

St James's clergy: Vicars, prebendaries, and the odd curate and rector (1086-1660)

Some sources and words *The main starting points used for this story of the clergy associated with St James the Great, were the list of vicars currently framed and on the wall of the vestry, and the online lists of vicars and prebendaries appointed through Lincoln Cathedral as recoded in the Clergy of the Church of England Database ([CCEd - https://theclergydatabase.org.uk/](https://theclergydatabase.org.uk/)), which covers most records 'from the Reformation to the mid-nineteenth century'. In addition, there are some other online records – for example pre-Reformation Papal letters and other documents within the [Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae](#) (available through [British History Online](#)), plus, where it's available extra biographical information (for example court rolls, also usually found through British History Online and history journals). There's not been time yet to trawl through the various non-digitised manuscripts etc. in the national and Northants archives or various cathedrals.*

Furthermore, we currently do not know who put together the Grettton vestry list of vicars – presumably in the first half of the C20 - or who/what their sources were. If anyone has more information on this, please let us know! And there's obviously a lot more digging into the non-digitised records to do.

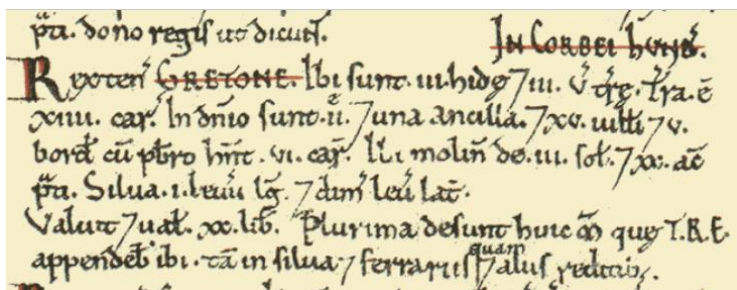
This account attempts to bring together the information from these sources, which don't always agree but on the whole do. This is very much an unfinished project, always under review, and if anyone has extra information or resources, please let us know.

*In addition, for those not familiar with some of the terminology (vicars, prebendaries, priests etc.) there's a **short glossary** attached. However, it comes with the warning that these terms changed over time and in different religious and political contexts. Again, all comments and corrections will be gratefully received.*

A table summarising the main lists of names and sources can be found at the end of this document. On the whole, though, hyperlinks and citations are in the main text.

Norman and late medieval Gretton

The first record of a priest, albeit unnamed, in Gretton is to be found in the [Domesday Book of 1086](#), and it is likely that there would have been a priest associated with the manor before this, in late Anglo-



Saxon times. As Gretton was a Royal Manor, any priest would presumably have been appointed by the Monarch or his local representative. While there is no mention of a church building in Domesday, [Domesday didn't record many churches](#) or priests in Northamptonshire, and there is evidence that there were far more. That a priest was mentioned at all might therefore reflect the royal links, or maybe there are other factors that made Gretton noteworthy. Either way, the new Norman aristocracy soon embarked on a programme of building (or re-building earlier) churches in stone. Thus, the oldest parts of St James's Church building, the Norman nave and aisles, all date to the first half of the C12, soon after Domesday, and when Gretton was still a Royal Manor on the Edge of [Rockingham Forest](#).

[Gerald of Wales](#), writing in 1198, tells us that that [Remigius, the first Bishop of Lincoln](#) (and a military as well as a political supporter – and possibly even a relative - of William the Conqueror), founded twenty-one prebends (grants of land to fund his cathedral's canons), and that his successor to the Bishopric, [Robert Bloet](#) ([Chancellor](#) to both Williams, and then advisor and [Justiciar](#) to [Henry I](#)), doubled this number before his death in January 1123. Gretton's Prebend is apparently mentioned for the first time in a [Papal Confirmation](#) of

1146, suggesting that the Gretton Prebend had been given to Lincoln some time before that, either by Henry I (in whose arms, despite the ups and downs of their relationship, Bloet died) or at the latest by [Stephen](#) during the [Bishopric of Alexander](#) (1123-1148).

The Gretton area remained in the Diocese of Lincoln until the nineteenth century despite the restructuring of the Reformation and the establishment of the Peterborough Diocese. Although Gretton is now firmly under the jurisdiction of Peterborough, to this day, a Prebendary of Gretton, and a seat and stall (hence the 'installation' of prebendaries), still exists in Lincoln cathedral, although nowadays Prebendary Canon is an honorary title given to clergy and laity who have rendered particular service within Lincoln diocese.

Year	Vicar	Reign	Year	Vicar	Reign
1146	Adam de Docking	Henry III.	1308	Richard Burgh	Henry VII.
1221	Isidore de Croph		1310	John Smyth	Henry VII.
1236	William de Iwering	Edward I.	1311	Robert Cotes	
1243	William de Boce	Edward II.	1341	Robert Franche	
1249	Hugh de Borkhamston		1349	Richard Whymston	
1271	Henry de Aldreyside	Edward III.	1379	Laurentia Longman	Edward III.
1274	Henry de Hareysworth		1380	George Alton	
1310	Simon Cotes de Bliton		1389	Peter Haumond	Charles I.
1334	Thomas Ake-Bek		1429	John Ward	
1399	John Lomas	Henry IV.	1459	Thomas Ledy Maske	
1411	John Higgs		1462	Thomas Arnold	Charles II.
1413	Robert Gane		1469	John Biscoe	
1417	Thomas Mygham		1480	William Horne	James I.
1419	John Gemyse	Henry V.	1481	Thomas Horne	
1420	Thomas Pylington		1486	Henry Hough	George III.
1421	John Mape	Edward IV.	1490	Robert Graham	
1426	John Boly	Richard III.	1501	Cresson Orl	
1429	John Brown	Henry VII.	1514	Henry Cresson Orl	
1440	Arthur Wood		1519	George Bickley	
1449	Edw. Brown		1521	William Tugby	Edward VI.
1450	Thomas Dole		1521	Alton Brown	
1458	John Brown		1522	Arthur White	
1460	Henry Cresson		1529	Leonard Aldham	
			1544	R. L. Avenham	George V.
			1550	H. Wessington Dore	

Although there are [several accounts of Lincoln's canons during the twelfth century](#) that include prebendaries of Gretton, no individual names are mentioned. The first named prebendaries to be associated with Gretton are recorded in the mid-thirteenth century, during the reign of Henry III. The Lincoln records have [Roger de Fuldon](#) mentioned as Archdeacon in 1255, and then as the Prebendary of Gretton in 1263 and again in 1271.

However, his dates of appointment and death are not noted, and so far, we've not managed to find any other references to Roger.

At around the same time, according to the Gretton vestry list (left), Adam de Dockynge is recorded as being appointed as Gretton's vicar in 1263. The only other reference so far found to an Adam de Dockynge is from over one hundred years later, in the [Papal Register of 1397-1398](#), when somebody with the same name is mentioned as a priest and father of the newly ordained Richard de Dockynge,

'To Richard [son] of Adam de Dockyng, rector of North Creyk, in the diocese of Norwich. Confirmation of his presentation by Edmund de Thorp, the elder, patron of the said church, value not exceeding 50 marks, to bishop Henry, and of his institution and induction.'

It seems unlikely that Richard's father is the same Adam as on the vestry list – if this is the same family, then he was more likely a grandfather. However, the priesthood was often a family business, and it seems likely these Adam's were related. Furthermore, if we go by the vestry list, then the next vicar of Gretton is Breda de Creyk. Might these two appointments suggest that Prebendary Canon Roger de Fulden (modern day Fouliden) was getting his vicars (parish representatives) from neighbouring families and villages in Norfolk - Creake (Creyke) and Docking (Dockynge)?

A brief history, written in the early C20, of the clergy, including prebends, of Lincoln can be found in the Introduction to [Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae BHO online](#), from which the following extracts are taken:

'...It was not until 1072 that the first practical steps were taken to transfer the see of Dorchester to Lincoln, and the cathedral was not dedicated until 1092. ... The diocese was by far the largest in the English Church, probably the largest in Western Europe. It comprised the entire counties of Lincoln, Huntingdon, Northampton, Leicester, Rutland, Oxford, Buckingham, and Bedford, as well as part of Hertfordshire, and until 1109, when the see of Ely was formed, Cambridgeshire.

The establishment of the prebends ... was a more complex and lengthy process than the setting-up of the dignities. Gerald of Wales, writing in c. 1198, states that Remigius founded twenty-one prebends, and that his successor, Robert Bloet, doubled this number, making forty-two by his death in January 1123. This latter figure appears to be confirmed by the first list of canons in the Lincoln Psalter, of c 1132, where forty-two names are given [although the [names of prebendary canons do not have places listed](#)] By c. 1187, when the Psalter's second list was compiled, there were probably fifty-six prebends in existence... Several prebends were founded by lay patrons in the episcopate of Robert Bloet (1094-1123)... The

considerable influence that the bishop had with King Henry I was doubtless an important factor in bringing about several royal grants. In the first years of his reign, before 1107, the king granted to the canons all the churches of his fee in Lincoln. Some of these became prebends, or formed parts of prebends... Outside Lincoln, the king founded prebends in the churches of the manors of Corringham (before 1115) and Nassington (before 1116...

The papal confirmation of 1146 mentions several prebendal churches for which we have no earlier evidence. Ketton and Gretton were in royal manors and were perhaps given by Henry I. Another eight were in episcopal manors. It is impossible to say which of these were granted by bishop Bloet - perhaps to match royal munificence or to encourage by example - and which by bishop Alexander.... Some prebends were certainly founded in the time of Bishop Alexander (1123-48).

The accumulation by the canons of the churches of episcopal manors continued under Robert de Chesney (1148-66)... in exchange for Canwick, which bishop Chesney gave to the [Gilbertines](#), he founded a Prebend in the church of his manor of [Lyddington](#)...

At the Reformation, as well as the dissolution of the monasteries the Church of England restructured, and Northamptonshire and Rutland largely came under the new diocese of Peterborough – Gretton, however, remained a ‘Peculiar’ of Lincoln. An excellent history of the background to these changes can be found at the [History of Peterborough Diocese](#) website at CCEd, and the following quotes directly from that:

*‘The [peculiar](#) jurisdictions in the territory of the [diocese](#) of Peterborough largely reflected its origins in the medieval [diocese](#) of Lincoln. Thus several prebendaries of Lincoln [cathedral](#) had individual [peculiar](#) jurisdictions in the north of the [diocese](#): the prebendary of Nassington (Apethorpe, Nassington, Woodnewton and Yarwell); **the prebendary of Gretton (Duddington and Gretton)**; the prebendary of Empingham (Empingham; the prebendary of Ketton (Ketton and Tixover); and the prebendary of Liddington (Lyddington)...*

The origins of the [diocese](#) of Peterborough lie – like those of most of the sees of central England – in the Anglo-Saxon ‘superdiocese’ that embraced an area from Dorset to Buckinghamshire and from Surrey to the River Severn, although the instability of the political geography of pre-Conquest England saw its writ intermittently both shrink and extend (at one point it extended as far north as the Humber). In c. 1072–3, however, [Bishop](#) Remigius transferred the see to Lincoln, and the territory later to form the [diocese](#) of Peterborough remained under the jurisdiction of Lincoln until the Reformation...

The [diocese](#) of Peterborough itself came into existence as one of the sees created by Henry VIII, on 4 September 1541. It consisted of the counties of Northamptonshire and Rutland, making the choice of the former abbey of Peterborough as the [cathedral](#) a far from central administrative centre, situated as it was at the extreme eastern point of the territory. ...In 1835 the [diocese](#) of Peterborough covered some 1,166 square miles with a population of some 186,000...

The [diocese](#) was approximately coterminous with the counties of Northamptonshire and Rutland, with many of the [peculiar](#) jurisdictions located on its margins...The [diocese](#) was enlarged by the transfer of the [archdeaconry](#) of Leicester from the [diocese](#) of Lincoln in 1837. Today, the [diocese](#) still embraces the counties of Rutland and Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough north of the River Nene, having pretty much returned to its pre-reform boundaries after the creation of the [diocese](#) of Leicester in 1927.’

The next Prebendary who appears in Lincoln’s lists is [John le Fleming](#), identified as a Lincoln Canon (and possibly Prebendary) in 1275, then as Bishop’s Chancellor and formally as Gretton’s Prebend in 1287. He moved on to the Prebend of Leighton Buzzard in 1292 and was replaced by [Robert de Swillington](#) who died in 1298, and who was in turn replaced by [Boniface de Saluzzo](#). Again, it’s not been possible to find much about Robert or Boniface. But Boniface’s name and career suggest he was related to the Marquis of Saluzzo, whose family ruled an area around Turin and had already [married with English nobility](#). Our Boniface held (seemingly on direction of the Pope) several other parish and cathedral posts, each with significant incomes, not just the Prebend of Gretton. After Boniface died in 1323, there’s a 200 years’ gap in the lists of Gretton prebendaries available in the digitised records.

During this period, however, and perhaps relevant to the appointment of Boniface of Saluzzo, the [History of Lincoln Cathedral](#) (published in 1906), remarks:

'It is probable that the greatest menace to the life of the church, here as elsewhere, was the papal and archiepiscopal power of provision. The archbishop claimed the right to present to one Prebend in return for the confirmation of each bishop, and the pope claimed patronage on a yet larger scale, and over and above this expected the bishops to provide for such men as he should suggest to them. The canons thus provided were frequently foreigners and cardinals, and nearly always held one or more prebends in other cathedrals, so that not only did the revenues of the church go out of England to the foreign beneficiaries, but it was impossible that the canons should be resident either at Lincoln or in their prebendal parishes.'

This situation appears to have gradually got better in terms of papal interference over the next century or so, but was followed by mis-governance within Lincoln itself. Reports of 'visitations' to Lincoln complain of all manner of shenanigans – women in priests' quarters, absenteeism, missing valuables and relics. In 1503, [Bishop William Smythe](#) tried to get to grips with the issues and complained that:

'chantry clerks should not take their meals in taverns, that women of evil life should not be admitted to live within the close, and that an overseer should be appointed for the vicars and poor clerks. There seem to have been certain cases of misappropriation, and vestments and jewels had been given away without the dean's consent, chapter secrets had been revealed to seculars, and a quarrel had arisen between the dean and treasurer as to the right of the latter to absent himself from the cathedral without leave, and his obligation to provide good wine for the celebration of the sacrament.'

Meanwhile, back thirteenth century Gretton, the vestry list of vicars continues with William de Ixening (now [Exning](#) in Suffolk) as vicar of Gretton in 1286 and William de Bere in 1313. While the vestry list continues to the present day, as is commonly found with English parish priests, there appears to be little information on any of the named vicars until the 1520s. Then, the CCEd online list of vicars of

Gretton begins, sometimes with brief career details – and better still, this list largely, although interestingly not entirely, agrees with the Gretton vestry list.

A possible exception to this lack of biographical material on clergy from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, is Thurston Pylkington (1413). The same name appears as chaplain and priest, around the same period, in the family trees of the [Pilkington family](#). More research is needed on whether or not these individuals are the same person.

The Tudors and a new Church in England

Another, much more plausible, encounter in the records, and one fitting with the unedifying situation at Lincoln Cathedral, is with Richard Burgh, vicar of Gretton from 1508. His name, pretty unambiguously, *‘Richard Burgh of Gretton in the County of Northampton clerk’*, appears in a [court case in Westminster in 1514](#). He is accused of owing £8 to Robert Presgrave, Bailiff, also of Gretton. The court noted that Richard hadn’t turned up and demanded his future presence. But we’ve not yet managed to find out whether or not he did and thus what happened next...

The vestry and CCEd lists agree again in around 1521 when Richard Cotes (vestry list) or Cootes ([CCEd list of Gretton vicars](#)) is recorded as Perpetual Vicar until his death in 1542. We are now, of course, well into the reign of [Henry VIII](#), the Reformation, dissolution of the monasteries and restructuring of the English Church; a time of [political and religious upheaval](#). Gretton remained a ‘peculiar’ in the jurisdiction of wealthy Lincoln Cathedral and the powerful and politically astute [Bishop John Longland](#), who argued strongly that Lincoln retain its incomes and privileges. However, Gretton was now within the geographic diocese of impoverished Peterborough, initially under Bishop – the ex-Abbot – [John Chambers](#) who tended more to go with the political and religious flow. After Richard Cootes, Robert Franke (of whom no other records have been found) appears to have been vicar – but only for 1541 or possibly 1542 – followed by Richard Whytrason, also with no biographical details to be found in the records, from 1541 until his death in 1553.

Gretton’s Prebendary of the period, based at Lincoln, illustrates some of the religious and political turmoil of the mid-to-late Tudor period. At

some point in the 1530s or 40s, [Thomas Robertson](#) held the Prebend of Gretton (he was canon at Lincoln from 1531 but CCed records only his cession from the Gretton Prebendary, in 1543). Thomas was variously chaplain to Bishop Longland (who recommended him to [Thomas Cromwell](#)), argued strongly in print and sermons for the nascent Church of England and was involved in the discussions about [Anne of Cleves's](#) divorce from Henry VIII. He had senior roles at both Leicester and Salisbury cathedrals. Then, during [Edward VI's](#) reign, he helped to write the [Book of Common Prayer](#), but eventually decided that he didn't like it and so welcomed the reversals demanded by the catholic [Mary I](#) - and was appointed Dean of Durham Cathedral. However, he subsequently refused to sign the Oath of Supremacy to [Elizabeth I](#), and lost his job. He died in 1561, having been described as 'one thought to do much harm in Yorkshire'.

In 1543, Thomas Robertson was replaced as Gretton's Prebendary by John or Johannes Westowes or Westons or Westus – about whom little, including his real name, seems to be known. His name does appear as Prebendary canon again in a visitation of 1563, but with the comment 'do not know where he is'. At which point he disappears completely from the records.

Back in Gretton, Laurentius Longman is recorded by Lincoln as having been made Perpetual Vicar of Gretton in 1553 (when Mary I was on the throne, and corresponding with the death of Richard Whytrason), although his name doesn't appear on the Gretton vestry list until 1559 (following Elizabeth's accession – Mary's reign is studiously ignored in the vestry list). Although the vestry list's next vicar is George Allein/Aleyne in 1593 (by which time Laurentius would have been vicar for between 34 and 40 years), the online CCed lists several other vicars in between.

In the 1560s, John Hekyn is recorded as Rector and Thomas Simcox as curate of Gretton, both apparently appointed by [Edmund Scambler](#), by then the Bishop of Peterborough. Was Scambler, who might be described as a proto-puritan and had suffered for his views – indeed risked his life - under Mary, flexing his muscles in his still relatively-new and impoverished diocese by claiming some jurisdiction over Gretton? Especially if the Lincoln-based Prebendary had gone missing and Laurentius was getting on a bit?

A new Lincoln-appointed Prebendary for Gretton wasn't appointed until 1571 – but this was a big name, [Thomas Bickley\(e\)](#). Thomas had been Edward VI's chaplain, a university lecturer in Greek, Chancellor of Lichfield and finally left Lincoln in 1585 to be Bishop of Chichester (dying, aged 78, in 1596). Thomas is also named as [patron of George Tailbie](#), another vicar of Gretton according to CCEd list of Lincoln appointments. George doesn't appear in the vestry list, and, once again, there seems to be little information available about him.

Thomas Bickleye was replaced as Gretton's Prebendary by Edward Jones in 1586, a Welshman who simultaneously held rectorships in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire before, possibly retiring to, a rectorship in Lincolnshire. He should not be confused with his contemporary, [Edward Jones](#), who converted from a protestant background to Roman Catholicism and is venerated as a martyr and saint, his having been executed for 'treason' in 1560. There seem to be few records of our Edward Jones, despite the considerable income and influence he must have had. In 1592 or 1593, while Edward was Prebendary, Elizabeth was still on the throne and [William Wickham](#) (who got into trouble for preaching at the funeral of [Mary, Queen of Scots](#) in Peterborough) was Lincoln's Bishop, both the vestry and CCEd lists agree that George Alleyne or Allein was appointed vicar of Gretton. Again, we know little about George except that in 1604 he was licensed by Bishop [William Chaderton](#) to be a Preacher throughout the diocese. It's not clear whether or not this was a promotion.

In 1598, the Prebend of Gretton passed to George Eland or Elam, who went on, from 1603, to a long career associated with Lincoln cathedral, including spending some time as Chancellor of the cathedral and the bishop's commissary.

[The Stuarts and the Commonwealth](#)

Elizabeth I died in 1603, and [James I](#) of England (VI of Scotland and son of Mary Queen of Scots) was crowned king. George Alleyne remained vicar, as far as the records tell us (but see below), through until 1639 in the reign of [Charles I](#). Under Bishop Chaderton, James Damon became Gretton's Prebendary canon at Lincoln in 1603, until 1606 when he transferred to the Prebend of 'Bickleswade'.

James was replaced by Rowland Hill. Rowland was born in 1556 and had been vicar of Shalbourne in Wiltshire before he became a Prebendary canon at Lincoln in 1606. He appears to have remained vicar throughout the period, and retired back to Shalbourne in 1630/31, dying in post six years later. He was replaced as Prebendary by Edward Herron or Hearn, who originally came from Maidstone in Kent. Edward apparently held several prebends at Lincoln as well as rectorships elsewhere, such as Yelland, Burton Goggles and Knipton, where he died in 1650. After 1634, there's a thirty years' gap in the Lincoln Prebendary records, until the Restoration.

To put this Prebendary gap into a wider context, the [History of Lincoln Cathedral](#), already quoted above, says of the early seventeenth century:

'Other signs were not wanting that the ideal of the old community life had been lost sight of, for in answer to articles issued by Bishop Chaderton, in 1607, it was stated that ... jurisdiction over prebendal places was lost; thus the connexion between the non-resident canons and their cathedral was practically reduced to the visits necessitated in keeping their preaching turns, and even these were in some cases neglected, and on the occasion of a metropolitical visitation in August, 1634, it appeared that some prebendaries had never seen the cathedral, and appointed insufficient deputies to preach for them.'

Other complaints at Bishop Chaderton's visitation were to the effect that the dean and chapter were 'dissolute and careless' in their government; that the choir was inefficient and irreverent; that the master of the fabric and the vergers and bell-ringers were negligent; that preachers were usually much disturbed by the 'prophane walking and talking of idle and irreligious persons'; that the close had become 'a place of great licentiousness, especially in alehouses,' and that 'no course was taken for beggars . . . who . . . trouble every stranger with their importunity.'

[Archbishop Laud's](#) vicar-general [[Nathaniel Brent](#)] in 1634 seems to have found an even more deplorable lack of fitness, the communion table was 'not very decent and the rail worse,' the organ 'old and

naught,' the copes and vestments had been embezzled, and alehouses, hounds, and swine were kept in the churchyard...

... The civil war involved the cathedral in the common ruin which overtook the church and the crown. In 1649 deans and chapters were abolished by Act of Parliament, and between that year and 1658 most of the cathedral estates were sold. Mr. Edward Reyner and Mr. George Scotereth, or Scottericke, the former of whom had been lecturer in the city since 1635, were appointed ministers in the cathedral church in April, 1649. In March, 1655-6, they were empowered to appoint an assistant preacher, and Reyner and one Abdy are spoken of as 'ministers and lecturers of this city' as late as September, 1660.

[Michael Honeywood](#), the first dean of the restoration, was worthy of the work of reconstruction which he was called upon to undertake. He devoted his whole energy to the vindication of the lost franchises of the cathedral, the restoration of choral services with an efficient choir, the repair of the cathedral and the vicars' houses, and the improvement of the library.'

Meanwhile the vestry list and the CCEd list of vicars of Gretton continue – although not always totally in agreement, particularly as to dates.

Peter Hanstead or Hausted appears in both lists as vicar of Gretton from 1659 or 1660, the first named vicar since George Alleyne. Peter Housed was, as well as a clergyman, a well-known playwright. His play, '[the Rival Friends](#)', a seven hours long religious satire, was performed in front of the king and queen at Cambridge. The performance was a disaster and led to a near riot followed by the suicide of the Vice-Chancellor. Born in Oundle, Peter was an anti-puritan and royalist. He was appointed chaplain to the Earl of Northampton, and he died during the [siege of Banbury Castle](#) in the 1644, although reports differ as to whether he was 'shot on the ramparts' or died of plague (neither are nice nor mutually exclusive).

The CCEd list then has John Ward for three months in 1642. John Ward is interesting as he went on to be the vicar of Stratford upon Avon in 1662, where he got to know Shakespeare's descendants. His [diary recounts anecdotes](#) the family told him about their

esteemed ancestor. John Ward however does not appear in the vestry list until 1650, but in the same year as Thomas Lively Moody. Lively Moody appears in the CCEd list as current vicar, without a date of appointment, in 1662, and in other records (of Cambridge University alumni) as vicar of Gretton 1662-67.

Interestingly the vestry list has both John Ward and Thomas Lively Moody down as being appointed during the reign of Charles I, despite Charles having been beheaded in 1649. But the vestry list completely ignores the [interregnum](#), Commonwealth and Protectorate, as well as, as noted earlier, the reign of Mary I.

Nothing much has so far been found about Thomas Lively Moody, although there is record of his having been appointed rector of Billing Magna, also in 1662 (in Peterborough diocese).

With the restoration of the monarchy, and [Charles II](#) taking the throne in 1660, things at Gretton and Lincoln seemed to settle a little – at least for a while.

Table summarising the clergy of Gretton from the Normans to the Restoration

Bishops of Lincoln	Monarch	date of clergy appt	Vicar (Vestry list)	Vicars (CCEd)	Prebendary (CCEd & Fasti)	Events and other notes
Remigius (1067-1092)	William 1 (1066-1087)	Pre-1086				Gretton priest mentioned in Domes-day book of 1086
Robert Bloet (1094-1123)	William II (1087-1100)					
Alexander (1123-1148)	Henry I (1100-1135)				Gretton Prebend's first mention in 1146	
Robert de Chesney (1148-1166)	Stephen (1135-1154) - contested by Matilda				Multiple un-named Prebendary Canons throughout C12	The Anarchy
	Henry II (1154-1189)					Plantagenets or Angevins, take the crown.
Walter de Coutances (1183-1184)	Richard I (1189-1199)					The age of monasteries begins
Hugh of Avalon (1186-1200), William de Blois (1203-1206), Hugh de Wells (1209-1235)	John (1199-1216)					More civil war and John (often in the area, at Geddington and Rockingham) signs the Magna Carta. An invited French invasion takes over southern England until repulsed at the Battles of Lincoln and Sandwich
Robert Grosseteste (1235-1253), Henry de Lexington	Henry III (1216-1272)	1255+			Roger de Fulden as archdeacon in 1255, and	Simon de Montfort's unsuccessful rebellion. Then a period of stability,

(1253-1258)					definitely Prebendary for Gretton pre-1263	the age of chivalry, promotion of Arthurian legend etc.
Richard de Gravesend (1258-1279)		1263	Adam de Docking (Dockyn)			The monasteries continue to flourish and are increasingly influential.
		1271	Beda de Creyk			
		1275?			John Le Fleming	
Oliver Sutton (1280-1299)	Edward I (1272-1307)	1286	William de Ixening			English conquest of Wales, and attempts on Scotland. The king with Queen Eleanor of Castille often in the area – including at a palace in Geddington, hence the Eleanor Cross there.
		1292?			Robert de Swillington	
John de Dalderby (1300-1320)		1297?			Boniface of Saluzzo	
	Edward II (1307-1327)	1313	William de Bere			
Henry Burghersh (1320-1340)		1316	Hugh de Berkhamstead			
	Edward III (1327-1377)	1327	Henry de Aldwincle			Start of the Hundred Years War – and the age of the English/ Welsh longbow.
Thomas Bek (1341-1347)		1334	Henry de Harryngworth			
John Gynwell (1347-62)		1350	Simon Curteys de Blaston			1348-49 – huge epidemic of plague. Plague had always been present, and didn't disappear in England until the C17-18. The Black Death of the mid C14,
John Buckingham (1369-1397)		1354	Thomas Atte Brok			

						however, killed between a third and a half of England's population, leading to labour shortages and breakdown of the feudal system
Henry Beaufort (1398-1404)	Richard II (1377-1399)					More civil war leading to the House of Lancaster and Henry IV taking the throne.
	Henry IV (1399-1413)	1399	John Leman			
Philip Repyngdon (1405-1419)		1399	John Heggess			Leading to further rebellions and yet more upheaval but more settled by the end of Henry IV's reign.
		1411	Robert Grene			
		1412	Thomas Meysham			
	Henry V (1413-1422)	1413	John Gurneys			England takes over half of France after Agincourt
Richard Fleming (1419-1431)		1413	Thurston Pykington			
William Gray (1431-1436), William of Alnwick (1436-1449), Marmaduke Lumley (1449-1450)	Henry VI (1422-1461 and 1470-71)					<p>But Henry V's death plunges England into more upheaval.</p> <p>Yet more civil war – this time the War of the Roses with the crown changing hands at least six times as private armies of various barons, often changing</p>
John Chadworth (1452-1471)	Edward IV (1461-70 and 1471-1483)	1465	John Mape			
Thomas Rotherham (1472-1480)		1465	John Bayly			

John Russell (1480-1494)	Edward V (1483-1483)					sides, sought power over both land and the crown.
	Richard III (1483-1485)					The death of Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, led to the crown passing to Henry VII – the first Tudor.
	Henry VII (1485-1509)	1489	John Brown			
		1491	Arthur Wood			
		1492	John Browne			
		1492	Thomas Derby			
William Smyth (1496-1514)		1496	John Burman			
		1497	Henry Crayne			
		1508	Richard Burgh			
Thomas Wolsey (1514), William Atwater (1514-1520)	Henry VIII (1509-1547)	1520	John Smyth			When Henry VIII failed to obtain papal consent to a divorce, he broke with Rome in 1533 and declared himself head of the Church in England. Henry was not a protestant, but this act led, through Thomas Cromwell, to the dissolution of the monasteries and loss of church lands. The church's wealth greatly enriched the king and many others, and led to many benefices being in the control of
John Longland, (1521-1547)		1521	Richard Cotes	Robert Cootes		
		154?			Thomas Robert-son	
		1541	Robert Franke	Robert Franke		
		1541	Richard Whytra-son	Richard Whytra-son		
Henry Holbeach (1547-1551)	Edward VI (1547-1553)	1543			Johannes West-owes / John Westons / Johannes Westus	
John Taylor (1552-1554)	Jane (1553-1553)					
John White (1554-1556)	Mary 1553-1558	1553		Lauren-tius Longman		

Thomas Watson (1557-1559)		1554			(Giles Forster)	private landowners.
Nicholas Bullingham (1559-1570)	Elizabeth I (1558-1603)	1559	Laurentius Longman			Real protestant reform began with Edward VI but was reversed by Mary I. Elizabeth I favoured a more tolerant but protestant church - but discord and rebellions continued. James VI of Scotland, became James I of England when Elizabeth died childless in 1603
		1563				
		?1560s		John Hekyn Rector		
		?1560s		Thomas Simcox Curate		
Thomas Cooper (1571-1584)		1571			Thomas Bickley / Bickleyle	
		1575		George Tailbie		
William Wickham (1584-1594)		1586			(Edward Germyn / Germin)	
		1586			(Edward/ Edwardus Johnes/ Jones)	
		1591			Edwardus Jones	
		1593	George Allein/ Aleyne	George Allein/ Aleyne	1592 vicar according to Lincoln	
William Chaderton / Chatterton (1595-1608)		1598			Georgius / George Eland/ Elam	James, the first of the Stuart kings of England, brought peace between England and Scotland. His older son having died, his younger son, Charles I, became king. He
	James I (1603-1625)	1603			James / Jacobus Damon	
William Barlow (1608-1613), Richard Neile 1614-1617), George Montaigne (1617-1621), John		1606			Rowland Hill	

Williams (1621-1641)						believed in his divine right to rule, and ruled without Parliament for 11 years. His supportive Archbishop of Canterbury, William Laud, suppressed puritanism.
	Charles I (1625-1649)	1631-1634			Edward Herron /Hearn	Civil war with parliament broke out in 1642. Eventually, having lost two wars to Parliament, Charles I was beheaded in 1649.
		1634			<i>gap in records</i>	
		1639	Peter Hanstead			
		1640		Petrus Hausted		
Thomas Winniffe (1642-1654)		1642		John Ward		His son, the future Charles II, fled to France.
	<i>Commonwealth Cromwell</i>	1649-1660			<i>gap in records</i>	The Interregnum led to a proliferation of revolutionary ideas and often iconoclastic religious thought, with little hierarchy or control in the church. The Levellers demanded votes for all men and universal religious tolerance.
	<i>Charles I</i>	1650	John Ward		<i>gap in records</i>	
	<i>Charles I</i>	1650	Thomas Lively Moody		<i>gap in records</i>	Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector, used military power to preserve

						national stability. When he died, Charles II was invited to return, in May 1660.
Robert Sanderson (1660-1663)	Charles II (1660-1685)	1660			Ralph / Radolphus Hollingworth	