoming Rector of Radnage, January 22, on the presentation of George I.

At the end of "Marriages" in Register No. 3:

In the year 1728 Mr. Archdeacon Claget made a Parochial Visitation and ordered The Churchwardens to buy a new Register of Parchment

*The Manor House, then a building of moderate size, was the farm house. "A Map of an Estate at Hitchenden, the Property of Samuel Savage, Esqr., Surveyed in the year 1765" shows the farmyard in front of the house, the rickyard, etc., being where the stables now stand, and the acreage about 400.

so that This Register will be used no more. Vide The new Parchm^t Register for y^e Time to come—which commences at Lady Day 1729.

John Batchler Vicar.	} Churchwardens.
Tho Spencer	
William Pissey	

The Communion Table was railed in in this year 1734.

John Batchler Vicar	} Churchwardens.
Ananias Barnaby	
John Theed	

In the year 1738 Mr. Batchler made his Second Perambulation. It is set down in full in the same handwriting as the First. Not in the Parish Register, but as a separate document deposited in the Churchwardens' Box. It is entitled "A Terrior of the parish of Hughenden Bucks made in the year 1714 and Renewed again in 1738." The whole of the Perambulation of 1714 is set down exactly as before, and then follows—

All th^e afor^esaid Bounds and Limits wer^e p^erambulat^d again Monday and Tu^esday ye 8th and 9th days of May 1738 and thos^e that provid^d for Th^e Same wer^e as follow^eth for Monday May 8th

At Rinny Cross th^e Vicar R^ead Thomas Widm^er Gent^ln of Hughendon Hous^e

At the Cross by John Ashbys the Vicar R^ead, Mr. John Wise and Mr. William Ball on acc^t of Mr. John Morton and Mr. Thomas Flight

At Moosley House the Vicar R^ead Thomas Bampton on acc^t of Mr. Ives at Walters ash Cross the Vicar R^ead and a psalm sung Thomas Leaky on his own acc^t and Jacob Jan^es on Mr. Ge^org^e Pyl^es acc^t

At John Fastnidg^es Hous^e, John Fastnidg^e on his Broth^er Edward Fastnidg^es acc^t

At Lower North Dean, Richard Warr^e Esq^re and Thomas Fastnidg^e at th^e Bench in th^e Street under Mr. Warr^es Elm^s

Those that provided for our perambulation on Tuesday May 9th 1738 were as followeth

At upper North Dean in the morning at Breakfast Ann^e W^eden widow Jeffery M^eans Thomas M^easson Robert Wright John Ives and George Jones and Brought it out to a Table Set in the Green against John Ives's House, where was a Great Chair Set with a Canopy of flowers erected for Mr. Batchler the Vicar, also two more Great Chairs dressed up with flowers for the Churchwardens, Musick playing and dancing in the Green all Breakfast time and attending us playing quite through all along up the Dean.

At New Cross at Denner Hill the Vicar Read Joseph Coleman on John Stones' acct Thomas ffox and Payne Dean on William ffr^ees acct and John Mason on his own acct.

at Knives House adjourn'd into the Hall to ye Spire there where the Vicar Read and Tho M^eans provided on Mr. Wingfields acct.

at Norwood Cross at Kingshill Green the Vicar Read John Horwood for late Wint^rs on Edw^d M^eads acct. ffrancis Burnham.

Hatch^es House the Tenn^{ts} were Excused in Regard Mr Warr^e provided for us So Bountifully at Lower North Dean the Day before.

Richard Terry on Mr. Wingfields accompt and also on his own Mrs. Dormer widow and Robert Dell on their own acct^s Francis Hearn on Francis Barnabys acct and we sent to Henry Tofield to provide for his hous^e according to Antient Custom and Send it to the Cross as his Neighbours had Done but he absolutely Refus^d, so Mr. Batchlor Vicar and the Churchwardens sent him word he must expect to answer his Refusal in the Spiritual Court.

from the Cross at Deadman Dean Bottom we adjourned into Copshrows House* to the Spire in the Hall where the Vicar Read and Moses Taylor provided on St^ephen Woodbings acct

* Now Hazlemere Park.

from the Cross below the Green where we Ended our procession and began on Monday morning we went into the Green House where Mr. John Widmer provided plentifully for us. at night called in at Mr. Batchlors the Vicars house who provided only Ale for us and So to our own^e hom^es.

There is this interesting entry in Mr. Batchler's handwriting on a page in Register 3 after the Marriage entries. Above it is written in pencil "Garden part of ye Churchyard. Cool hand!"—evidently by some later Vicar.

1752. I gave leave to John Seymor y^e Parish Clark to take a piece of rough ground out of y^e Church yard to enlarge y^e garden which Mr. Jenkins my predecessor* gave to Mathew East y^e Clark. I gave leave also to Mary Cranaway to enclose a little garden next to her house in y^e Church Yard. I gave Seymor y^e Clark leave to take into his garden Two apple Trees wch I had grafted in y^e Church Yard. This inclosure was made March 26, 1752.

N.B. These 2 Gardens may be thrown out again into y^e Church Yard whenever I or any of my Successors Vicars of Hitchenden shall think fit.

John Batchler Vic^r.

These enclosures in the Churchyard existed until the "seventies," when it took the united efforts of the Rev. Henry Blagden and Archdeacon Randall to evict the Clerk, and "throw out" the gardens again into the Churchyard. The Clerk never forgave them. He considered he had a freehold!

Last phase of all. Register 4, Burials—
1765. The Rev^d Mr. Batchler—Vicar—Buryed in Woollen. April 18.

One likes Mr. Batchler. One would like to know more of him. Fifty-two years Vicar of Hughenden: 'tis a long time. May he rest in peace.

CONINGSBY DISRAELI.

* John Jenkins, Vicar 1687—1713.