

Willhelmus de S. Edmundo Rector de Living  
 A.D. 1250. et seqq. annis: qui in carta quorundam  
 Edwardi R. A.D. 1214. videtur esse de Beke  
 T. huius fuit compositioni inter Edmunden Archieps.  
 Simonem Archieps Cant. et abbatem S. Augustini  
 A.D. 1237. vide librum nigru Archieps Cant. fol. 93  
 Dnus Philippus hunc temporis Vicarius de Beakesborn.  
 Helias hunc temporis Capellanus de Livingestorn.  
 Willhelmus de Suthfolk Clericus, ejusdem provincie cur  
 pmo de ste Edmundo sc. apud Buriam in agro Salf  
 -ciensi  
 Laurentius dictus Le Well de Livingestorn Acolythus  
 habet litteras dimissorias ad omnes sacros ordines ad  
 sibiolum Prioris et Conventus S. Gregorij Cant. Jul. 15.  
 die Dec. A.D. 1357. Ex Regro Cant.  
 Dnus Johannes de Eylon Lincoln. Dioc. presbyter habet  
 litteras institutionis ad Vicariam Ecclesia de Livinges-  
 -burn in Cant. Dioc. Jan. 18. A.D. 1383. Ex Regro Can.  
 Resignavit idem A.D. 1362. Post cujus Resignatione  
 Wilhelmus Wigge ad eandem Vicariam admittus sc. Jan. 2.  
 1362. qui et pmutavit cu Vicario de Patrickstori-  
 et p hanc pmutatione dimissio Beneficiorum  
 Simon Hitch, Vicaria de Patrickstorn dimissa, <sup>admissa</sup> ~~collata~~  
 q ad Vicariam de Beakesborn 4. Jul. Octobr. 1372  
 Marmaducus Smith institutus erat ad pmutationem  
 R. et R. Philippi et Mariae (sede hunc vacante per  
 deprivationem Thomae Cranmer Archieps Cant.)  
 A.D. 1553. Ex Autograph. Presentationis  
 duxit in prorem



# The Church in the Garden

A list of appointments to the cure of Beakesbourne, written by  
 Nicholas Batteley, Vicar, in the 17th century. The list is in  
 the back of a leather-bound vellum book - the first of the many  
 Records of Baptism, Marriage and Funeral services held in St.  
 Peter's Church, Beakesbourne.



The interior of St. Peter's, following the restoration work of the late 19th century. Gas lighting followed the oil lamps, and electricity replaced that in the 1960's, when the screen was moved to the west end of the church providing the view now as on page 1.

Son-et-Lumiere was suggested to the PCC when it was decided to have the church records examined prior to their being deposited in the Cathedral archives. It was appropriate because a great variety of voices could be used, speakers having a special connection with St. Peter's church.

Because of the success of this entertainment it was proposed to issue the script in this form as a guide to the history of the building, using many of the church records as illustrations.



Ledger stone to Nicholas Batteley, Vicar, who died May 19th, 1704 at the age of 55. His wife Anne has a ledger stone of her own nearby.

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*Text drawings by:* Pleasance Kirk

## The Church of ST. PETER'S, Bekesbourne



Its history as told  
in a Son-et-Lumiere  
held in September 1974

# SON-ET-LUMIERE



*The soundtrack starts with a fanfare, the lights dim, and the Prologue by the Archbishop is heard. This is followed by complete silence, and blackness. Then —*

Commentator: The bells of St. Peter's Church, sounding out across the lanes and fields of Bekesbourne — sounding out across the years with their joy and their praise.

The bells we hear now have hung in the tower but a century, but bells were there before, sounding back across time, before the Reformation; and before that Christian voices right to Roman times and Saint Augustine.

How did Bekesbourne begin, and why the name "Bekesbourne". Bourne was the name of the river, and each of the settlements on it; Bishopsbourne, Patixbourne and Bekesbourne, were named after the head men of each community. The village was still just Bourne when the Domesday Book was compiled in 1080. We can visualise the King's Commissioner and his clerk on horseback riding down towards the village from the city of Canterbury.

*We hear horses approach.*

Commissioner: Whoa! So — we are coming to the settlement of Bourne. Can you tell me master Clerk what returns have been made there?

Clerk: it is a village of some size my Lord. There are two and twenty five villeins listed, farming nearly thirty acres each. There are four borderers or smallholders as well; and they say six slaves — if none has been sold in the market.

Commissioner: A goodly place. I see the river ahead is broad. Do they have many boats?

Clerk: Yes, my Lord. They are rated half a fishery as they are close to the sea and can sail across the channel to Thanet Isle. To your right you can see the river has been used for a water mill to grind the corn. They also have a saltpit since the sea has been drained from part of their lands.

Commissioner: Indeed! They will pay a fair tax. What is that wooden building up the hillside beyond the house?

Clerk: A chapel, my Lord.

Commissioner: And well may they use it for their Saxon orisons master Clerk, with the Bishop of Bayeux their landlord, to stripe their backs if the work is not up to satisfaction. Come, let us ride down to the river.

*They ride away.*



Commentator: After much other work, at the age of 73, Dr. Beke left England again to search for the true site of Mount Sinai. This, he established to his satisfaction, to be Mount Barghir in Arabia. On his return to Kent, he died the following year — suddenly — and was buried near the West Door of St. Peter's, Bekesbourne; a coming home he would not have regretted.

*A passing bell tolls.*

During the 19th century the church suffered badly from neglect and badly needed repair. In 1881 the Annual Vestry reported . . .

Secretary: June 23rd. At a meeting of the Building Committee, as appointed in the year 1877, it was resolved that the said committee be dissolved, and that the funds standing in the name of the said committee should be transferred to the Vicar for the time being.

Commentator: Luckily the Vicar who was inducted into the living later that year was the Reverend H. J. Wardell, who set about restoring the church with unbounded energy and loving care. The altar was raised to its original level, the roof replaced, choir stalls built and six bells hung in the tower. The work was continued until an Archdeacon's Visitation could report . . .

Archdeacon: July 27th, 1898. Visited Bekesbourne Church this day and found everything in good condition. An inventory of church goods and furniture ought to be kept. Signed: James H. Carr, Archdeacon.

*Piano interlude music.*

Commentator: The 19th and early 20th century brought the outside world sharply into focus at Bekesbourne. In the mid 19th century the London Chatham and Dover Railway had driven its lines through the village street and across the valley on a great embankment, on which many navvies toiled with spade and panniered donkey. A number of the railwaymen stayed to live in the area.

Churchwarden: December 16th, 1860. Anne, the daughter of William and Anne Tinsley of Bekesbourne, he being Superintendent of Railway Labourers, was baptised.

1860	December	16	No. 584	Anne	daughter of	William & Anne	Tinsley	Bekesbourne	Superintendent of Railway Labourers	J. Wardell	Vicar
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August 4th, 1861. Adams Charles, the son of Joseph and Caroline Foster of Bekesbourne, he being a Railway Engine Fireman, was baptised.

Commentator: Having fast and efficient access to Canterbury and further afield made a great difference to the lives of those in Bekesbourne. The Great War came home in a particular way to the village, for besides all the menfolk enlisting and the countryside stripped of labour for the harvest; in June 1916 the Air Force formed 50 Squadron which was based at a hurriedly constructed airfield beyond Chalkpit Farm on the level downs. The airmen, flying small twin-seater biplanes, patrolled the coastline of Kent, and were so successful in destroying enemy attackers that the Germans bombed Bekesbourne repeatedly on their longer journeys at attack London with aircraft and zeppelins.

Commentator: The 19th century dawned bright and promising in Bekesbourne. The industrial development of the Midlands was a world away. For the quiet farming lands beside the Nailbourne life was steady and rewarding. Writing her grandmother's memories, E. M. Almedingen quotes Ellen Southee as a girl at Cobham Court.

Ellen: Although the house sprawled and had a high sounding name, its flowers were those to be seen round any cottage in Bekesbourne: china roses, hollyhocks, nasturtiums, moon daisies, sweet William, love-in-the-mist. The paths were mossy and twisted most enchantingly. Its orchard of plum, apple, cherry and pear stood right at the back and sloped down to a lane reached by crossing a brook. The orchard and the grounds were cared for by Sam. Sam came from Sturry, a short man with a weatherbeaten face who had lost one arm at Trafalgar.

Commentator: War was distant in those times, but the unrest among the farm labourers of the 1830's came close to home.

Ellen: Well do I remember the last Sunday in August 1830. Parson Eden had the bells rung but nobody ventured out of doors that day. Two barns had been set on fire at Bridge, and a farmer at Wingham had had some of 'the dratted machines' broken up. Farm labourers and others held a meeting at Patrixbourne. At Cobham Court my father ordered all the shutters to be closed, and he and his men were on guard at the gates. But the day went on. Men, sent by my father to Patrixbourne, brought back a reassuring report; all was quiet there. Indeed, the story of burned down barns at Bridge proved to be a false tale concocted by a nephew of Mrs. Mercer's chiefly, so we all thought, to satisfy his aunt's passion for the horrific.

Commentator: The agricultural unrest died down; and soon afterwards there came to live in Bekesbourne, in the Gatehouse of the Old Palace, the controversial author and traveller, Doctor Charles Tilstone Beke. He came of the ancient Kentish family which had given its name to the village six hundred years before. In 1840, Dr. Beke set out on a journey to Abyssinia to do three things he hoped; open up commercial trading, abolish the slave trade and discover the sources of the Nile. As a result of this venture, in 1846 . . .

President: Dr. Beke, your journey has resulted in making known for the first time the true physical structure of Abyssinia and eastern Africa generally. You fixed by astronomical observations the latitude of more than seventy stations, Sir, and mapped upwards of fourteen languages and dialects spoken in that country.

This was magnificent work! And I have much pleasure in awarding you the gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society.

*Applause.*

Commentator: He journeyed further and later wrote . . .

Beke: I can confirm the truth of my previous contention respecting the interior of Africa as that of Captain Burton and the other travellers, that the dark continent possesses fertile and genial regions, large rivers and lakes, and an immense population which — if not civilised — is yet endowed with kindly, humane and industrious habits. I therefore press upon the British merchant, as well as the Christian missionary, the necessity of opening up the continent of Africa and civilising its inhabitants.

Commentator: A thriving community, but one with a chapel; only a small wooden building erected by the Saxons. It was the work of the invaders, the Normans, which began the stone structure we know today.

In the year 1180, a hundred years after Domesday Book, the chapel was called St. Peter de Bourne. It had become an important place with a Rector, the first we know about — called Michael — and Eustace de Bourne, the Lord of the Manor, consulted him before passing over the administration of the church to the Canons of St. Gregory in Canterbury. The church remained in their control until the Reformation.

You must remember that this was a Catholic religion, the liturgy in Latin. What would have been sung in those days we know.

*Men's voices are heard singing plainsong "Gaudeamus omnes . . ."*

Commentator: In 1314 James de Bourne founded a chantry where masses were said for the dead. The chantry priests were given a house, twenty four acres of land to farm and a rent of six shillings and eightpence per annum. In return they said mass for the souls of the dead. But the funds for this fell so low that in 1362 Batholomew de Bourne joined the chantry to East Bridge Hospital in Canterbury, so that a priest would take special services on the festivals of St. Michael and St. Peter, Christmas and Whitsun. Writing of this time a Vicar of Bekesbourne five hundred years later said:

Pyper: Picture someone coming to church on a Festival. He comes in by the old Norman door, stops at the Holy Water stoup to cross himself, and then goes up the church into a blaze of light — lights on the altar — lights on the screen before the Holy Cross — lights before St. Mary, St. Peter and St. Nicholas. The Priest at the altar wears a costly and beautiful vestment, and the altar is furnished with treasures which are kept in the two aumbries, or cupboards, behind the altar, which are a marked feature of the church. This is not an imaginary story; it is based on old wills, eight of which have been noted.

*The plainsong ends.*

Commentator: Outside church life Bekesbourne was a busy settlement. The broad river led down to the sea which cut off Thanet as a virtual island. We can imagine a boat setting off from Bekesbourne at this time.

Father: Come boy, cast off that rope and lend a hand to the oars until we are clear of the woods by Littlebourne.

*They start rowing.*

Son: Father, will they punish Thomas Edwards?

Father: He that killed the sow?

Son: Yes Father — will he be taken to Canterbury and hanged?

Father: Nay, he will be taken to our court at Hastings and may be drowned for his sins in West Port there.

Son: Why Hastings, then?

Father: Lord bless the boy! We are a limb of the Confederacy at Bekes-



PLEASANCE KIRK R.F.C.A.

bourne, you must know that. Part of the Cinque Ports we are. That is why this boat can be used for His Majesty. All the Confederacy of the Cinque Ports are this way set aside from common justice. The King lets us settle our own affairs as long as we keep the sea safe for fishing and the shore lands safe for farmers. Why, Bekesbourne has a deputy Mayor of Hastings every year. If my Lord were not away with the King it would be he that sentences Tom Edwards.

Son: Will they drown him, Father?

Father: Killing a man's beast is serious. He says the sow wandered on to his strip, and in driving it off his crop he killed it. May be they will let him go lightly and only draw him in the tumbrel.

Son: And let us throw all that muck at him!

Father: Aye; that or pilloried.

Son: That would be rare fun, Father, pelting him!

Father: Look you to your stroke and be quiet boy! We must work hard for our fish today — if the wind moves us to the sea by Stourmouth we shall be put to it on our return. Lay you to your oars, son.

*They row on.*

Commentator: The highest office connected with the Cinque Ports was that of Lord Warden. Two Bekesbourne men held the post, which was a Crown appointment. In 1559 Queen Elizabeth preferred William Lord Cobham to this office which he held for thirty-eight years. He was succeeded by his son, Henry Lord Cobham in 1597, who held the position until the reign of King James. This Lord Warden brought about an event which must have been remembered for many years in the village, for when he took his oath on his appointment he had a Court of Shepway called for the purpose in Bekesbourne. The Court of Shepway was the highest of all the Cinque Port Courts and was normally held in the open air at Shepway Cross near Lypne. This breach of tradition caused a good deal of stir in the Confederacy, but for Bekesbourne it must have been a red-letter day to have all the great men in their rich costume assembled at Cobham Court, the house which had been in the Cobham family since the time of King Edward III.

The position of Bekesbourne as a limb of the Cinque Ports continued until 1794 when King George III revoked the privileges. The Manor House, which had been in the Beke family for more than two hundred years, was bought in the 15th century by one John Brown, Plumber to Canterbury Cathedral. This position was greater than it sounds, for *plumbum* meaning lead, he was responsible for the roof of the Cathedral and many other weather fittings. John Brown left the Manor at Bekesbourne to the monks of Christ Church, Canterbury, to secure their prayers for his soul and that of his wife.

*Harpsichord interlude music.*

The estate remained in the hands of Christ Church until the suppression of the monasteries under Henry VIII. Thomas Colepeper was given the property and he exchanged it with Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury. Cranmer had been made Archbishop by Henry — brought from the obscurity of university life, because by a twist of fate the King had heard of a dinner conversation in a house in Essex in the summer of 1529 . . .

*Wine is heard, poured out.*

Banns of Marriage between

N<sup>o</sup> 23 John Nash of Parish of Bridge & Mary  
~~Parish~~ Hodgman of Stags Parish Stags were  
 Married in this Church by License  
 this sixteenth Day of August in the Year One Thousand Seven  
 Hundred and sixty seven by me William Bedford Minister  
 This Marriage was solemnized between Us John x Nash his mark  
Mary Hodgman  
 In the Presence of Thomas Harrison  
John Baker

Banns of Marriage between

diminished by the Reformation's blind destruction of much Church wealth and property. But small schools were now emerging, and one was held in the Old Palace for a time. It was probably a Dame school.

Dame: Now, we shall be having the Reverend Bedford to hear your Catechism next Sunday morning, so we must practise. You know the beginning well, so I shall ask you: What is thy duty towards thy neighbour?

Children: My duty towards my neighbour is to love him as myself, and to do to all men as I would they should do unto me; to love, honour and succour my father and mother; to honour and obey the King and all that are put in authority under him; to submit myself to all my governors, teachers, spiritual pastors and masters...

*The Children's voices fade beneath the commentary.*

Commentator: A century later there was to be a proper church school set up near to the site of Bekesbourne House; and continuing to serve the community almost to the present day.

By the end of the 18th century medical care had sharply reduced one cause of child death. Vaccination against smallpox had become a commonplace; but sometimes the precaution was ignored.

Woman: Annie Pilcher of Bekesbourne, aged three months, was buried May 6th. Smallpox, *not* vaccinated.

<i>Small Pox not vaccinated</i>	<u>M<sup>r</sup></u> <u>Austen Gardner</u> No. 147.	<u>Cobham Court</u> <u>Bekesbourne</u>	<u>April</u> <u>16<sup>th</sup></u> <u>1838</u>	<u>49</u> <u>years</u>	<u>William Eden</u> <u>Kear</u>
<i>Small Pox not vaccinated</i>	<u>Annie Pilcher</u> No. 148.	<u>Bekesbourne</u>	<u>May</u> <u>6<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>3</u> <u>months</u>	<u>Edmund J</u> <u>Gates</u> <u>Corate</u>
<i>Small Pox not vaccinated</i>	<u>Susannah Knight</u> No. 149.	<u>Bekesbourne</u>	<u>May</u> <u>11<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>24</u> <u>weeks</u>	<u>Edmund J</u> <u>Gates</u>

Gave John Jull, in distress — not being able to work, seven Shillings.

Commentator: Despite this help there was still a mediaeval death rate among the young. Nothing more poignantly illustrates this than the church records.

Woman: Anne, the daughter of Sir Thomas Hales, Baronet, and Dame Mary his wife, was baptised November 19th 1704.

Reader: Died, aged three.

Woman: William, the son of Sir Thomas Hales, Baronet, and Dame Mary his wife, was baptised July 15th 1706.

Reader: Died, aged nine.

Woman: Charles, the son of Sir Thomas Hales, Baronet, and Dame Mary his wife, was baptised July 20th 1708.

Reader: Died, aged twelve.

Commentator: Besides Baptism and Burial the third great service of the church is Marriage. None of us here can know the full number of men and women who have stood before the altar of this church and made their life vows.

Priest: Helen Francesca, wilt thou have this man to thy wedded husband, to live together according to God's law in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honour and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him so long as ye both shall live?

Bride: I will.

Commentator: In the 18th century education was not universal, and few could read or write.

*A door opens, and a group enter the vestry.*

Vicar: Now Mary and John, you have been married, so the Register must be completed in Mr. Harrison's presence so he may witness it. Here it is John; number 23. I will read it to you so that you may know what it says. "John Nash of the Parish of Bridge, and Mary Hodgman of this Parish, were married in this church by Licence this sixteenth day of August, in the year One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty Seven, by me — William Bedford, Minister. This marriage was solemnized between us..." Now John, you must make your mark. Take this pen and make a small cross where my finger is.

Nash: Yes, Vicar; is it here?

Vicar: Just there, that's right.

Now Mary; I believe your mistress has taught you lettering. Can you sign?

Mary: Oh yes Sir; she has had me practise it many times these past days. Is it here, Sir, by John's?

Vicar: That is right. And then, Mr. Harrison will put his name with mine.

Nash: Mary says she will learn me my letters by-and-by.

Vicar: And so she will, John; so she will!

Commentator: In the middle ages all the seats of learning were controlled by the Church. These had been greatly



Gardiner: Come now, Thomas; what is the theory you hold regarding the validity of the King's marriage?

Cranmer: You will know, Dr. Gardiner, that the dispensation the King so eagerly awaits from the Papal authorities to annul his marriage to Katherine has been sorely delayed by the recent adjournment.

I regard the question of the legality of his marriage to be an academic question, one that could be decided by the English Universities without recourse to Rome. No further time need be lost in the matter.

Gardiner: I see . . . I think this might be told His Majesty.

Commentator: The King was delighted to find a legal loophole, and he took Cranmer into his service. The death of Archbishop Warham gave the King further opportunity and he nominated Thomas Cranmer to the office at once. A reluctant Cranmer finally accepted — and so, with the post, he came to know Bekesbourne.

Cranmer honestly believed his views on the King's supremacy and actively assisted in the separation of the Church of England from the power of Rome. One of his greatest achievements was the successful introduction of an English Bible to the Church; and later, the Book of Common Prayer.

Priest: Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Commentator: One of Cranmer's Collects.

Thomas Cranmer survived Henry VIII and the following administrations, but the advent of Catholic Queen Mary brought a speedy downfall and ultimate death by burning. For Bekesbourne; it happened in 1553, there was a vacancy for a priest at the church. Since the living was in the gift of the Archbishop, the Parish Records show . . .

Reader: Marmaduke Smith, presented by King Philip and Queen Mary, the see being vacant when Archbishop Cranmer was deprived, 1553.

*Marmaducus Smith institutus erat ad presentationem  
R. et R. Philippi et Mariae (sede tunc vacante per  
deprivationem Thomae Cranmer Archiepiscopi Cant.)  
A.D. 1553. Ex Autograph. Presentationis*

Commentator: The Old Palace at Bekesbourne came into the hands of Archbishop Parker during the reign of Elizabeth the First; but at the time of



Charles the First all the grand building was destroyed, apart from the Gatehouse.

This was in 1658, and Nicholas Batteley — another Vicar of Bekesbourne — described fifty years later the scene as the Palace was razed.

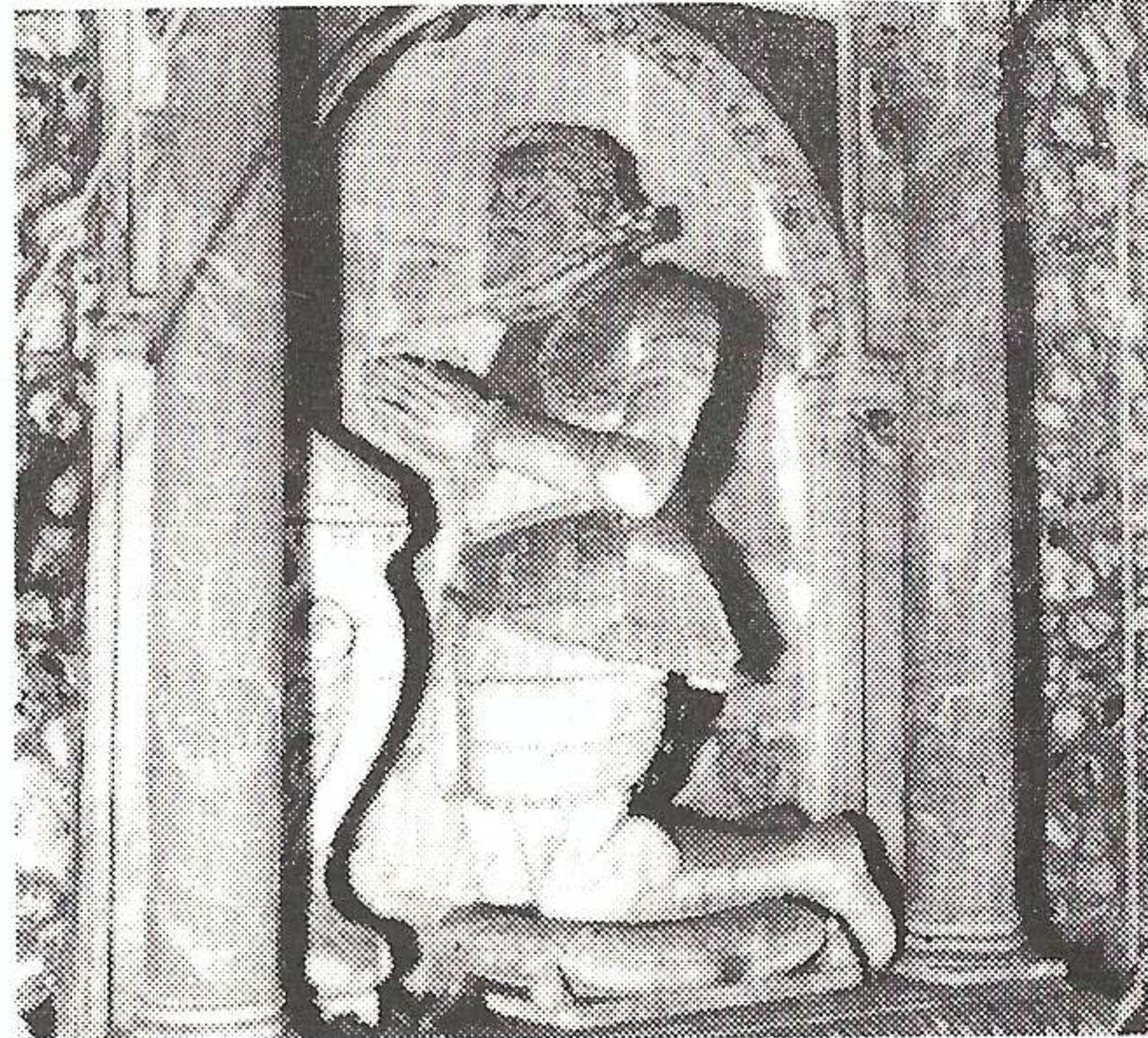
Batteley: The sequestrator did first destroy the pantry, then the baking house, then the other outhouses which were pulled down. At last he caused the whole house, the hall, parlours, large gallery — and the chapel which was beautiful and adorned with painted glass — to be demolished. As they were concluding the whole work by beating down the last piece of the Chapel wall . . .

*Crash of falling masonry.*

Reader: John Chambers, a stranger; slain by the fall of a wall as he was pulling down the chapel of the Palace, was buried the first day of February 1658.

*A passing bell tolls.*

Commentator: Another great local house of the period was Owlets, which was owned for a time by Sir Henry Palmer, an Admiral of the Fleet during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. He was a generous benefactor of the church, and when he died at Owlets in 1611 a fine monument of his kneeling figure was erected in St. Peter's, (now moved to the belfry). His son later sold the Owlets estates to Sir Charles Hales of Thanington; and a later descendent, Stephen Hales, born in 1677 is worthy of note. He was one of nineteen children of Sir Thomas Pym Hales, and was a keen physiologist, being second only to Harvey in the founding of the science. He invented ventilating machinery for the early coal mines, which were being dug because of the shortage of timber for fires; and he had one firm principle which made him notorious.



Hales: I abominate Drink! I denounce with all fervour that demon. I would say that I am more proud of having warned people against its insidious villainy than all the ventilating machinery I have designed, or my process for the distillation of sea water to a pure state. Drink is death, I say; and that I firmly believe, drink is death!

Commentator: An Act of Parliament passed in 1666 and repealed only in 1814, was passed to protect the wool trade of the country against imported fibres. It enacted that "no corpse of any person — except who shall die of the plague — shall be buried in any shirt, shift, sheet or shroud or anything whatsoever other than what is made of sheep's wool only; the penalty for non-observance five Pounds . . .".

Reader: Mistress Anne Scott, the widow of Edward Scott, Gentleman; was buried in woollen according to a late Act of Parliament, as was by oath attested, July 11th 1679. Signed: Obadiah Brokesby, Vicar; George Baker, Churchwarden.

1679

Mistress Anne Scott y<sup>r</sup> Widow of Edward Scott Gent was buried (in woollen according to a late act of Parliament, as was by Oath attested) July 11<sup>th</sup> 1679.

Commentator: Brokesby, who was also Rector of Ivy Church, was himself buried in woollen in 1685; as was Captain Richard Fogg, Captain of several men-of-war, in service under King Charles the First. He lived at Bekesbourne House, an imposing building opposite the Old Palace, during his retirement.

*Piano interlude music.*

Commentator: With the 18th century came a period of sturdy consolidation. The County was at peace, and the agricultural cycle came and went at unhurried pace in Bekesbourne.

A social conscience was beginning to emerge in England, and this was reflected in the parishes appointing overseers who made payments for relief using funds obtained by rating the landowners and farmers of the district.

Overseer: Paid Elizabeth Webb for fifty one weeks for her child at two shillings per week, five Pounds and two Shillings. For five hundred and fifty of faggots distributed to the poor, at seventeen Shillings a hundred, four Pounds, thirteen Shillings and six Pence.

Obadiah Brokesby's Account of the Disbursements of the Overseers for the Year 1679

paid W <sup>m</sup> Gibson's Charge for 3 Weeks for . . . . .	2	12	0			
paid for a Licence for her Marriage . . . . .	1	12	0			
paid for a Ring . . . . .	"	0	"			
paid Doct Forbells Fees . . . . .	"	5	"	} (5 8 0)		
paid (W <sup>m</sup> Gibson) Shoulder his Charge Fees . . . . .	"	2	0			
paid for dinner and beer . . . . .	"	6	"			
paid Gibson's Charge for his time . . . . .	"	4	"			
▶ paid Elizabeth Webb for 51 Weeks for her Child at 2 Shillings a Week . . . . .	"	10	2	0		
▶ Paid 550 of Faggots Distributed to the Poor at 17 <sup>s</sup> a Hundred . . . . .	"	4	13	6		
The Disbursements this Year				126	9	4
Due to the Overseer on Balances last Year				16	6	1/2
Total of the Disbursements comes to				142	15	5 1/2
The Receipts as follows						

Paid Frances Denne's expenses for licence for her marriage, one Pound, twelve and six; paid for a ring, six Shillings; paid for dinner and beer, six Shillings and a half Penny.