ST. NICHOLAS VICARS BIOGRAPHIES

Parish of Whitehaven Publication HS 12

FREDERICK WILLIAM WICKS Vicar 1849 to 1876

He trained at St. Bees Theological College, was deaconed in 1843 & priested in 1844. He was previously Curate of the Parish of St. Nicholas.

In 1874 the population of the parish was 3,810 with an income of £224.

JOHN McARTHUR McMILLAN Vicar 1876 to 1880

He was born on 23rd April 1844 at Clones, Monaghan, Ireland (his father was Gibson McMillan, a Wesleyan Methodist Minister), priested in 1871 and deaconed in 1872. He served curacies at Maryport from 1871 to 1873 then Arthuret from 1873 to 1876 (where he was also Chaplain of Hallburn Workhouse)...

While at St. Nicholas he was also Chaplain of Whitehaven Workhouse until 1878.

His time between 1880 & 1884 is unclear (believed to have been in Edinburgh), but in 1884 he became Curate of Hackney St. Mark. His first marriage was on 7th July 1870 at St. Anne's Church, Dublin to Annie Robinson who died on 2nd Feb 1872 at Kingscourt House, Dublin. His 2nd marriage was at Longtown in 1873 to Mary Christian (died 1884 in London) and his third to Ellen Woodgate (Nellie) Dalzell on 2nd July 1885 at Brixton St. John's. He died on 7th September 1885 at 19 Albany Street, Edinburgh. This was Nellie's 2nd marriage, having married a George Steel Dalzell (when she was maiden name Biddle) in 1876- George died in 1878 at The Result, Whitehaven aged 23 and was buried in grave 1K85 at the Cemetery. Nellie died at 33 Barrington Road, Brixton on 13th March 1917 and is buried at Norwood Cemetery, London. She left nearly £15,000.

There was a Stained glass window to both of Ellen Woodgate McMillan's husbands in St. Nicholas until the 1971 fire (see faculty of 7 Nov 1894)

There only seems to have been one child, Sarah Elizabeth to his first wife in 1871.

STUART HALL Vicar 1880 to 1883

He graduated from Durham University in 1878, was deaconed that year then priested in 1879 at Durham. He was Curate at Thornley (co. Durham) from 1878 to 1880.

After St. Nicholas he transferred to Christ Church for 5 years from 1883 and was Chaplain at Heidelberg (Germany) from 1888 to 1889, then Vicar of Rothesay St. Paul (New Brunswick, Canada) from 1890 to 1892, Curate of Stoke-Damarel 1892 to 1894, Vicar of Bickleigh (Devon) 1894 to 1895, Horrabridge (Plymouth) 1895 to 1897, then returned to Heidelberg from 1899 to 1901. In 1901 he went to Durbanville, Cape Colonies (now South Africa).

CHARLES BENJAMIN SAMUEL GILLINGS Vicar 1884 to 1912

He was born in Norwich, graduated from the London College of Divinity in 1876 & gained a BA at Durham in 1893 & a Bachelor of Civil Law in 1905. He was deaconed in 1878 & priested in 1880 at London. He was a Church Missionary Society Missionary at Lagos (now Nigeria) from 1879 to 1880 then served curacies at Maryport 1880 to 1881 & Carlisle St. John 1881 to 4th February 1884.

He was inducted to the living of St. Nicholas on 6th February 1884, in a simple and brief ceremony. He was the last Vicar to be appointed by the pew-holders. However the transfer of power to trustees caused significant problems with the Old Vestry, which contained a number of powerful personalities in the town. This led to poor attendances in the early years of his ministry.

It was under Mr. Gillings that the new organ was purchased at a cost of some £2,000, one of the Three Graces.

With the commencement of the Borough Education Committee the St. Nicholas School was closed, and

replaced by the new Irish Street Council School. The old school became the Parish Rooms.

Mr. Gillings fell ill at Middlesborough, where he was to have attended the Church Congress, with pleurisy then rheumatic fever.

He died in post at 7pm on 27th October 1912, aged 57. He was buried in Grave 4J29 at Whitehaven Cemetery on 30th October 1912, after a large funeral at St. Nicholas, when the choir rails, pulpit, reading desk etc. were draped in black. The hymns Rock of Ages and Abide with me were sung, and the service concluded with the 'Dead March' from Saul. Until the 1971 fire there was a stained glass window to him in the church, installed in 1913.

He produced the definitive record of the grave locations, dates of funerals, and family members remaining, for those 138 men who were lost in the 1910 Wellington Pit Disaster. Whitehaven Record Office has a copy of the document.

In 1908 the population was 4,000.

FRANCIS EDWARD COLE Vicar 1913 to 1925

He graduated from St. John's College, Cambridge in 1901 & gained his MA in 1911.

He was deaconed in 1904 & priested in 1905 at Norwich. His curacy was at Great Yarmouth from 1904 to

After leaving St. Nicholas he returned to Norwich, becoming Vicar of St. Stephen's Church.

EDWARD WALKER Vicar 1925 to 1932

He graduated from Queen's College, Oxford in 1910 with a 3rd Class Theology Degree and attained his MA in 1913. He was deaconed in 1910 & priested in 1911. He was Curate of Stanwix from 1910 to 1911 & Penrith to 1913. He then became a Tutor at Boone University, Wuchang, China from 1913 to 1921 and was also Chaplain there from 1919.

On his return to the UK he became Vicar of Church Coniston.

After St. Nicholas he went to Sparsholt with Kingston Lisle (Oxfordshire).

SIDNEY GLYN OCTAVIUS PUGH Vicar 1932 to 1937

He graduated from Oxford St. Catherine's College in 1905 then trained at Llandaff St. Michael's College to 1908. He was deaconed in 1910 & priested in 1911 at Llandaff. He was Curate at Pontypridd St. Catherine from 1910 to 1912, Brandon with Sleetburn (County Durham) from 1912 to 1913, Harpurhey St. Stephen (Manchester) 1914 to 1915 & Prestwich 1915 to 1918. He then became Vicar of Oldham St. Peter from 1918 to 1925 & St. John the Baptist Heywood 1925 to 1932.

After St. Nicholas he became Rector of St. Clement's, Greenheys, Manchester.

Vicar 1937 to 1948 CHARLES EUSTON NURSE

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He was born at Windermere St. Anne's Rectory on 12th June 1909 and educated at Windermere Grammar School. He graduated from Cambridge Gonville & Caius College in 1930 with a 3rd in History Triples and a 2nd in Theology, then gained his MA in 1934. He trained at Ely Theological College, was deaconed in 1932 and priested in 1933.

His curacy was from 1932 to 1937 at Holy Trinity, Carlisle.

While at St. Nicholas he was also Chaplain to the Whitehaven and West Cumberland Hospital.

After leaving St. Nicholas on 18th April 1948 he went to Barrow St. George from 22nd April 1948 to 1958 (where he was also Chaplain to the North Lonsdale Hospital). From 24th August 1949 to 1958 he was additionally Rural Dean of Dalton and, on 10th April 1951, was appointed Archdeacon and an Honorary Canon. From 1958 he was Examiner Chaplain to the Bishop of Carlisle until retirement. Due to illness he resigned as Archdeacon in 1970 (although retaining a title of Archdeacon Emeritus), and resigned his canonry in 1973. He died on 14th October 1981 at the age of 72, and his funeral was at Carlisle Cathedral

on 17th October. He is buried in Windermere Glebe Road Cemetery, next to his father, Euston John Nurse. His gravestone is modest and simple indeed. The Parish has a photograph of that gravestone, and the stone of his father (1861 to 1946).

Every week when he was in Whitehaven he held a service at Whitehaven Hospital, and did much to bring forward the long planned scheme of a peal of bells for St. Nicholas'.

LESLIE JOHN DERRETT Vicar 1948 to 1954

He graduated from Durham University in 1941 with a 3rd in Theology and gained his MA in 1945. He was deaconed in 1941 and priested in 1942 at Chelmsford. His curacies were at Grays (Essex) 1941 to 1943 & Walthamstow 1943 to 1944. He was then chaplain of Ellesmere College (Shropshire) from 1944 to 1945 & Chaplain of Durham School from 1945 to 1948. Thus St. Nicholas was his first posting as a Parish Priest. From St. Nicholas he went to Hedworth until 1958 then to East Ham (London, Diocese of Chelmsford). In retirement he lived at Great Bentley, Essex and was still alive in 1993.

ISAAC HUTCHINSON Vicar 1954 to 1955 & 1958 to 1959

He graduated from the London College of Divinity in 1905& gained a Licentiate in Theology from Durham in 1907 & a 1st Class Theological Examination. He was deaconed in 1907 & priested in 1908 in London. He was curate of St. Peters Islington from 1907 to 1908, Leyton 1908 to 1910 (the Vicarage was at 27 Abbots Park Road, Leyton) & Streatham Immanel (in charge of St. John's) from 1910 to 1918. He was also Assistant Chaplain to British Prisoners of War at Chateaux d'Oex from 1916 to 1917 (serving with the Colonial and Continental Missionary Society). He was Vicar of St. Andrew, Lower Streatham from 1918 to 1932 & Hurdsfield (near Macclesfield) from 1932 to 1946.

In retirement he held the Bishop of Carlisle's licence to Officiate from 21st December 1946 to 1964 & held the fort at St. Nicholas in the two interregna (Revd Derrett to Revd Greenwood & Revd Greenwood to Revd Hodgson).

In 1964 he retired completely to Lytham, Lancashire.

He died on 28th January 1972 aged 94 at Lowther View House and is buried at Whitehaven Cemetery, in grave 5F54. His wife Florence (nee Weld) who died on 22nd June 1969 aged 91 is also buried there. Florence was born in Whitehaven in the June Quarter of 1878 and baptized at St. James on 5th May 1878 (The family lived on High Street and her father, Henry Thomas, was a draper, By 1910 the family home was Moss Bank, Corkickle). The marriage was at St. Nicholas on 18th May 1910. Isaac was born in the March quarter of 1878, the third of six children, and baptized at Holy Trinity on 27th January 1878 (The family lived on Mount Pleasant in 1881 but at Preston Street by 1891 and his father, Henry, was a carter who died in March 1909, buried from 3 Preston Street on the 26th in 6A80. Over the years the family variously lived at 1, 2 and 3 Preston Street). Isaac was a Coal Merchant's Clerk before he went into the ministry.

WILLIAM WADE GREENWOOD Vicar 1955 to 1958

He was born in Durham in 1892 and graduated from Bede College, Durham in 1911& became a member of The Royal Society of Teachers in 1920. He taught at various schools in NE England and was then headmaster of a mixed school at St. Helen's, Lancashire, then of the Northern Counties School, Rochdale.

He was deaconed in 1945 and priested in 1946. His curacies were at Lanercost with Kirkcambeck 1945 to 1946 & Carlisle St. Stephen 1946 to 1948. He was then Rector of Bewcastle from 1947 to 1949, Tebay 1949 to 1951 & Great Broughton from 1951 to 1955.

After leaving St. Nicholas he went to Rockcliffe with Cargo (due to failing health) from 15th September 1958 until 31st July 1962 when he retired to Sunderland. While at Whitehaven he was president of the Whitehaven Scout's Association.

<u>THOMAS RICHARD BURNHAM HODGSON</u> <u>Vicar 1959 to 1965</u>
He was born in 1926 & trained at the London College of Divinity. He was deaconed on 21st September 1952 to Crosthwaite (to 1955) and priested on 20th September 1953. His second curacy was at Stanwix from 29/09/55 to 1959. After St. Nicholas he went to Aikton, then Raughton Head in 1967 until 1973 (where he was also the Bishop's Domestic Chaplain), he was an Hon. Canon between 1972 to 1991, Vicar of Grange 1973 to 1979 (and also Rural Dean of Windermere from 1976), Mosser 1979 to 1983 and was Archdeacon 1979 to 1991. He retired to Wetheral. In 1988 he was made a fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. As of October 2010 he is still alive.

DAVID OLIVER FORSHAW Vicar 1966 to 1976 (The last Vicar)

He was born in 1927, went to Trinity College, Cambridge and trained at Queens College, Birmingham. He was curate of Glen Parva & South Wigston (Leicestershire) from 1953 to 1955 & went to Singapore from 1955 to 1959. He was Vicar of Heptonstall (Lancashire) from 1959 to 1965, Benchill (Manchester) from 1976 to 1989 & Elton All Saints (Nottinghamshire) from 1989 to 1992. He then retired to Broughton-in-Furness.

Produced by I.S. Nicholson

The information contained within these bibliographies has been extracted from CCed, Crockfords, Bishops Acts Books at Chester to 1865, Bishops Registers at Carlisle from 1865 and many other sources, including censuses, GRO indexes, and wills.