

St Cyr's Church Timeline

A list of vicars and their dates can be seen on the church wall next to the main door.

1225

In 1225 the church was under the patronage of the Abbess and Convent of Elstow in Bedfordshire. An earlier church may have been given by William De Ow, who held Stonehouse Manor at the time of the Domesday Book in 1086, to his cousin Judith who founded the Abbey in 1078.

The first recorded vicar was Sir Geoffrey in 1225.

There is evidence of Norman architecture which was incorporated in later buildings, indicating that the present church may have been founded as early as 1100. Most of the Norman remains were lost during the rebuild of 1854, but there may be a Norman arch at the North door and the font was recreated in the Norman style. There is still a mason's mark in the tower which is said to date from before 1300.

1300s

The church was probably rebuilt. The existing tower dates from the 14th century.

1400s

During the 15th century the top of the tower was added, the square stair turret and other additions were made to the building (15th century window in the nave)

1500s

The Reformation of the Roman Catholic Church began and the Protestant Church developed.

1533

A vicarage existed on church land at Quietways. It was rebuilt on the same site in 1684.

*A drawing of
The Vicarage, Stonehouse
1854.*

*This building was demolished
and a new one built in 1858.*

*The 1858 vicarage was sold
in 1954 and it eventually
became flats.*



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c1540 The patronage of St Cyr's was taken over by the Crown. It remains a "Crown Living" today. Technically the vicar should be appointed by the Crown but that duty has been suspended.

Elizabeth Tudor became Queen of England.

1558 The church kept registers of christenings, baptisms, marriages and burials in the Parish Chest. The earliest surviving register is a later transcript of a lost original, with the first entry on 16th June 1558 (St Cyr's Day).

Stonehouse manor was bought by two local clothiers William Sandford and William Fowler. Edward Fowler, William's brother, was the vicar. The Sandfords and the Fowlers farmed the land of Stonehouse vicarage.

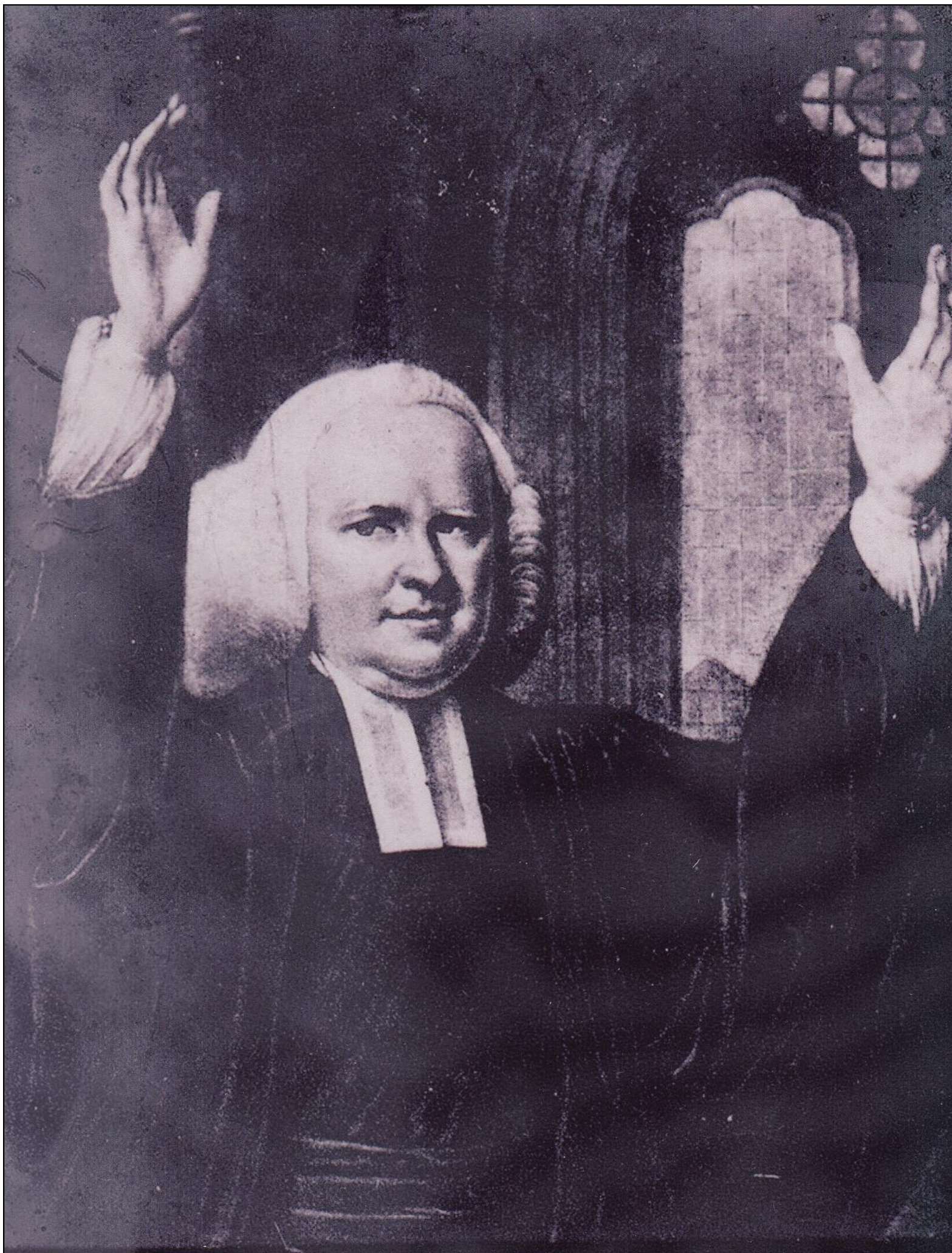
1642 — 1651 The English Civil War. The Royalist vicar John Norris was replaced by "dissenters" but reinstated after the war.

1690 — 1720 Many repairs were done to the church building including a new roof. By 1703 five church bells had been acquired to make a set of six . Four of the bells are dated 1636 and it is said that they came from Eastington Church.

1727 Samson Harris became vicar. He was a popular man who increased the size of the congregation so that the church needed to be enlarged. In 1746 an extension was built on the south side of the church for which the stone was brought from Doverow Hill quarry.

Harris left his library of books to the parish but they no longer exist.

1737 George Whitefield took charge for two months while Rev Samson Harris was away. He attracted large crowds to hear him preach.



GEORGE WHITEFIELD
took charge for two months, 1737, during incumbency of
Rev. Samson Harris.

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1763

John Pettat took over as rector and vicar. He resigned as vicar in 1798, when his son Thomas Pettat took over, but remained as rector until his death in 1811.

c1775

John Pettat had to negotiate with the Canal Company who wanted to cut the Stroudwater Canal through a portion of the churchyard. He agreed to sell them part of the churchyard and another piece of church land near Bridgend. The canal cut across the south side of the old burial ground.

The canal from Framilode through Stonehouse to Stroud, was built between 1775 and 1779.

This engraving from 1781 shows one of the first canal boats travelling past the church.

The extension on the South side of the church, built in 1746, can be seen.



“Stonehouse Church and the Stroudwater Canal”
from an engraving by T. Bonner, c.1781.

Drawn and Engraved by T. Bonner.

1775

Foundation of a charity school at the Swan Inn (Orchard House) There are wall plaques over the church door with names of the benefactors, erected in 1808 by John Pettat. The church encouraged literacy and education and became involved in local government.



1811

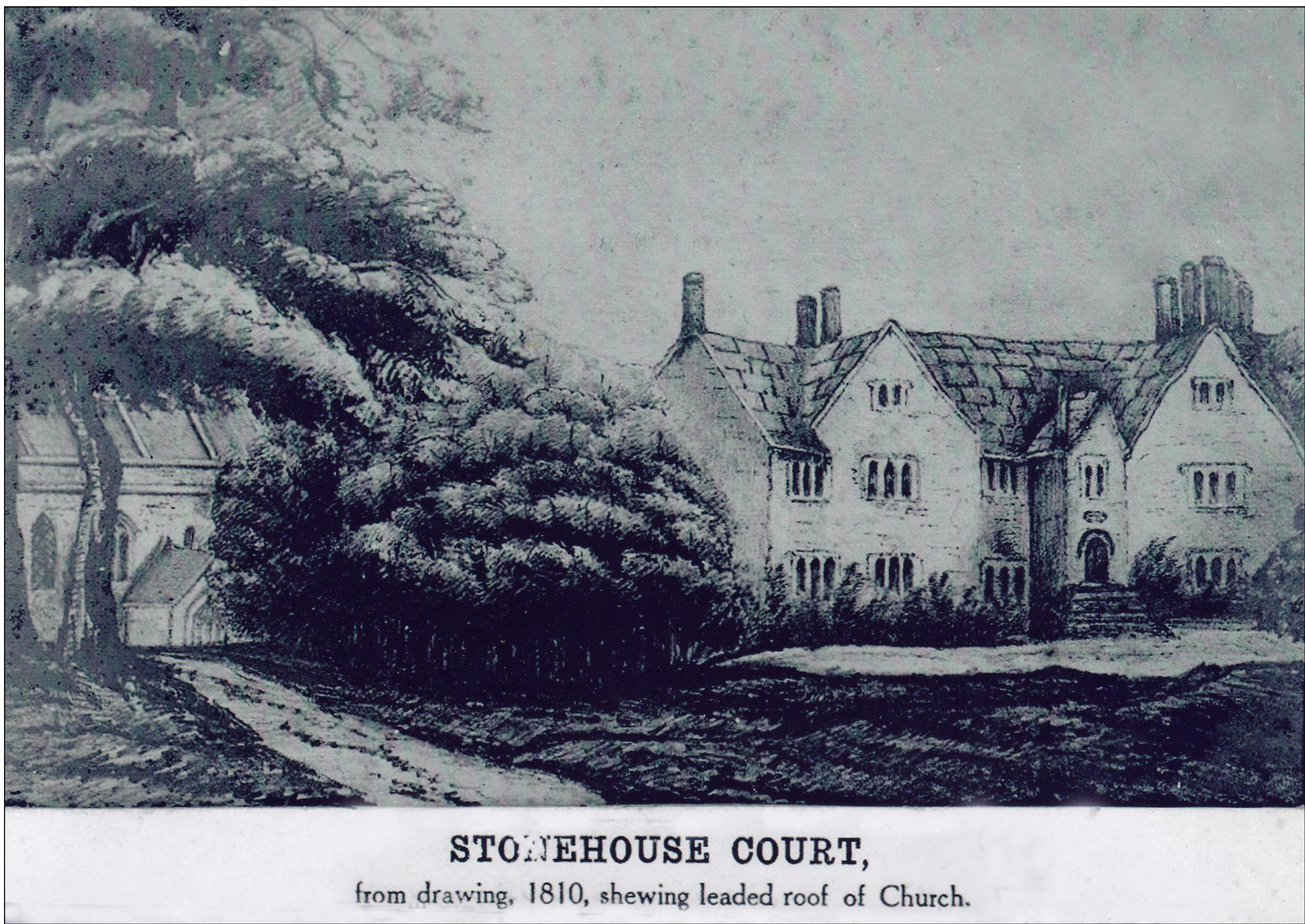


Funeral Hatchment of Rev John Pettat, M.A., 1811

Funeral hatchment of Rev John Pettat.

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1810



The Church was closely connected to the Manor House as shown by this drawing. The path to the North door of the church is through the manor grounds. This was later diverted to create Church Lane and boundary walls built.

1826 - 1861



Henry Cripps was vicar. He oversaw the rebuilding of the church in 1852 and rebuilt the vicarage in 1858, but he left the running of the parish to curates.



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1835

A lithograph of the church in about 1835 before its rebuilding.

There is a model of the church made at about the same time, probably by John Bellamy.



1852

The main body of the old church was demolished and a new building constructed in the same style. The original tower was kept and some of the older features incorporated in the new building e.g. the Norman arch over the North interior doorway, medieval windows, part of the font. The main part of the font was copied from the old by local stone mason William Taylor. The new church was completed in 1854. Some ancient items were preserved such as the Breeches Bible and the chest but many items were sold or disappeared.

1884

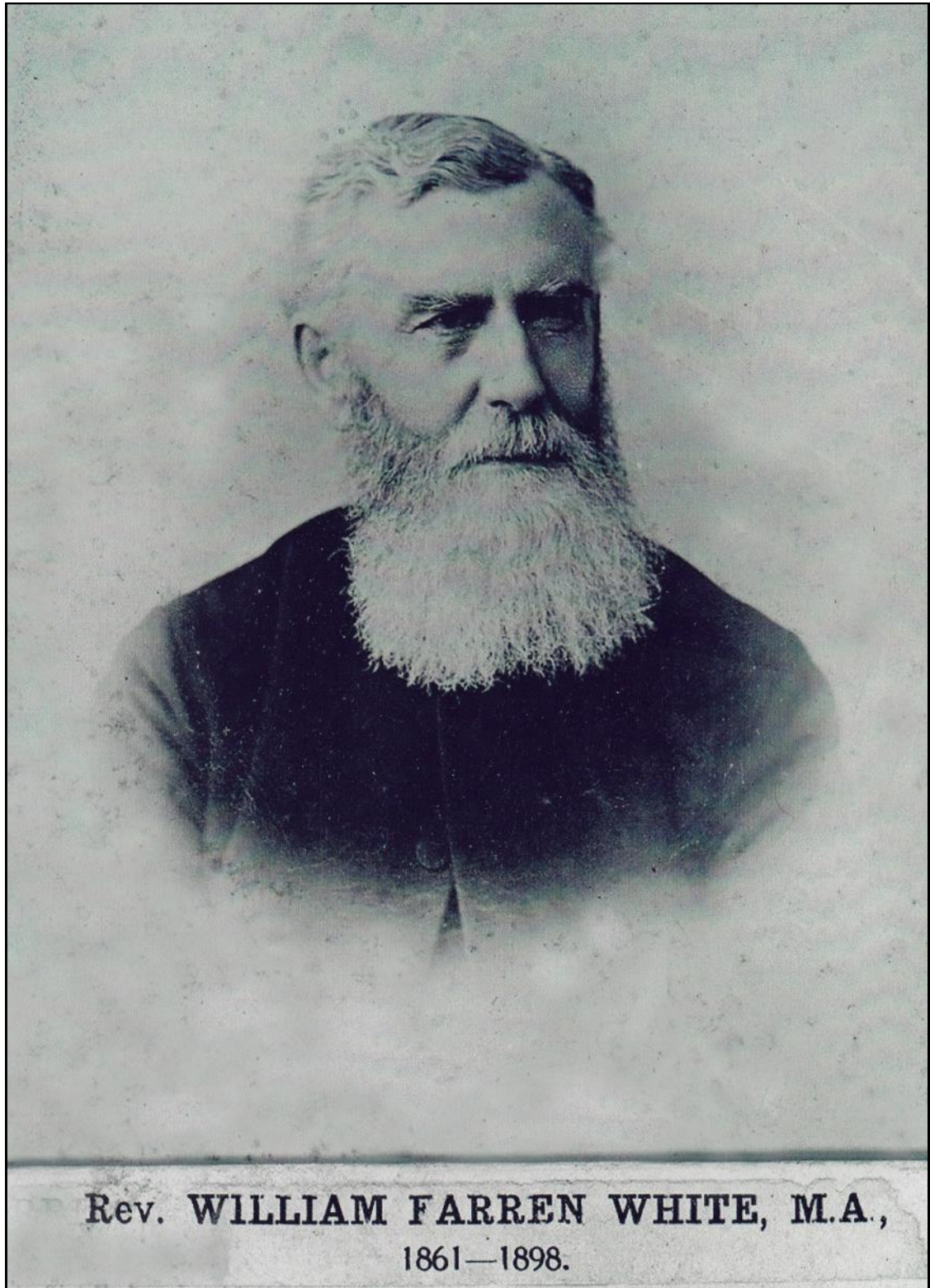
In 1884 the church was restored and enlarged.



*Photo
c1912*

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1900s With the creation of Parish Councils, the church became less involved in local government and reverted to its spiritual and moral role.



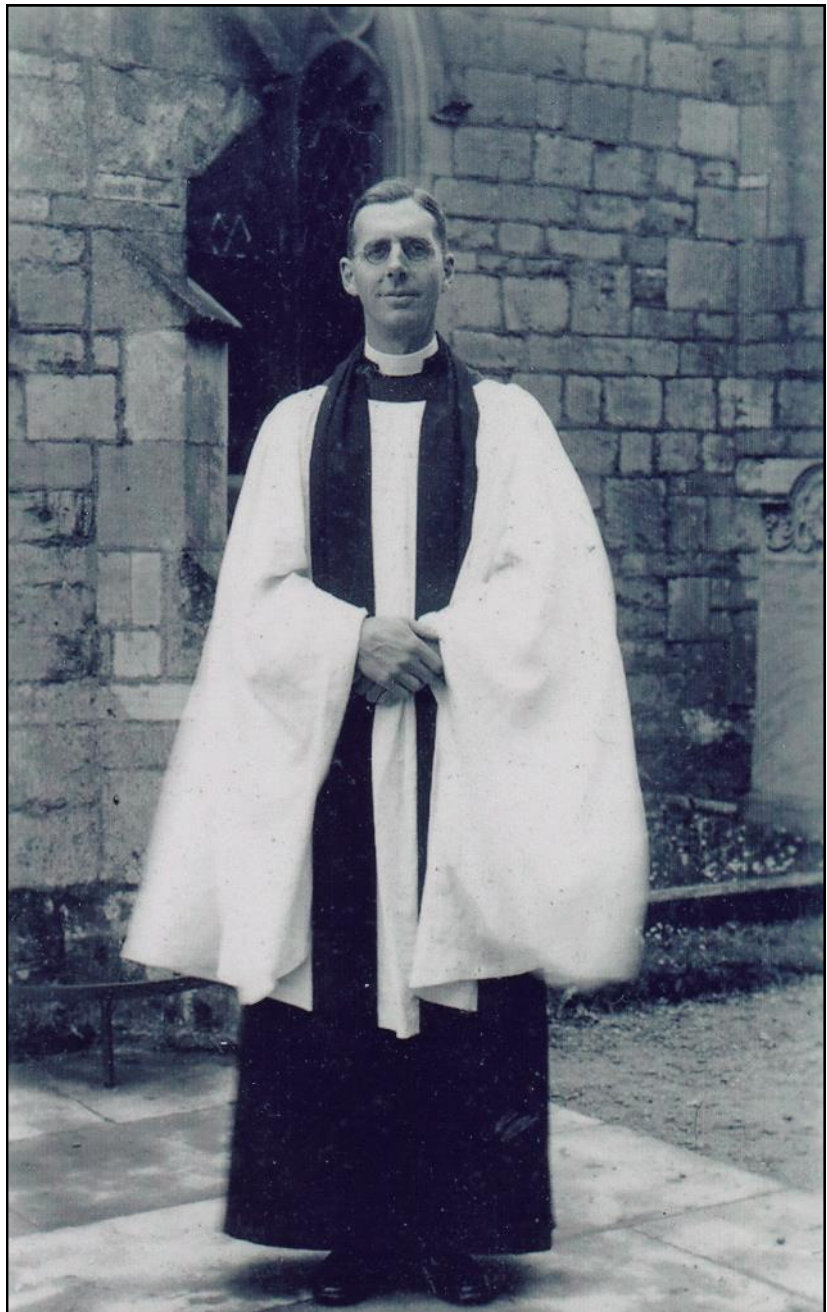
William Farren White
1861 - 1899)
was a well-known local
naturalist and wrote “Ants
and their ways”.



Rupert Waugh
1911 - 1920
spent some time as a
chaplain to the Forces in
the Great War.



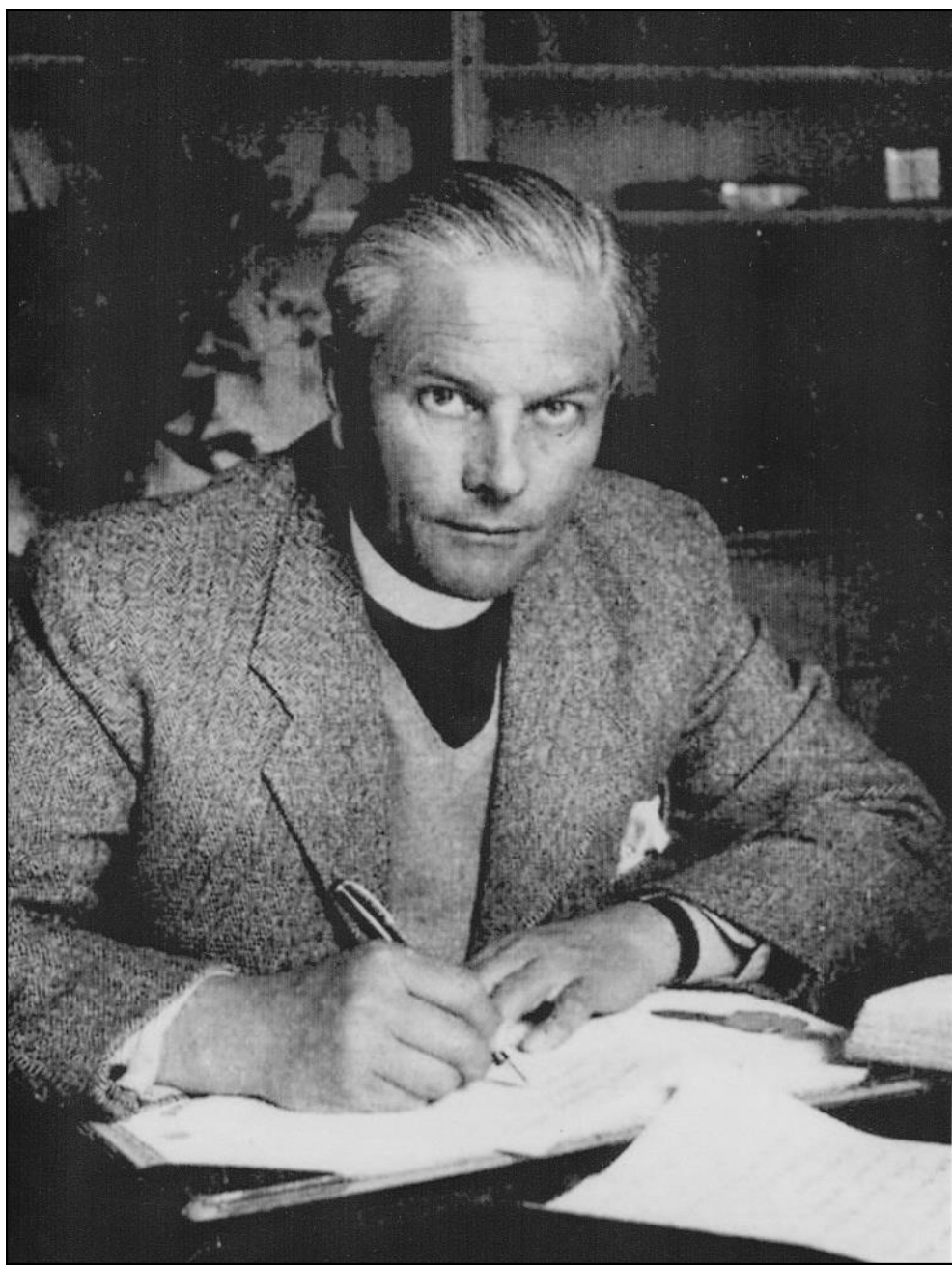
Leonard Dawson
1920 - 1937



Geoffrey Highmore
1937 - 1949



Frank Springford
1949 - 1954



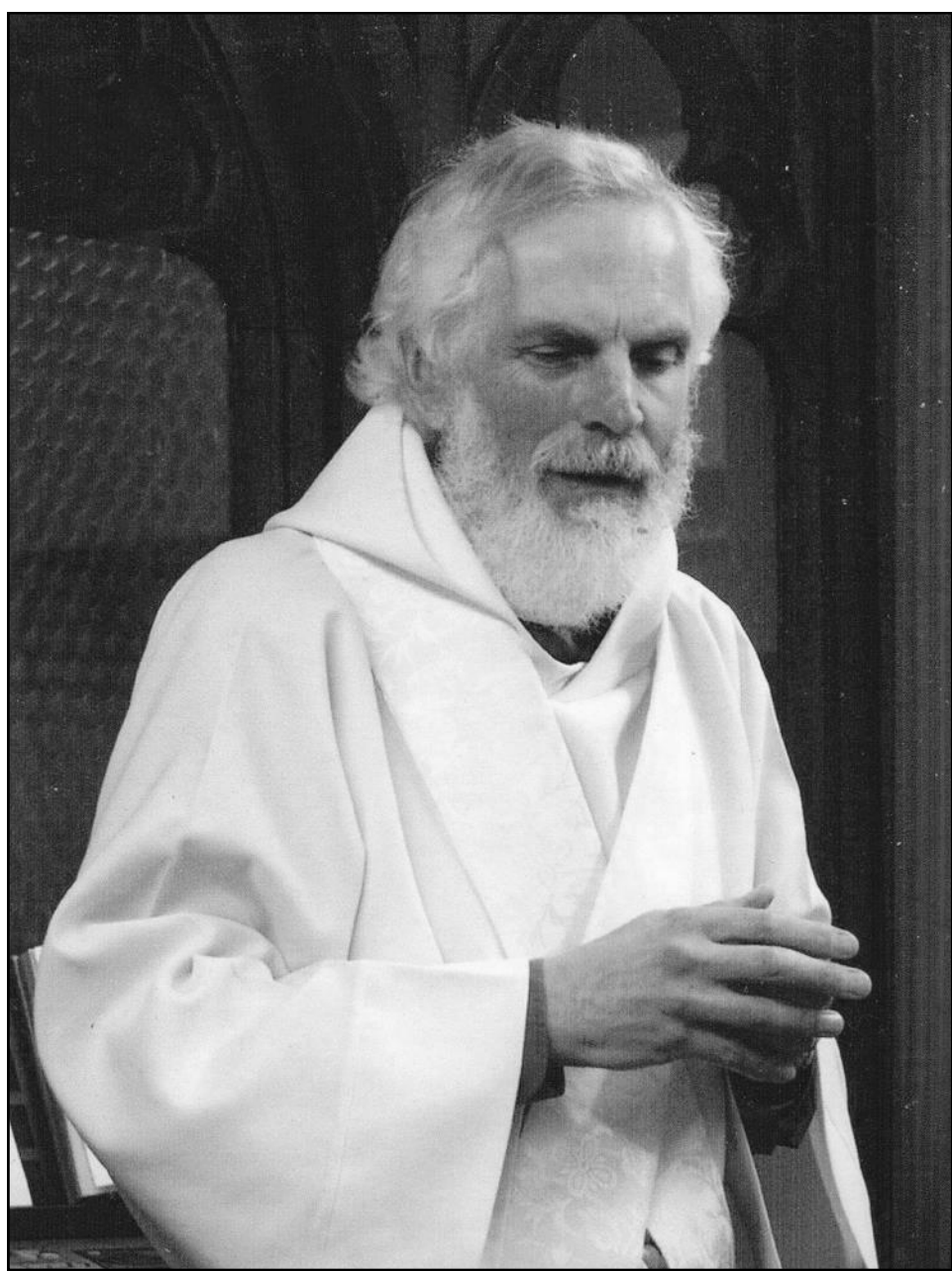
Hilary Way
1955 - 1968



Lionel Ford
1968 - 1982



James Harris
1982 - 2002



Charles Minchin
2003 - 2018