

Bishops in Chronological Order:

Richard Fox (1492-1494)
Thomas Wolsey (1518-1523)
Thomas Godwin (1584-1590)
John Still (1593-1608)
James Montagu (1608-1616)
Arthur Lake (1616-1626)
William Laud (1626-1628)
Walter Curl (1629-1632)
William Piers (1632-1670)
Robert Creighton (1670-1672)
Peter Mews (1673-1684)
Thomas Ken (1685-1690)
Richard Kidder (1691-1703)
George Hooper (1703-1727)
John Wynne (1727-1743)
Edward Willes (1743-1773)
Charles Moss (1774-1802)
Richard Beadon (1802-1824)
George Law (1824-1845)
Richard Bagot (1845-1854)
Robert Eden (1854-1869)
Arthur Hervey (1869-1894)
George Kennion (1894-1921)
St John Basil Wynne Wilson (1921-1937)
Francis Underhill (1937-1943)
Charles Wand (1943-1945)
Harold Bradfield (1946-1960)
Edward Henderson (1960-1975)
John Bickersteth (1975-1987)
George Carey (1987-1990)
James Thomson (1991-2001)
Peter Price (2002-2013)
Peter Hancock (2014 -)

Bishops in Alphabetical Order:

Richard Bagot (1845-1854)
Richard Beadon (1802-1824)
John Bickersteth (1975-1987)
Harold Bradfield (1946-1960)
George Carey (1987-1990)
Robert Creighton (1670-1672)
Walter Curl (1629-1632)
Robert Eden (1854-1869)
Richard Fox (1492-1494)
Thomas Godwin (1584-1590)
Peter Hancock (2014-)
Edward Henderson (1960-1975)
Arthur Hervey (1869-1894)
George Hooper (1703-1727)
Thomas Ken (1685-1690)
George Kennion (1894-1921)
Richard Kidder (1691-1703)
Arthur Lake (1616-1626)
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George Law (1824-1845)
Peter Mews (1673-1684)
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Charles Moss (1774-1802)
William Piers (1632-1670)
Peter Price (2002-2013)
John Still (1593-1608)
James Thomson (1991-2001)
Francis Underhill (1937-1943)
Charles Wand (1943-1945)
Edward Willes (1743-1773)
Thomas Wolsey (1518-1523)
John Wynne (1727-1743)
St John Basil Wynne-Wilson (1921-1937)

(taken from Wikipedia)

Bishops of Bath and Glastonbury

From	Until	Incumbent	Notes
1197	1205	Savaric FitzGeldewin	After moving the Episcopal seat from Bath to Glastonbury in 1197, he was styled Bishop of Bath and Glastonbury. Died in office on 8 August 1205.
1206	1219	Jocelin of Wells	Previously Canon of Wells . Elected bishop on 3 February and consecrated on 28 May 1206. He was styled Bishop of Bath and Glastonbury until 1219, thereafter Bishop of Bath.

Bishops of Bath

From	Until	Incumbent	Notes
1219	1242	Jocelin of Wells	Previously styled Bishop of Bath and Glastonbury until 1219, thereafter Bishop of Bath. Died in office on 19 November 1242.
1242	1244	<i>See vacant</i>	
1244	1245	Roger of Salisbury ^[20]	Formerly Precentor of Salisbury (1227–1244). Elected bishop by the monks of Bath Abbey on 6 February 1243 and consecrated on 11 September 1244. Became Bishop of Bath and Wells on 3 January 1245.

Bishops of Bath and Wells

From	Until	Incumbent	Notes
1245	1247	Roger of Salisbury ^[20]	Following a papal ruling, the episcopal title changed to Bishop of Bath and Wells on 3 January 1245. Died in office on 21 December 1247.
[20] NOTE: He is not the more notable Roger of Salisbury who died in 1139.			
1248	1264	William of Bitton I	Formerly Archdeacon of Wells (1238–1248). Elected bishop before 24 February and consecrated on 14 June 1248. Died in office on 3 April 1264.
1265	1266	Walter Giffard	Elected bishop on 22 May 1264 and consecrated on 4 January 1265. Also Lord Chancellor (1265–1266). Translated to York on 15 October 1266.
1267	1274	William of Bitton II	Formerly Archdeacon of Wells (c. 1263–1267). Elected bishop on 10 February and consecrated after 17 April 1267. Died in office on 4 December 1274.
1275	1292	Robert Burnell	Formerly Archdeacon of York (1270–1275). Elected bishop on 23 January and consecrated on 1275. Became Archbishop-elect of Canterbury (1278–1279) and Bishop-elect of Winchester (1280). Also Lord Chancellor (1274–1292). Died in office on 25 October 1292.
1293	1302	William of March	Formerly Dean of St. Martin's-le-Grand and Lord Treasurer. Elected bishop on 28 January and consecrated on 17 May 1293. Died in office before 19 June 1302.
1302	1308	Walter Haselshaw	Formerly Dean of Wells (1295–1302). Elected bishop on 7 August and consecrated on 4 November 1302. Died in office on 11 December 1308.
1309	1329	John Droxford	John Droxford; formerly Keeper of the wardrobe and acting Lord Treasurer. Elected bishop on 5 February and consecrated on 9 November 1309. Died

			in office on 9 May 1329
1329	1363	Ralph of Shrewsbury	Elected on 2 June and consecrated on 3 September 1329. Died in office on 14 August 1363.
1363	1366	John Barnet	Translated from Worcester. Appointed on 24 December (or about 28 November) 1363 and received the temporalities on 6 April 1364. Translated to Ely on 15 December 1366.
1367	1386	John Harewell	Previously Chancellor of Gascony and chaplain to the Black Prince. Appointed bishop on 14 December 1366 and consecrated on 7 March 1367. Died in office between 29 June and 14 July 1386.
1386	1388	Walter Skirlaw	Translated from Coventry & Lichfield. Appointed on 18 August and received the temporalities on 3 November 1386. Translated to Durham on 3 April 1388.
1388	1400	Ralph Ergham	Translated from Salisbury. Appointed on 3 April and received the temporalities on 13 September 1388. Died in office on 10 April 1400.
1400	1401	<i>(Richard Clifford)</i>	Appointed on 12 May 1400, but, before consecration, translated to Worcester on 19 August 1401.
1401	1407	Henry Bowet	Formerly Canon of Wells. Appointed bishop on 19 August 1401 and consecrated on 20 November 1401. Translated to York on 7 October 1407.
1407	1424	Nicholas Bubwith	Translated from Salisbury. Appointed on 7 October and received the temporalities on 2 December 1407. Died in office on 27 October 1424.
1424	1443	John Stafford	Formerly Dean of Wells (1423–1424). Elected bishop between 14 November and 19 December 1424. Consecrated on 27 May 1425. Also Lord Treasurer (1422–1426) and Lord Chancellor (1432–1450). Translated to Canterbury on 13 May 1443.

1443	1465	Thomas Beckington	Formerly Archdeacon of Buckingham (1424–1443). Appointed bishop on 24 July and consecrated on 13 October 1443. Also the Keeper of the Privy Seal(1443–1444). Died in office on 14 January 1465.
1465	1491	Robert Stillington	Formerly Archdeacon of Taunton (1450–1465). Appointed bishop on 30 October 1465 and consecrated on 16 March 1466. Also intermittently Lord Chancellor between 1460 to 1473. Died in office before 15 May 1491.
1492	1494	Richard Foxe	Translated from Exeter. Appointed on 8 February and received the temporalities on 4 May 1492. Translated to Durham on 30 July 1494.
1495	1503	Oliver King	Translated from Exeter. Appointed on 6 November 1495 and received the temporalities on 6 January 1496. Died in office before 1503.
1504	1518	Cardinal Adriano Castellesi	Translated from Hereford. Appointed on 2 August and received possession of the temporalities on 13 October 1504. Deprived of the see by Pope Leo X on 5 July 1518.
1518	1523	Cardinal Thomas Wolsey	Archbishop of York (1514–1530) and Lord Chancellor(1515–1529). Appointed <i>in commendam</i> the see of Bath and Wells on 27 July 1518, but exchanged it to the see of Durham on 26 March 1523.

Sources: [21][22][23]

Greenway, D. E. (2001). "Bishops of Bath and Wells". *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1066–1300, Volume 7: Bath and Wells*. British History Online. Retrieved 21 August 2011.

Fryde et al. 1986, *Handbook of British Chronology*, pp. 222–223, 228–229.

Jones, B. (1964). "Bishops of Bath and Wells" *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1300–1541, Volume 8: Bath and Wells Diocese*. British History Online. Retrieve 21 August 2011.

Bishops during the Reformation[edit]

Bishops of Bath and Wells during the Reformation

10/02/2016 edited by Meredith Roberts

From	Until	Incumbent	Notes
1523	1541	John Clerk	Formerly Master of the Rolls(1522–1523) and Dean of Windsor (1519–1523). Appointed bishop on 26 March and consecrated on 6 December 1523. Accepted royal supremacy in 1534. Died in office on 31 January 1541.
1541	1547	William Knight	Formerly Secretary of State to Henry VIII (1526–1528) and Prebendary of St Paul's (1517–1541). Nominated bishop on 9 April and consecrated on 29 May 1541. Died in office on 29 September 1547.
1548	1553	William Barlow	Translated from St David's. Nominated on 3 February 1548. Resigned before 4 October 1553. Later became Bishop of Chichester in 1559.
1554	1559	Gilbert Bourne	Formerly Prebendary of St Paul's and Lord President of Wales and the Marches. Nominated bishop on 13 March and consecrated on 1 April 1554. Deprived between 18 October 1559 and 11 January 1560. Died on 10 September 1569.

Sources: ^[23]^[24]^[25]

Jones, B. (1964). "Bishops of Bath and Wells". Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1300–1541, Volume 8: Bath and Wells Diocese. British History Online. Retrieved 21 August 2011.

Fryde et al. 1986, *Handbook of British Chronology*, p. 229.

Horn, J. M.; Bailey, D. S. (1979). "Bishops of Bath and Wells". Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1541–1857, Volume 5: Bath and Wells Diocese. British History Online. Retrieved 21 August 2011.

Post-Reformation bishops[edit]

Post-Reformation Bishops of Bath and Wells

From	Until	Incumbent	Notes
1560	1581	Gilbert Berkeley	Nominated on 11 January and consecrated on 24 March 1560. Died in office on 2 November 1581.

10/02/2016 edited by Meredith Roberts

1581	1584	<i>See vacant</i>	
1584	1590	Thomas Godwin	Formerly Dean of Canterbury (1567–1584). Nominated bishop on 25 July and consecrated on 13 September 1584. Died in office on 19 November 1590.
1590	1592	<i>See vacant</i>	
1593	1608	John Still	Formerly Master of Trinity College, Cambridge (1577–1593). Nominated bishop on 13 January and consecrated on 11 February 1593. Died in office on 26 February 1608.
1608	1616	James Montague	Formerly Dean of Worcester (1604–1608). Nominated bishop on 21 March and consecrated on 17 April 1608. Translated to Winchester on 4 October 1616.
1616	1626	Arthur Lake	Formerly Dean of Worcester (1608–1616). Elected on 17 October and consecrated on 8 December 1616. Died in office on 4 May 1626.
1626	1628	William Laud	Translated from St David's. Nominated bishop of Bath & Wells on 20 June and confirmed on 18 September 1626. Translated to London on 15 July 1628.
1628	1629	Leonard Mawe	Nominated on 14 July and consecrated on 7 September 1628. Also Master of Trinity College, Cambridge (1625–1628). Died in office on 2 September 1629
1629	1632	Walter Curle	Translated from Rochester. Elected on 29 October and confirmed on 4 December 1629. Translated to Winchester on 16 November 1632.
1632	1646	William Piers	Translated from Peterborough. Nominated on 19 November and confirmed on 13 December 1632. Deprived of the see when the

			English episcopacy was abolished by Parliament on 9 October 1646.
1646	1660	<i>The see was abolished during the Commonwealth and the Protectorate.</i> ^{[26][27]}	
[26]Episcopacy. <i>British Civil Wars, Commonwealth and Protectorate 1638–60</i> . Retrieved 20 August 2011.			
[27]King, Peter (July 1968). "The Episcopate during the Civil Wars, 1642–1649". <i>The English Historical Review</i> (Oxford University Press) 83 (328): 523–537.			
1660	1670	William Piers(again)	Returned when the see was restored in 1660. Died in office on 30 April 1670.
1670	1672	Robert Creighton	Formerly Dean of Wells (1660–1670. Nominated on 2 May and consecrated on 19 June 1670. Died in office on 20 November 1672.
1673	1684	Peter Mews	Formerly Dean of Rochester (1670–1673). Nominated on 23 November 1672 and consecrated 6 February 1673. Translated to Winchester on 22 November 1684.
1685	1690	Thomas Ken	Formerly Canon of Winchester (1669–1685). Nominated on 24 November 1684 and consecrated on 25 January 1685. Deprived of the see on 1 February 1690 for not taking the oaths to the sovereigns. Died on 19 March 1711.
1691	1703	Richard Kidder	Formerly Dean of Peterborough (1689–1691). Nominated on 11 June and consecrated on 30 August 1691. Died in office on 26 November 1703.
1704	1727	George Hooper	Translated from St Asaph. Nominated on 23 December 1703 and confirmed on 14 March 1704. Died in office on 6 September 1727.
1727	1743	John Wynne	Translated from St Asaph. Nominated on 19 September and confirmed on 11 November 1727. Died in office on 15 July 1743.

1743	1773	Edward Willes	Translated from St David's. Nominated on 13 September and confirmed on 12 December 1743. Died in office on 24 November 1773.
1774	1802	Charles Moss	Translated from St David's. Nominated on 23 April and confirmed on 2 June 1774. Died in office on 13 April 1802.
1802	1824	Richard Beadon	Translated from Gloucester. Nominated on 27 April and confirmed on 2 June 1802. Died in office on 21 April 1824.
1824	1845	George Law	Translated from Chester. Nominated on 8 May and confirmed on 8 June 1824. Died in office on 22 September 1845.
1845	1854	The Hon Richard Bagot	Translated from Oxford. Nominated on 15 October and confirmed on 12 November 1845. Died in office on 15 May 1854.
1854	1869	The Rt Hon The Lord Auckland (Robert Eden)	Translated from Bishop of Sodor and Man. Nominated on 2 June and confirmed on 1 July 1854. Resigned as bishop on 6 September 1869 and died on 25 April 1870.
1869	1894	Lord Arthur Hervey	Formerly Archdeacon of Sudbury (1862–1869). Nominated on 11 November and consecrated 21 December 1869. Died in office on 9 June 1894.
1894	1921	George Kennion	Translated from Adelaide in Australia. Nominated on 24 August and confirmed on 17 October 1894. Resigned on 1 August 1921 and died on 19 May 1922.
1921	1937	Wynne Willson	Nominated on 6 October and consecrated on 1 November 1921. Resigned on 1 October 1937 and died on 15 October 1946.
1937	1943	Francis Underhill	Nominated on 6 October and consecrated on 30 November 1937. Died in office on 24 January 1943.

1943	1945	William Wand	Translated from Brisbane. Nominated on 23 September and confirmed on 27 October 1943. Translated to London on 22 August 1945.
1946	1960	Harold Bradfield	Nominated on 5 March and consecrated on 1 May 1946. Died in office on 1 May 1960.
1960	1975	Edward Henderson	Translated from Tewkesbury. Nominated on 1 July and confirmed 19 July 1960. Resigned on 31 May 1975 and died in 1986.
1975	1988	John Bickersteth	Translated from Warrington. Nominated on 15 October and confirmed on 12 December 1975. Also Clerk of the Closet (1979–1989). Retired in 1988.
1987	1991	George Carey	Formerly Principal of Trinity Theological College, Bristol (1982–1988). Nominated and consecrated bishop in 1987. Translated to Canterbury in 1991.
1991	2001	Jim Thompson	Translated from Stepney. Nominated and confirmed in 1991. Retired in 2001 and died in 2003.
2002	2013	Peter Price	Translated from Kingston-upon-Thames. Nominated in 2001 and enthroned in 2002. ^[28] Retired on 30 June 2013.

[28] *"Bishop of Kingston to be Bishop of Bath & Wells". The Diocese of Southwark. Retrieved 21 August 2011.*

4 March 2014	<i>present</i>	Peter Hancock	Translated from Basingstoke. Nominated in December 2013 and installed in June 2014 ^[5]
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[5] *"New Bishop of Bath and Wells Peter Hancock installed". BBC News. 7 June 2014.*

The Seven Bishops



**Portrait details: Title: 'The Seven Bishops
Committed to the Tower in 1688'**

(possibly published by John Smith, by Unknown
artist, mezzotint, 1688 - Purchased, 1966)

Artists

John Smith (1652-1743), Engraver. Artist associated with 1145 portraits, Sitter in 4 portraits.

Sitters

Thomas Ken (1637-1711), Bishop of Bath and Wells. Sitter associated with 20 portraits.

John Lake (1624-1689), Bishop of Chichester. Sitter associated with 13 portraits.

William Lloyd (1627-1717), Bishop of Worcester. Sitter associated with 19 portraits.

William Sancroft (1617-1693), Archbishop of Canterbury. Sitter associated with 29 portraits.

Sir Jonathan Trelawny, 3rd Bt (1650-1721), Bishop of Winchester. Sitter associated with 15 portraits.

Francis Turner (1638?-1700), Bishop of Ely. Sitter associated with 14 portraits.

Thomas White (1628-1698), Bishop of Peterborough. Sitter associated with 13 portraits.



MEDALLION OF THE SEVEN BISHOPS

Great Britain. Archbishop William Sancroft (1617-1693) and the Seven Bishops, cast Silver Medal, 1688, by George Bower, bust of Sancroft right, rev medallic portraits and the names of the Bishop of London and the six imprisoned bishops, 50mm (MI 622/37).



The Seven Bishops committed to the Tower in 1688

by George Bower, silver medal, 1688

1 3/8 in. (35 mm) diameter Given by John Ashton Bostock, 1862

NPG 152a

Long Gallery Portraits:
(*multiple portraits displayed in Palace)

North Wall (to left of doorway entering the Gallery):
Peter Price
James Lawton Thompson

East Wall (fireplace wall) left to right:

George Carey
John Bickersteth
Edward Henderson*
Harold Bradfield*
John Wand
Francis Underhill
St John Wynne-Willson*
George Kennion
Robert Eden
Arthur Hervey
Richard Bagot*
George Law
Charles Moss
Richard Beadon
Edward Willes
John Wynne
George Hooper
Richard Kidder
Thomas Ken
Peter Mews
Robert Creighton
Walter Curle
William Piers
Arthur Lake
William Laude
James Montagu

Drawing Room:

North Wall (by doorway to exhibition hall):

Thomas Godwin

East Wall (opposite doorway to long gallery):

Thomas Wolsey

Landing outside Long Gallery:

Richard Bagot (right of doorway)

Edward Henderson (Photo in window alcove outside exhibition rooms)

Introduction

(from Catalogue of the portraits belonging to the Bishop's Palace Wells)

Bold numerals in brackets indicate catalogue numbers (these are also shown alongside each portrait image)

The collection

The Palace is believed to have had pictures, probably of Tudor and early Stuart bishops, previous to 1645 when these were removed or destroyed as the result of looting by Parliamentary troops during the Civil War. No replacements are known to have been made before Bishop Law (1824-45) began the present collection in, or shortly after 1827 when he converted the Long Gallery for family use. By 1829, through gift or purchase, he had acquired eighteen pictures, according to Cassan, who records them in his *Lives* published that year (see Abbreviations). These he lists as Creighton, Laud, Montagu, Moss, Wynn[e], Lake, Willes, Godwin, Beadon, Law, Kidder, Laud, Ken, Mawe (*recte* Montagu), Hooper, Lake, Curle, and Still, apparently representing the order in which they were displayed in the new Gallery. Beginning the sequence was Creighton over the door leading from the Jacobean staircase, with one of the Lauds next to him, while Curle and Still, completing the collection, are said by Cassan to have occupied the [south] end of the room, **'in the corner ... by the window looking into the garden'**.

The remaining pictures would have been arranged along the extensive east wall of the Gallery. The Beechey portrait of Law as bishop of Chester (18), now in the Drawing Room, formerly the Library, may have been the one originally above the fireplace seen by Cassan, while Moss (14), Beadon (15), and Willes (16), also in Drawing Room, Montagu (22, incorrectly labelled Mawe), Still (23), Lake (24), and Godwin (29), all in **the Panelled Room, formerly the White Room, have similarly changed their location since Law's time**. The later portrait of Law, as bishop of Bath & Wells (27, by Pickersgill), is said to have been acquired by the Palace in 1931, though this is uncertain. It is difficult to be precise about most of the original locations recorded by Cassan in view of the extensive remodelling of the Gallery carried out by Bishop Bagot (1, 17) in 1846. Under the direction of the architect Benjamin Ferrey a second storey with dormers and chimneys was created, windows lengthened with trefoil points and quatrefoils, and an elaborate stucco ceiling, and Italian Gothic-style wall panelling and door surrounds installed. It is likely that a second fireplace was added at the same time, supplementing the one noted by Cassan. Not entirely acceptable to later generations largely on account of the pseudo-Gothic interior of dubious authenticity, these enthusiastic alterations were to draw acerbic comment from Pevsner in our own age.

Duplication of Laud and Lake in the list may indicate two portraits each rather than an error on Cassan's part, which would reduce his total to sixteen. The present display in the Gallery consists of eleven portraits in oils and one engraving, these being the most recently acquired Wynne Willson (2), supplementing Curl (3), Montagu (4), Kidder (5), Ken (6), Laud (7), Mews (8), Piers (9), two Hoopers (10, 12), Wynne (11), and the Seven Bishops (engraving, 13). Mews, the two Piers (one now missing), and one of the Hoopers (10) were evidently acquired after 1829. The primary collection has been steadily supplemented since that date with portraits of successive bishops up to recent times, including Thompson (35). Outside the main sequence are bishops Chapman of Colombo in Ceylon (42), now Sri Lanka, and Blackall of Exeter (40).

While not a bishop of Bath & Wells, Chapman had connections with the cathedral and diocese in later life, which presumably explains why his portrait, a well-executed pastel by George Richmond RA, was bequeathed to the Palace in 1984. The presence of Blackall, who had no known association with the diocese, raises questions.

While most of the names noted by Cassan can certainly be matched against the existing portraits, a few observations are necessary. The present Creighton (21) in the Panelled Room is not the one seen in or shortly before 1829. It is a later nineteenth-century bust-length version said to have been copied from the three-quarter length original given to Wells town hall by **Thomas Serel, a local antiquary, in 1862. Serel's** picture is of considerable interest, since it is an adapted portrait of Laud (after van Dyck), one of a number of the archbishop that were defaced or destroyed after his execution in 1645. This one was given a new **lease of life when it was overpainted, unskilfully, with Creighton's features, either between 1670 and 1672** when he was bishop, or when it was possibly acquired by Law around 1827. This, indeed, may have been the Creighton noted by Cassan. There would certainly have been space for it in the location he describes at the north end of the Gallery, and this, together with the juxtaposed Laud, would have made a good matching pair, alike in size and detail apart from the heads. How Serel came by it remains unknown, but the later reduced version may have been intended to replace a picture that, in the end, was only an unsatisfactory makeshift. The redundant portrait may then have been acquired by Serel by gift, purchase or other means, whereupon it was subsequently presented to Wells Corporation. The gift is recorded in the City Council minutes for 1862. The copy was made in 1866, according to Vivian-Neal, and has been in the Palace since that date.

The series of portraits begins with Richard Fox (1492-4) (25), and is complete apart from Oliver King (1495-1503), Hadrian de Castello (1504-18), John Clerk (1523-41), William Knight (1541-7), William Barlow (1548-53), Gilbert Bourne (1554-59/60), Gilbert Berkeley (1560-81), and Leonard Mawe (1628-9). There may at one time have been a portrait of Barlow, but this was not noted by Cassan and its existence can only remain a matter of speculation. With his episcopate lasting just under a year, Mawe appears never to have taken up residence in Wells, which no doubt accounts for the absence of his portrait. Ingamells rightly notes that the panel misidentified as Mawe (22), currently in the Panelled Room, is a version of the Montagu (4) in the Long Gallery. The portrait mistaken for him on the basis of its incorrect label is said by Cassan to have belonged previously to the cathedral before its appropriation by Law.

No documentary sources survive to trace the history and descent of the primary collection. A survey of it, with additions up to and including Bishop Underhill, 1937-43 (30), made in 1944 by A W Vivian-Neal, **then Somerset county archivist, follows notes on the portraits said to have been made by Bishop Hervey's** widow (Patience, not mentioned by name) in 1898. Compiled during the time of Bishop Kennion four years **after her husband's death, their purpose is unknown, though a picture inventory** may well have been in mind. Apparently containing details of accession, and perhaps of location and conservation, these would have provided detailed insight into **the origins of the collection and its development since Law's day, had Vivian-**Neal taken the trouble to record his source properly. His inadequate referencing throughout his work similarly hampers the pursuit of other lines of enquiry, which can only remain uncertain until the missing material he cites comes to light. A later survey, taking into account subsequent accessions (Wand, 38; Bradfield, 31; and Henderson, 34), was undertaken in 1976 by Robin Gibson of the National Portrait Gallery (see Abbreviations). More systematic and thorough than Vivian-Neal, who merely listed the collection in chronological order without reference to location, Gibson gave a room-by-room account of each portrait, following a recently assigned number sequence, now superseded

. His work was supplemented a year later by the Palace inventory, which has remained the principal record of the collection until the present catalogue.

Since then, however, over a period of nearly thirty years, a number of the portraits have been moved around the Palace, both as the result of room rearrangement and later additions to the collection. The relocated pictures are Godwin (29) and Wolsey (19) from Jacobean staircase to Undercroft and Long Gallery respectively (Godwin again in 1986 to present position in Panelled Room, and most recently, 2005, Wolsey to Drawing Room, replacing Chapman (42), **now in Bishop's dining room**); **Creighton (21)**, Mawe (22, *recte* Montagu), Still (23), Lake (24), and Fox (25), from Undercroft to Panelled Room; Hervey (28), Wynne Willson (32), and Eden (33) from Conference Room to Panelled Room; Bagot (engraving, 1) and Eden (lithograph, 20) from Conference Room to Jacobean staircase and Drawing Room respectively; Unknown (?Creighton, precentor, 43), in 1986, from Long Gallery to Conference Room, and most recently, **2005, to Bishop's residence; Willes from Long Gallery to Drawing Room; Law (18) from Conference Room to Drawing Room; and Law (27) from Drawing Room to Panelled Room.** The remaining pictures, apart from ?Beadon (panel, 39) and Blackall, 40 (**both in Bishop's office, 1977, now in Bishop's dining room**), and Law, 41 (**in Drawing Room, 1977, now in Bishop's dining room**) have preserved their former locations. Additions to the collection since 1977 are Bickersteth, 1984 (37); Carey, as archbishop of Canterbury, 1991 (36); Thompson, 2001 (35); and Wynne Willson (2), 2004.

Style of the portraits

Sitters are depicted half or three-quarter length, sitting or standing, turned slightly to the left or to the right according to their aspect rather than that of the viewer. Representations of the head and upper portion of the body, known as bust-length, may be enclosed in an oval (Montague, 4; Kidder, 5; Hooper, 10, 12; Creighton, 21; Eden, 33). In the earlier Hooper (10) the oval is elaborated to resemble a stone cartouche of contemporary style. Sometimes a book is featured, a stylistic convention that continues into modern times with Bishop Henderson (34). In the half-length portraits the book is held in front, either open (?Creighton, precentor, 43) or closed (Curll, 3) between thumb and forefinger, or partly open with forefinger (Montagu, 22; Still, 23; Lake, 24) or thumb (Beadon, 15) between the pages, while on the three-quarter lengths it might be shown lower (Wynne, 11; Willes, 16; Law, 18; and Henderson, 34), or on a table or desk (Ken, 6; Eden, 20; Law, 27, 41), with Godwin (29) as an exception where it appears in front as on the half-lengths, though further down.

Backgrounds vary from the nondescript monochrome to the elaborate, with architecture, usually classical columns with or without drapes (Ken, 6; Laud, 7; Mews, 8; Bagot, 17; Law, 18, 27, 41), or just drapes on their own (Wynne, 11; Beadon, 15; ?Creighton, precentor, 43), rich furnishings and drapes (Willes, 16), landscapes (Moss, 14; Law, 27; Chapman, 42) or views (Wolsey, 19), and even the medieval surroundings of the Palace undercroft (Underhill, 30; Thompson, 35). A break with artistic convention is represented by **Humphrey Ocean's bold full-length** (the only one of its type in the collection), less formal portrait of Bishop Bickersteth (37), shown standing in the well gardens with gun dog at feet and cathedral in the background. Inscriptions in English (Godwin, 29) or Latin (Curll, 3; Lake, 24) with name of sitter and see, and portrait date are usually characteristic of an earlier period, though this convention never entirely disappeared (Underhill, 30, but without portrait date). More elaborate are the ostentatious laudatory verses in Latin and Greek in the style of contemporary **funerary monuments added to Hooper's later picture (12)** after his death in 1727.

Most of the sitters are depicted wearing a rochet (a white full length sleeved tunic worn over the cassock), often with frilled cuffs caught at the wrists with black or red silk bands or ties, with chimere (a black sleeveless open-fronted overcoat worn over the rochet) and tippet (a black silk scarf worn over the

chimere). This, in addition to a black square cap or a skull-cap, or sometimes both, comprised the usual outdoor dress while preaching, at Court, or in the House of Lords where attendance as peers spiritual was obligatory though not always practicable. Three are shown wearing copes, Wynne Willson (2) and Bradfield (31) both in the Coronation cope on display in the Long Gallery, and Carey, as archbishop (36). The crozier features but once (Bickersteth, 37), and where on two occasions it has been replaced by a walking stick the sitters are known to have been incapacitated by blindness (Fox, 25) and old age (Godwin, 29).

Cassocks were traditionally black (Moss, 14; Lake, 24; Fox, 25), though the more distinctive and symbolic purple, and even red, begins to predominate during the last century, continuing into the present (Wynne Willson, 2, 32; Underhill, 30; Bradfield, 31; Thompson, 35; Carey, as archbishop, 36; Bickersteth, 37). A plain white collar, popularly known as the dog collar, a minimalist descendant of the full ruff of the Tudor and early Stuart periods (Curll, 3; Laud, 7; Montagu, 22; Still, 23; Lake, 24; Godwin, 29) and later white stock (Moss, 14; Chapman, 42) **starts to appear in Law's time and has remained characteristic of clerical dress** since. Sometimes starched bands (of seventeenth century origin, compare Kidder, 5; Ken, 6; Mews, 8; Piers, 9; Hooper, 10, 12; ?Creighton, precentor, 43) were worn, continuing into later times when they become narrower (Wynne, 11; Beadon, 15; Willes, 16; Bagot, 17; Law, 18; Hervey, 28; Underhill, 30), though dispensed with in less formal attire or everyday dress (Moss, 14; Eden, 20, 33; Law, 27). The pectoral cross of various designs, usually, though not always in gold embellished with precious stones, features in the later portraits, and was worn with or without the rochet over the purple or red cassock (Wynne Willson, 2 (beneath cope), 32; Bradfield, 31 (beneath cope); Henderson, 34; Thompson, 35; Carey, as archbishop, 36 (beneath cope); Bickersteth, 37; Wand, 38).

Hats appear to have declined in fashion before the middle of the last century, though might still be worn according to personal choice, the black cap and purple biretta shown respectively with Kennion (26) and Wynne Willson (32) **being exceptions among the modern bishops portrayed. Wolsey's red biretta is part of his dress as cardinal archbishop (19).** The late medieval and early Tudor plain black cap covering the ears, familiar in one style from the portrait, after Hans Holbein the younger, c.1527 (NPG 2821), of the saintly Bishop Fisher of Rochester (1503-35), appears once only, on Fox (25). Its descendant, the flat square cap of late sixteenth-century origin, originally soft and worn over a skull-cap, also dating from the same period, appears on Montagu (4, 22) and Laud (7), and evolves later into a style resembling the academic mortar board, tasselled (from the mid eighteenth century) and usually held in the hand (?Beadon, 39, and Bagot, including engraving, 1, 17), though sometimes shown on a side table as in the town hall portrait of Kidder. The skull-cap in its various styles worn alone becomes particularly prominent during the early Stuart and Restoration periods (Curll, 3; Ken, 6; Mews, 8; Piers, 9; Creighton, 21; Still, 23; Lake, 24). Its disappearance during the late seventeenth century coincided with the fashion for long, stylishly curled or dressed hair (Kidder, 5; Hooper, 10, 12; Blackall, 40; ?Creighton, precentor, 43), while wigs, initially full and later short, throughout the eighteenth century and into the nineteenth (Wynne, 11; Moss, 14; Beadon, 15, 39; Willes, 16; Law 18, 27, 41) made it an impractical and pointless form of headwear. Law was the last bishop of Bath & Wells to wear a wig, a short one in the style of the day, and one of the earliest to be seen in private dress consisting of subfusc frock coat and breeches (compare also Chapman, 42, and Eden, 20, 33). Victorian **bishops cut a dash with 'shovel' (Chapman, 42) or top (Hervey, 28) hats, while gloves (Bagot, 1, 17; Hervey, 28; and Chapman, 42) seem also to have been de rigueur during this period. Bagot's blue silk gloves were apparently part of his dress as chancellor of the Garter (17).**

Distinctions, such as insignia of the Garter (Bagot, 1, 17; Curll, 3; Montagu, 4; Mews, 8), badge of H M College of Chaplains (Bickersteth, 37), and medal ribbons (Wand, 38), are shown where worn, as are occasionally personal or official arms (Curll, 3, Montagu, 4 (each impaling Winchester, their Garter see); Wolsey, as cardinal archbishop of York, 19; Godwin, 29; Underhill, 30; Bradfield (Bath & Wells only), 31; Henderson, 34), displayed at top left or right of the canvas. Formal dress might be supplemented by full doctoral robes (Underhill, 30) or simply the hood on its own (Laud, 7; Kennion, 26; Hervey, 28;

Wand, 38). A silk patch covering an old war wound and a helmet on a side table are reminders of **Mews'** previous military career in the royal service (8). As an Oxford Doctor of Civil Law and former soldier his path to the episcopacy was an unconventional one, as was Godwin's with his degree in medicine among the more usual theological attainments.

Abbreviations

ARA	Associate of the Royal Academy
archbp.	Archbishop
BLO	Bust-Length Oval
BM	Bachelor of Medicine, Oxford
bp.	bishop
B & W	Bath & Wells
DCL	Doctor of Civil Law, Oxford
DD	Doctor of Divinity
DLitt	Doctor of Letters
DSO	Distinguished Service Order
<i>fl.</i>	<i>floruit</i>
FL	Full-Length
FRS	Fellow of the Royal Society
HL	Half-Length
HMSO	Her Majesty's Stationery Office
Inventory	Inventory of the paintings in the Bishop's Palace, Wells,
KCB	Knight Commander of the Bath
KCVO	Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order
NPG	National Portrait Gallery, London
PC	Privy Council
RA	Royal Academy
TQL	Three-Quarter Length

Note on the Catalogue

Entries refer to bishops of Bath & Wells, unless stated otherwise. Biographical information is confined **mainly to sitters' ecclesiastical careers, given the restrictions on space**. Personal and other details, where they are available, may be obtained from the recently published *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. In view of the limited number of printed editions confined mainly to major library collections, this may be accessed most conveniently on-line, either as a member of a subscribing institution (county library services, among others), or as an individual subscriber. Terms and conditions of use, including costs, will be found on www.oxforddnb.com. The recommended, but cumbersome Oxford University Press style of on-line citation `author/article/imprint/http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/[article number]` is simplified here for clarity to *ODNB* [article number]. Thus, Richard Kidder (5), for example, is referenced briefly as *ODNB* 15518. Details of other likenesses where they are known, such as engravings, mezzotints, photographs and bronzes are also included, though these are limited principally to NPG (mainly archive) resources and are by no means comprehensive. The **importance of John Ingamells' magisterial *English episcopal portrait, 1559-1835*** for appreciating this often-neglected *genre* should be mentioned. Although published twenty-five years ago, it remains indispensable for understanding the wealth and significance of this undervalued source of our artistic, religious and historical heritage.

Portraits are in oils on canvas, unless described otherwise. Dimensions are given in centimetres in the form height x width, upwards to the nearest figure. Because canvas edges are usually hidden beneath frame rebates, measurements are taken along the sight-lines and are approximate only.

The plates were produced under conditions of unavoidably intrusive natural light, causing reflection on varnished canvases, particularly in the Long Gallery, which Michael Blandford has succeeded skilfully in reducing very considerably where it was difficult to eliminate altogether.

RICHARD BAGOT (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1845-1854)



Portrait details: Title: '**Richard Bagot (1845–1854) (after Sir Francis Grant)**' (located Jacobean staircase, on landing, by Long Gallery door)

Engraving by John Burnet FRS (1784-1869), showing sitter as bishop. Oxford, 1845, shortly before his appointment to Bath & Wells; style, with robes and badge of chancellor of the Garter, square tasselled cap in left hand, from portrait belonging to Bagot family (probably Ingamells, 107 A1 where attributed to Pickersgill, c.1834). Published by J Ryman, High Street, Oxford, 9 Feb. 1845.



17

Title: '**RICHARD BAGOT, 1845-54**' (located East wall,)

TQL seated to left, head to front, on high-backed chair, as chancellor of the Garter; mantle with heavily tasselled dark blue and gold cords, loosely knotted, falling between knees, and Garter badge on right side; rochet with ham-frill cuffs caught at wrists with black silk bands, chimere, tippet, white high collar with unstarched bands; right hand resting on upturned square cap on right knee, holding gold-tasselled light blue silk glove, the left, with matching glove, supporting gilt tasselled plaque with **Garter badge, tilted forward; chancellor's badge** suspended from neck by gold chain; short dark hair with side whiskers; crimson flowing drapery behind, base and lower part of shaft of fluted column to left.

Painted by: British School, unknown, after original by Sir Francis Grant, RA (1803-78), 1846, in deanery, Canterbury (Ingamells, 107 B2, with plate, 9), portraying sitter as bp. Oxford, 1845, shortly before appointment to Bath & Wells, with robes and badge of chancellor of the Garter.

Richard Bagot (1845–1854) contd:

Biographical Details:

Bagot had been bishop. Oxford, 1829-45, during the period of the Oxford Movement, with which he was reluctantly involved although he was not unsympathetic towards it. Controversy, however, had affected his health and he **requested a translation to Bath & Wells when the see became vacant on Bishop Law's death** in 1845, remaining there until his own demise in 1854. During his time at Wells he remodelled the Long Gallery, altered the wing of the Bishop's Palace now known as the Palace Rooms, and rebuilt part of the bishop's residence.

He installed the ceiling in the Drawing Room and decorated it with his coat of arms. His coat of arms can also be seen in the Long Gallery in the mouldings below the windows 'Antiquam obtinens' ('possessing antiquity'). He had a storey built over the Long Gallery as space was needed for his large family (eleven daughters?). This space is now the gardener's flat. He commissioned architect Benjamin Ferrey to renovate the whole of the first floor; windows enlarged, plaster ceilings installed and decorations carried out in Victorian Italian Gothic style. The columns are cast iron. The moulding on doors and panelling and coving, made from papier mache to look like wood carving, was installed by George Jackson and Sons Ltd. (founded 1780 and in the family until 1947, still operating) who worked in association with Robert Adam. Ferrey wrote that he disassociated himself as it had been installed '*by an ignorant upholsterer from Bath*'. In fact the company revolutionised relief decoration, introduced use of composite plaster, fibrous plaster and used papier mache and carton pierre (papier mache made to imitate stone or bronze in statuary and architectural ornaments). They amassed over 20,000 moulds and 100s of plaster models - before them, craftsmen carved decoration on site. Their work is in Royal Pavilion in Brighton, Buckingham Palace and Osborne Palace State Banqueting Hall. Bishop Bagot was of a modest, retiring and nervous disposition; his nerves never recovered from an accident while Dean of Canterbury Cathedral in which he swallowed cotton wool used to stop a tooth. He suffered a complete nervous breakdown when he was translated to Bath and Wells. He recovered and died in Brighton 1854.¹

¹ From talk/handout by Michael Blandford on first floor Palace Rooms January 2016

RICHARD BEADON (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1802 – 1824)



Portrait details: Title: '**Richard Beadon (1802-1824)** (after Francis Lemuel Abbott) (located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted 1846 oil on canvas - acquired between 1827-1829

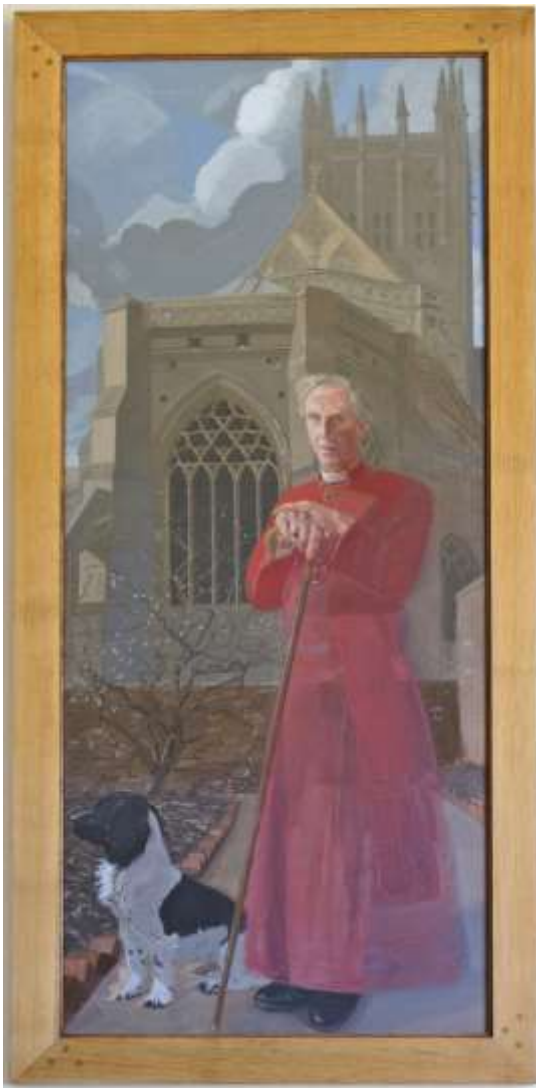
Painted by British School unknown, after original by Francis Lemuel Abbott, RA (1760-1803), at Jesus College, Cambridge, dated between 1789 and 1802 when Beadon was bishop. Gloucester. Other likenesses: plaster statuette by Lucius Gahagen (1823), NPG 4901; cf. also NPG D12372 where sitter is part of a group in a satirical etching by Gillray, 1788.

HL to left, head to front; rochet with ham-frill cuffs caught at wrists with black silk bands, chimere, tippet, bands, and short white wig; right hand across front, holding small book before him, partly open between thumb and forefinger; indistinct crimson draped background.

Biographical details:

Previously master of Jesus College, Cambridge, 1781-9, Bishop Beadon served as vice-chancellor of the university from 1781 to 1782, and bishop. Gloucester, 1789-1802, Beadon was regarded as a kindly man hospitable alike to his clergy and his neighbours. He restored part of the Palace, now the bishop's residence.

JOHN BICKERSTETH (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1975-1987)



37

Portrait details: Title: '**John Monier Bickersteth (1975–1987)**' (located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted 1983 acrylic on canvas – acquired 1984

Painted by Humphrey Ocean Humphrey Anthony Erdeswick Butler-Bowden Ocean, 1951–], 1983 (NPG 5695, 5746, 5823, 6131, 6223, 6371, and 10633 also by same artist), by whom inscribed on top stretcher: HUMPHREY OCEAN © 1983.

FL standing to right in well garden by brick-edged dug flower border, with small tree or shrub coming into leaf, cathedral with Lady Chapel in background viewed beyond low stone wall, white and grey clouds across a blue sky; red cassock with matching sash, red-enamelled pectoral cross *patée* on gold chain, badge of H M College of Chaplains pinned beneath white clerical collar; both hands resting on crozier, left over right, the left, with gold signet ring on little finger, the right with gold and amethyst ring on third finger; silver-grey hair, black shoes, springer spaniel (known as 'the Bishop's springer spaniel gun dog') at feet.

Biographical details:

Bishop Bickersteth was Clerk of the Closet to HM The Queen from 1979 to 1989, and was created KCVO on retirement from that office. Previous to appointment to Bath & Wells he was honorary canon of Rochester cathedral, 1968-70, and bishop of Warrington, 1970-5; freeman of the City of London, 1978.

Bishop Bickersteth created the arboretum (to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee). His dog (a Springer spaniel, who appears in the Bishop's portrait) is called Melchior.²

Melchior is the name given in later legend to one of the Biblical Magi appearing in the Gospel of Matthew.

² From handout/talk given by Michael Blandford on Palace rooms – first floor, January 2016

HAROLD WILLIAM BRADFIELD (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1946-1960)



31

Portrait details: Title: 'Harold William Bradfield (1946–1960)' (Located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted 1954 oil on canvas – possibly acquired between 1954 and 1960

Painted by Henry Raeburn Dobson ARA (1901-? [Bénézit, iii, 1602]), by whom signed. Inscribed on stretcher, middle: THE R^T REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF BATH & WELLS | ORIGINAL PAINTING BY | H RAEBURN DOBSON. R.C.A. SEPTEMBER 1954. EDINBURGH; and, top right, in pencil: H RAEBURN DOBSON LIBERAL CLUB | EDINBURGH. Other likeness: duplicate, by artist, in Bradfield Room, Old Deanery (Diocesan Board of Finance offices), Wells. NPG 5117 also by artist.

TOL seated to left; gold-embroidered Coronation cope, with royal blue edging embroidered with arms of see and matching morse, purple cassock beneath rochet with ham-frill cuffs caught at wrists with red silk bands, cream silk stole, gold pectoral cross with precious stone; left hand resting on lap, the right, with gold and amethyst ring on third finger, beneath chin; short dark receding hair, spectacles; azure background of varying depth; arms, top right, B & W surmounted by mitre with lappets.



Located Drawing Room by Cope chest.

Bradfield on Monarch's left at Elizabeth II coronation.



Bishop Bradfield contd.

Biographical details:

He served as a parish priest in Heyside, Lancashire, before he became secretary of the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance. In 1934, he was appointed an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral. He became Archdeacon of Croydon in 1942 and was appointed Bishop of Bath & Wells in 1946. Here his use of the **Bishop's Palace was restricted by post-war shortages and building materials.** After the renovation of the North Wing he was able to live in more comfortable domestic rooms and more suitable offices for his staff. At the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 he was the supporter at her left hand. He was a keen sportsman and was elected President of Somerset County Cricket Club in 1954. He died in 1960 and was buried in the Cathedral.

Bishop Bradfield initially used the Drawing Room as his study, but later moved his office and family accommodation to the North wing of the Palace. The Coronation Cope was shortened (by about 8 inches) for him to wear.³

³ Handout from talk on Palace Rooms – First Floor Jan/Feb 2016

GEORGE LEONARD CAREY (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1987 – 1990)



36

Portrait details: Title: 'George Leonard Carey (1987–1991)' (Located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted 1992 oil on canvas – acquired 1992

Painted by John Piggins 1992, by whom signed and dated (NPG 5547 also by same artist); painted at Lambeth Palace, 1991-2; **unveiled by sitter at Bishop's Palace, 8 Jul. 1992.** Other likenesses: laminate photographic colour portraits (as bishop. Bath & Wells) by Ian Sumner of West Pennard, identical, c.1990, Old Deanery (Diocesan Board of Finance offices) and Town Hall, Wells; bromide print (as archbishop. Canterbury), by Gemma Levine (1993), NPG X88873.

TQL seated to left on carved wooden throne with scrolled arms, as archbishop Canterbury; embroidered gold cope with morse set with two large amethysts, purple cassock beneath rochet with ham-frill cuffs caught at wrists with red silk bands, white silk stole with embroidered stellate crosses and red-gold flame motifs (symbolising Holy Spirit); ornate silver pectoral cross *nowy* beneath cope, gold and amethyst ring on third finger of left hand; silver-grey receding hair, spectacles; silver grey background with light brown drapes; low table to left with light brown cover (different shade to drapes) on which rests mitre with same motifs as stole.

Biographical details:

He was born in London in 1935 and as a teenager in Dagenham he became a Christian. It was during this time that he met his future wife Eileen, and they married in 1960. He served in the Royal Air Force in Egypt and Iraq. After training for the ministry at the London College of Divinity and King's College London, he ministered in London, serving as a Curate at St Mary's Islington and Lecturer in Theology at Oakhill College. Between 1970-1975 he lectured at St John's College Nottingham and then became Vicar of St Nicholas, Durham. From 1982-1987 he was Principal of Trinity Theological College (Bristol) and then he came to Bath and Wells. In 1991, he became the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1990, he received the freedom of the City of Wells and is the author of a number of books of spiritual and theological interest.

ROBERT CREIGHTON (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1670-1672)



Portrait details: Title: 'Robert Creighton (1670-1672)'
(located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted (no date) oil on canvas - acquired after 1866

Painted by British School unknown, said to have been copied from TQL version in Wells town hall, 1866 (Ingamells, 161 A: this was adapted from a portrait of Archbishop William Laud (bishop Bath & Wells, 1626-8), after van Dyck.

BLO to right, rochet, chimere, bands, skull-cap, trimmed white beard; light nondescript background.

Biographical details:

Professor of Greek at Cambridge, 1625-39; treasurer of Wells cathedral from 1632 to 1660, dean of St Buryan, Cornwall, 1637, but deprived at outbreak of Civil War, 1642. He was Chaplain to Charles I, and subsequently to Charles II in exile. Created dean of Wells while abroad in 1646, Creighton (or Creyghton) formally took office at the Restoration, being appointed bishop a decade later.

WALTER CURLE (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1629 to 1632)



3

Portrait details: Walter Curle (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1629 to 1632) (located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted 1635 oil on canvas - acquired between 1827–1829 by British School, unknown, contemporary, portraying Curll aged sixty-one, 1635; head possibly by Flemish artist (Vivian-Neal).

HL to left, as bishop Winchester and prelate of the Garter; mantle with heavily tasselled gold cords and Garter badge on left side, rochet with embroidered top and frilled cuffs caught at wrists with black silk bands, tippet, ruff collar, winged skull-cap, **short grey hair, 'spade' beard; right hand holding small clasped red book closed between thumb and forefinger before him; arms encircled by Garter with motto, top right, Winchester impaling Curll (*vert a chevron engrailed or* [Jewers, 269]); subdued nondescript background; inscribed top left, GVALTERVS CVRLE. | EP. WINTON | ÆTATIS. SVÆ. 61 | 1635.**

Biographical details:

Bp. Rochester, 1628-9, and Winchester, 1632-45, Curll (or Curle) was also lord high almoner to Charles I. At Winchester, he restored dignity and decorum to divine worship, and repaired the interior of the badly neglected cathedral at considerable expense. He was deprived of his bishopric in 1645 during the Civil War and died in penury at Soberton, Hampshire, 1647, where he is buried.

ROBERT EDEN (3rd Baron of Auckland) (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1854-1869)



33

Portrait details: Title: 'Robert John Eden, 3rd Baron Auckland (1854-1869)' (located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted c1855 oil on canvas – possibly acquired 1860

Painted by George Richmond



(Located Drawing Room)

TQL, to right, seated; dark frock coat with matching vest and apron, white clerical collar just showing, *pince-nez* on cord round neck, silver-grey hair with side whiskers, left arm resting on carved side table with books, right hand clenched in lap, legs crossed.

Lithograph, by WA Wragg, from contemporary portrait, ?c.1865,

Biographical details:

Eden succeeded to the title of 3rd Baron Auckland, of West Auckland, County Durham, 1849. Previous to appointment to Bath & Wells he was chaplain to William IV, 1831-7, vicar of Battersea, Surrey, 1834, chaplain to Queen Victoria, 1837-49, and bishop Sodor and Man, 1847-54. Cambridge DD, 1847.

RICHARD FOX (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1492-1494)



25

Portrait details: Title: 'Richard Fox (1492–1494) (after Johannes Corvus)' (not displayed in Palace)

Painted (no date) oil on panel - acquired after 1829

Painted by British School unknown, perhaps early 19th cent., from original panel by Johannes Corvus (a native of Bruges, identified with Jan Raf, or Rave, who settled in England around 1528 [ODNB 6360]) at Corpus Christi College, Fox's device, not featured here, was a pelican in its piety with the motto *Est Deo gracia*. Other likenesses: **Winchester College (Warden's Lodgings)**, oil on canvas, reputedly by Corvus; NPG 874, panel, after Corvus, late 16th cent. (with device), and 5387, panel, 1522; engraving by Vertue (1723/4), after Corvus, NPG D19246; mezzotint by John Faber, after unknown artist, NPG D2014.

HL to left, looking down, blind, as bishop Winchester; black cap covering ears, rochet with embroidered top over black cassock with cuffs showing, tippet; clean shaven; both hands before him, left, with rings of gold and stones on fore and little fingers, over right, clasping a walking stick; subdued grey-green background.

Biographical details:

Lord privy seal to both Henry VII and Henry VIII, and founder of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, Fox (or Foxe) was also bishop Exeter, 1487-92, Durham, 1494-1501, and Winchester, 1501-28, appointments which provided him with financial support while engaged in affairs of state where his services were most valued. In 1501, he was elected chancellor of Cambridge University. His retirement from public life in 1516 enabled him to devote more time to his episcopal and pastoral duties, and he was highly regarded at Winchester as a capable and dedicated bishop in later life. His publications include a translation into English of the *Rule of St Benedict* for the nuns in his diocese 1516/17.

THOMAS GODWIN (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1584-1590)



Portrait details: Title: 'Thomas Godwin (1584-1590) (after original at Christ Church, Oxford)' (located Drawing Room West Wall)

Painted 1827 oil on canvas - acquired between 1827-1829

Painted by British School unknown, 1827, after original panel at Christ Church, Oxford (Ingamells, 200 B1; Poole, iii, 14, and 112-13). Other likeness: by unknown artist, c.1584, at deanery, Canterbury.

TQL standing to front, rochet caught at wrists with black silk bands, chimere, ruff collar, skull-cap, full long tapering brown beard with moustache; left hand resting on a stout walking stick, the right across front, holding small black book before him; subdued nondescript background; arms surmounted by mitre with lappets, top left: B & W impaling Godwin (*or two lions passant sable on a canton of the last three bezants* [Jewers, 269]), with punning motto, WYN GOD. WYN ALL; inscribed, top left: THOMAS GODWIN. D.D. ET: A° 72| BP. BATH & WELLS. 1584.

Biographical details:

Godwin began his career as a schoolmaster in 1549, teaching until the accession of Mary in 1553 when he was forced to resign on account of his religious principles. In order to support himself and his family he became a licensed medical practitioner in 1555 (degree of BM), being subsequently admitted to holy orders early during the reign of Elizabeth I. Previous to his appointment to Bath & Wells he was dean of Christ Church, Oxford, dean of Canterbury, 1566, and ecclesiastical commissioner, 1576. As a result of his second marriage to a much younger woman he incurred the royal displeasure and retired to Oakingham in Berkshire, the village of his birth, where he died, 1590. The year previously, with Godwin's assent, the city of Wells received its great charter of incorporation from the Crown, creating it a borough in its own right independent of the bishops. His son Francis, who was bishop Llandaff, 1601-17, and Hereford, 1617-33 was an important ecclesiastical historian, whose work is still valued today.

EDWARD BARRY HENDERSON (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1960 – 1975)



34

Portrait details: Title: 'Edward Barry Henderson, DSO (1960–1975)' (located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted c1970 oil on canvas - presented by Reverend Andrew Henderson (sitter's son) on the occasion of granting of Honorary Freedom of Wells to Bishop George Carey, 1990

Painted by George J D Bruce c.1970. Other likenesses: as bishop Tewkesbury, by Henrietta Radcliffe, 1955

TQL seated to left in dark wooden arm chair; rochet with ham-frill cuffs caught at wrists with red silk bands, chimere, tippet, gold pectoral cross; right hand, with gold and amethyst ring on forefinger, resting on lap, the left, also on lap, holding small closed book with grey cover; subdued nondescript background; arms, top right, B & W impaling Henderson (*barry of eight pieces azure and or a cross flory gules quarterly an anchor displayed proper gules*, recalling **sitter's distinguished naval service during Second World War**, for which awarded DSC) surmounted by mitre with lappets.

Returned to sitter Jul. 1977; as bishop Bath & Wells, bronze head, with colour, by David Backhouse, ?c.1970, presented to Palace by Rev. Andrew Henderson (sitter's son) on occasion of granting of honorary freedom of Wells to bishop George Carey 1990, previous to translation to Canterbury (currently displayed in north window recess, Jacobean staircase, formerly in Long Gallery, north end).



Photograph located in window alcove on landing, near door to exhibition rooms.

Bishop Henderson contd.

Biographical details:

He was educated at Radley and Trinity College Cambridge, and from 1934 he served in London parishes. He was Rector of Holy Trinity, Ayr from 1939-1947. He was a Royal Naval Chaplain and was awarded the DSO in 1944. Returning to London as Rural Dean of Westminster he became Suffragan Bishop of Tewkesbury in 1955. As Bishop of Bath & Wells in 1960 he established a Charitable Trust, so that the **Bishop's Palace could be open to the public**. A conversation he had with two local youths resulted in the Moat Race, which still takes place today. He was created honorary freeman of Wells, 1974, honorary DLitt by Bath University, 1975. He and his wife Hester were highly regarded and much loved. He died in 1986 **and his ashes and those of his wife were interred in the Bishop's Chapel.**

Tapestry in Chapel depicting **Bishop Henderson's** coat of arms.

Bishop Henderson served in the war, and it is said that he shot ducks on the moat and swam to the bottom of the Bottomless Wells. He opened the Palace to the public. ⁴

⁴ From handout/talk on first floor Palace rooms given by Michael Blandford January 2016

ARTHUR HERVEY (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1869-1894)



28

Portrait details: Title: 'Arthur Charles Hervey (1862–1894) (copy after William Blake Richmond)' (Located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted 1889 oil on canvas – commissioned by Wells Corporation on the occasion of sitter's golden wedding anniversary, 30 July 1889

Painted by William Blake Richmond KCB, RA (1842-1891: Bénézit, viii, 744), commissioned by Wells Corporation on occasion of sitter's golden wedding anniversary, 30 Jul. 1889 (Smith, 10). (Copy of original at Town Hall)

TQL seated to right, head to front; rochet with ham-frill cuffs caught at wrists with black silk bands, chimere, tippet, bands, red Oxford DD hood, white haired and patriarchal with side whiskers; right hand holding upturned top hat with pair of white gloves inside, the left, resting on lap, with gold rings, amethyst on third finger and signet on fourth; subdued nondescript background.

Biographical details:

Fourth son of Frederick William Hervey of Ickworth, Suffolk, first marquess of Bristol, Hervey was rector of Horringer and Ickworth, and archdeacon of Sudbury previous to his appointment as bishop Bath & Wells.

The long table in the Long Gallery is one of three made for Bishop Hervey. It is said that his daughters taught the swans to ring the gatehouse bell. ⁵

⁵ From handout/talk on first floor palace rooms given by Michael Blandford January 2016

GEORGE HOOPER (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1704 – 1727)



Title: 'George Hooper (1704–1727) (after Thomas Hill)' (not displayed in palace)

Painted (no date) oil on canvas - acquired between 1827 and 1829

Painted by British School unknown, perhaps early 19th cent. reduced version of TQL original by Thomas Hill (1661-1734: Bénézit, v, 543) at Christ Church, Oxford, 1723, portraying sitter aged **83 (Ingamells, 227 E2, with plate, 133; Poole, iii, 128)**. **Other likenesses: Vicars' Hall, Wells, ?by Thomas Hill, c.1723 (Smith, Appendix I, 2); two, belonging at one time to Wells Corporation, by Thomas Fry, 1724, and ?Thomas Hill, c.1723, now missing (Smith, Appendix I, 1, 2); mezzotint (1723), NPG D20326.**

BLO to right, portrayed in old age; rochet, chimere, tippet, bands, long mid-brown dressed hair reaching to neck, perhaps wig; subdued nondescript background; inscriptions, in English, Latin and Greek, around oval, bottom left (D^r: George Hooper late L^d. Bp. of B : W •|ubique resplendet Orthodoxus : | etsi Ablatus non oblitus : etsi remotus, non relictus) and right (nam quatenus affabilimus Philagathus, in memoria sacra retinendus | et in Perpetuum ab Optimis peramandus | O Alme Deus. Tales perfice), and top left (**εΥΠΕΤΕΙΑ ΕΣΤΙΝ Η ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ** ['the kingdom of God is easy to find']) **added after sitter's death.**

Hooper's arms appear neither on this portrait nor on 10, which may suggest that he was never armigerous (cf. Cassan, ii, 175), although those on his elaborate monument in the cathedral west cloister (*gyronny of eight or and ermine over all a tower sable, impaling B & W [Jewers, 216-17]*) are clearly his. They do not belong to cathedral treasurer Thomas Eyre (so Vivian-Neal, 18), who died in 1812 (Le Neve, v, 15), and whose arms were *argent on a chevron sable, three quatrefoils of the first* (Jewers, 201).



Portrait details: Title: 'George Hooper (1704–1727) (after Mary Beale) (located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted (no date) oil on canvas - acquired after 1829

Painted by British School unknown, ?c.1685, after Mary Beale; much restored, probably during 19th cent.

BL to right within feigned stone cartouche, portrayed in middle years; rochet, tippet, wide bands, long dark brown dressed hair reaching to neck.

Biographical details:

Born in Worcestershire in 1640, he was an excellent scholar. Having “an insatiable thirst for knowledge of all kinds”, he was ordained in 1666 and became Chaplain to King Charles II in 1680, King James II in 1685 and William and Mary in 1688. He was Dean of Canterbury (1691) and then Bishop of St Asaph (1703), before coming to Bath and Wells after the death of Bishop Kidder. He was a most successful and popular prelate. An accomplished mathematician and orientalist, he was widely renowned for his learning.

He attended the Duke of Monmouth at his execution

He repaired the storm damage at Wells Palace so that Bishop Kidder’s daughter was spared the repair bills.

Only one of his 9 children survived him.

A marble monument in the Cathedral was erected to his memory.

THOMAS KEN (Bishop of Bath and Wells 1685–1690)



Portrait details: Title: 'Thomas Ken (1686–1690)' (located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted 1711 oil on canvas – acquired between 1827 and 1829

Painted by F Scheffer *fl.* 1700-11), by whom signed and dated (F. Scheffer. F.^{ct.} | 1711, on middle canvas, to right). Possibly left by Ken to his nephew Isaac Walton the younger, a canon of Salisbury (Plumptre, ii, 291; Le Neve, vi (1986), *Salisbury*, 61), from whose family it may have passed to Edmund Law, bishop Carlisle and father of George Henry Law, bishop Bath & Wells, 1824-45 (18, 27, 41). Other likenesses: Winchester College, TQL, attributed to Scheffer; New College, Oxford (Poole, ii, 43), and NPG 1821, both BLO, by Scheffer, from which engraving by Vertue (c.1713), NPG D15194.

TQL standing to left, head slightly to right; rochet with frilled cuffs, chimere, wide bands, skull-cap, silver-grey hair; right hand across front, left resting on book on side table with dark green cover, both ungainly and out of proportion (unless sitter actually had large hands); red-brown drape with pedimented column and stone steps to left of sitter in background.

Biographical details:

One of the 7 Bishops committed to the tower.

Remembered for his piety and principles, Ken was one of the Seven Bishops who refused to promulgate the Declaration of Indulgence of James II in 1688. He was subsequently deprived of his bishopric in 1690 for refusing to swear the oaths of allegiance and supremacy to William III, having previously given them to the deposed James. The last twenty years of his life were spent in retirement mainly at Longleat House as the guest of the first Viscount Weymouth, refusing reinstatement on the death of Kidder in 1703. He died 1711.

Tapestry in Chapel depicting coat of arms of Ken

(From guided Cathedral Tour led by Janet James and Fay Clarke April 2011)

Cathedral Tour

A Bishop Ken

- 1 Exhibition in the Library - items include - Document appointing Ken as Bishop of Bath and Wells, A letter of thanks in Ken's hand writing, The account of the fees paid to transport Ken's books to Wells Books- including 'Prayers for use of all persons who come to the Baths for cure', a record of the 'Tryal' of the seven Bishops, copies of Ken's Exposition of the Catechism and of Hawkins' Life of Thomas Ken
- 2 The Memorial Window in the North Quire Aisle
- 3 Chocolate Pot in the Undercroft display
- 4 Quire Embroidery

Early Life

1637 Born at Little Berkhamsted in Hertfordshire. His father, whose family had close links with the Manor of Ken near Clevedon, was an attorney of Furnival's Inn and his mother Martha was the daughter of the poet John Chalkhill. Both his parents died when Thomas was very young and he was brought up by his half sister, Ann, and her husband Izaak Walton who held strong Laudian (High Church) views and also wrote 'The Complete Angler'. Both of these good people must have had a profound influence on the young Thomas who called himself 'Tho:'

1652 Started his education as a scholar at Winchester College

1657 Entered New College, Oxford. Joined an Anglican Group which included George Hooper and Francis Turner and a Musical Society in which he played the lute. On graduation he became a Lector in Logic at the College

1661/2 Thomas was ordained and became priest at Little Easton in Essex and spiritual counsellor to Lady Maynard, a devout lady whose husband was comptroller of the Royal Household

Life in Winchester

1665 Ken was appointed Bishop George Morley's chaplain and started his voluntary work at St John's in the Soke, a poor parish on the out skirts of Winchester where his pastoral and preaching abilities rapidly gained him an acclaimed reputation. In 1666 he was elected a fellow of Winchester College. For a short time he was Rector of Brighthelmston on the Isle of Wight - Ken never sort preferments and always worked in his given parishes. In 1669 he returned to Winchester to become a Prebendary of the Cathedral and lived in the Cathedral Close

So now he was Bishop's Chaplain, a Prebendary of the Cathedral, a Fellow of the College and the voluntary Priest of St John's in the Soke. He was very happy and very busy. He is known to have owned his own organ.

1674 Published his Manual of Prayer for Winchester Scholars- the 3 hymns were added later in the 1695 edition

Work abroad

1675 Went on a tour of Europe with his nephew, his stay in the grandeur of Rome confirmed his adherence to the catholic apostolic faith of the Church of England. On his return he was create first a Bachelor and then a Doctor of Divinity

1679 Ken was appointed Chaplain to Princess Mary, wife of William of Orange, in The Hague. His duty was to protect Anglican Mary from the Calvinism of William who Ken was 'horribly unsatisfied with'. Ken had need to rebuke William for his treatment of his wife

1680 Ken returned to Winchester and was appointed one of King Charles' Chaplains. Three years later Ken refused to house Neil Gwyn in his prebendal home when she and Charles came to oversee the new palace that Christopher Wren was building for the King in Winchester

1683 Ken was appointed Chaplain to the fleet that was sent to Tangiers to bring the garrison home. He had terrible rough journeys on the 'Grafton' in the company of the Commander, Lord Dartmouth, and Samuel Pepys and, on the way home, with the highly disagreeable Colonel Percival Kirke. Ken was appalled by the depravity he witnessed all around him in Tangiers and on the journey home, a depravity of which Pepys wrote 'nothing but vice in the whole place of all sorts, for swearing, cursing, drinking and whoring'. After the 6 months taken for the stormy return journey this morally and physically courageous man must have been thankful to return to Winchester

Bishop of Bath and Wells

1685 Bp Mew had been translated to Winchester and 'Odds fish!, Who shall have Bath and Wells but the little fellow who would not give poor Nelly a lodging'-King Charles II- and Ken was consecrated Bishop that *January* at Lambeth. His enthronement in Wells went ahead by proxy as BP Ken was summoned in *February* to the King's deathbed, there he demanded the removal of the Duchess of Portsmouth, the King's mistress. The King insisted on Father Huddleston, a Catholic priest, administering the last sacrament. In *April*, still in London, Bp Ken fulfilled the Bp of Bath and Wells' role at the coronation of James II. He was in constant attendance in the House of Lords at this time.

In *June* Monmouth, the protestant illegitimate son of Charles II, landed at Lyme Regis and during his campaign stabled the horses for the night of June 30th in Wells Cathedral where his troops, and later the mob sympathizers, caused considerable damage. On *July 6th* Monmouth was defeated at the Battle of Sedgemoor and taken to the Tower. Bp Ken went to administer to him and on the *15th* stood by Monmouth at the scaffold Bp Ken could now come to Somerset where he administered to the appallingly treated prisoners in the goals of Taunton, Bridgewater and Wells, the overflow was kept in the cloisters of the Cathedral. He appealed to the King, the two Commanders (Feversham and Kirke) and Judge Jeffreys to little purpose. At the Bloody Assizes held in Wells of the approx. 500 prisoners, 95 were executed and 385 transported as slaves to the West Indies. (these figures do vary)

Bp Ken now began his main work in his Diocese. He found the parish churches in a sorry state, many needing much repair and lacking proper altars, prayer books, a bible, a chalice and paten. He found much ignorance amongst clergy and congregations. For them he wrote, in 1685, *The Practice of Divine Love*, an exposition of the catechism- 'Thou, Lord, art my hope, my trust, my life, my joy, my glory, my God, my all, my love' He also wrote a book of prayers for the Poor.

He founded some Parish Schools and himself gave books and other materials

In 1688 he wrote to his clergy a Pastoral letter laying out how they should behave during Lent. Bp Ken started all his letters with the words 'All Glory be to God'

He invited 12 men or women of Wells to join him for Sunday lunch in the Palace and sent them home with a 'doggy bag' for their family.

1687 Trouble started again. Bp Ken was a loyal supporter and friend of King James II and they seem to have had a mutual respect for each other. James appreciated Bp Ken's forthright and impassioned preaching 'The best preacher among the Protestants' but Bp Ken began to preach strongly against the growing tide of Romanism at court. However Princess Anne attended these sermons on at least two occasions.

James touched for the King's evil in Bath Abbey without Ken's knowledge, and banned some opposing Bishops from court. Matters became strained between the Bishop and the King

1688 in April King James issued his second Declaration of Indulgence and ordered it to be read publicly in the churches, this led, on May 18th, to Archbishop Sancroft and 6 other Bishops, including Bp Ken, drawing up and delivering by hand to the King a petition against his use of dispensing powers (over- ruling Acts of Parliament). Unfortunately it was leaked and, on the advice of the Chancellor-Judge Jeffreys, the Bishops were committed to the Tower on a charge of seditious libel, a trial followed at which, to popular delight, the prelates were acquitted

Ken had many discussions with the King hoping to fend off the arrival of William of Orange to take the throne, but with little response. William landed at Brixham in Nov. and in Dec. King James left his kingdom. Bp Ken had returned to Somerset and was there when the Dutch started seizing houses in the Wells area.

1689 in Jan Bp Ken was in London advocating a Regency but, unhappy, he returned to Wells where he hesitated deliberating whether to take the oath of allegiance to the new monarchs or to join the non-jurors and thus also the schism developing in the Anglican Church. Finally in August he decided to refuse to take the oath and was suspended, a year later he was formally deprived of his Diocese. Before leaving he protested publicly from his throne in the Cathedral and in Wells market place. He never really came to terms with his deprivation and referred to his successor, Bp Kidder, as his 'supplanter'.

Bishop Ken's Prayer for Wells Cathedral

God, our Heavenly Father,
Make, we pray, the door of this Cathedral Church wide enough
To welcome all who need human love and fellowship and a Father's care;
But narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and lack of love.
Here may the tempted find help, the sorrowing receive comfort,
and the penitent be assured of your mercy;
And here may all your children renew their strength
and go on their way in hope and joy.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen

GEORGE WYNDHAM KENNION (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1894 – 1921)



Portrait details: Title: 'George Wyndham Kennion (1894–1921)' (located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted 1908 oil on canvas – acquired 1908

Painted by Wilfred Gabriel de Glehn RA (1870-1951), 1908, said to be in style of John Singer Sargent, 1856-1925 (Gibson). Other likenesses: NPG 2369, watercolour (1902), and 6058, oil by John Henry Frederick Bacon, both group studies featuring sitter. NPG 3904 (study of Roger Quilter, 1920) also by de Glehn.

TOL seated to left; rochet with ham-frill cuffs caught at wrists with red silk bands, chimere, red Oxford DD hood, short metallic-grey hair; left hand, gold ring with amethyst on third finger, partly across body, holding black square cap, the right with rolled papers, resting on chair arm; subdued nondescript background.

Biographical details:

He was born in Harrogate and after serving in parishes in Yorkshire he was appointed Bishop of Adelaide in 1882. He returned to England and Bath and Wells in 1894. He was Visitor of Wadham College, Oxford and Lecturer in Pastoral Theology at Cambridge University. He was a supporter at the Coronation of King Edward VII in 1902 and the Coronation of King George V in 1911. He was the first Bishop to wear the Coronation Cope, which is on display in the Long Gallery (more on the Cope below). He was married to Henrietta and had a friendly and open manner. Towards the end of his life he left Wells by train and died in Ayr in 1923.

The Cope was presented to Bishop Kennion for the Coronation of Edward VII. The idea originated with Mrs Margaret Stokes of Bath, who involved Lady Waldegrave and Lady Cork. It cost £240 raised by subscription. It was created by Messrs. Watts & Co, Baker Street London and designed by Mr Micklethwaite (architect and surveyor of Westminster Abbey) and made of white Spitalfield's silk. The case was created by Somerset Arts and Crafts Society under the direction of Mrs Burthen of North Curry. (it has been worn at the coronations of George V, George VI and Elizabeth II).⁶

⁶ From handout/talk on first floor Palace rooms given by Michael Blandford January 2016

RICHARD KIDDER (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1691 – 1703)



Portrait details: Title: 'Richard Kidder (1691–1703) (after Mary Beale)'

(located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted (no date) oil on canvas - acquired between 1827 and 1829

Painted by British School unknown, after original by Mary Beale (1632-97: *Bénézit*, i, 67; *Collins Baker*, ii, 34-42; *ODNB* 1803 (with likeness); *DWA*, i, 224-6) at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, 1691

BLO to left; rochet, chimere, wide bands, long dark dressed hair reaching to neck; subdued nondescript background.

Biographical details:

Successor to the nonjuring Ken, 1685-90, who vehemently opposed his appointment, Kidder was previously chaplain to William III and Mary, and dean of Peterborough. Though a dedicated and industrious bishop, as well as a prolific theological writer, Kidder was widely disliked and was unpopular with the pro-Ken faction at Wells throughout his episcopate. He died during the night of the great storm at Wells, 26 Nov. 1703, when both he and his wife were killed in bed by a chimney stack falling through the roof of the Bishop's Palace.

Bishop Kidder's coat of arms can be seen in the Chapel.

ARTHUR LAKE (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1616-1626)



24

Portrait details: Title: 'Arthur Lake (1616–1626)' (located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted 1628 acrylic on canvas – possibly acquired between 1827 and 1829

Painted by John Payne (fl. 1620-48), 1628, perhaps after original by Richard Greenbury (fl. 1616-50 [Bénézit, v, 187]) at New College, Oxford, 1626-7, which seems to have suffered from later repainting (Poole, ii, 27). Other likenesses: at Winchester College, TQL, attributed to Greenbury, 1626; watercolour, by unknown artist, NPG D133.

HL seated before table, head slightly to left; high-collared black cassock beneath rochet with embroidered top caught at wrists with grey silk bands, chimere, ruff collar, skull-cap, brown beard with moustache; left hand across front, holding small book before him, partly open with forefinger between pages, the right over folded white silk stole on table; subdued mid-green background; inscribed top right: AR^r LAKEB | EPIS^s BATH ET WELL[S] | 1618.

Biographical details:

One of the 7 Bishops committed to the tower.

He was born in Southampton in 1569. He was Archdeacon of Surrey, Dean of Worcester and Warden of New College, Oxford. While Vice Chancellor of New College he was promoted to Bishop of Bath & Wells. He was liberal, diligent in preaching and he visited his clergy and maintained ecclesiastical discipline. Offenders had to perform penance and listen while he preached about repentance, after which he would invite them to dine with him at the Palace and dismiss them with his blessing. He died in 1626 and was buried in the south aisle of the Cathedral. At the coronation of King Charles 1 (1625), he was selected to walk by the side of the King.

WILLIAM LAUD (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1626-1628)



7

Portrait details: Title: 'William Laud (1626–1628) (after Van Dyck)'

(Located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted c1636 oil on canvas - possibly acquired between 1827–1829

Painted by British School unknown, ?c.1636, after original by van Dyck (1599-1641) at Lambeth Palace, 1633 (Ingamells, 266 C1, with plate, 169). Other likenesses: NPG 171 (c.1636); Wells town hall, after van Dyck, ?c.1636, but overpainted, not particularly well, with head of Robert Creighton, bp. Bath & Wells, 1670-2 (Smith, 5); engravings (contemporary), NPG D11415, 16299, 19090, 19641, and 19833, and mezzotints (later), NPG D3540-1.

TQL standing to right, as archbishop Canterbury; rochet caught at wrists with black silk bands, chimere, red DD hood, ruff collar, black square cap, short grey hair, pointed white beard with moustache; right arm resting on heavy, dark carved table, left hanging by side; subdued nondescript background.

Biographical details:

Laud never resided at Wells and is better known as archbishop Canterbury, 1633-45, having previously been bishop London, 1628-33. In 1629, he became chancellor of Oxford University. His attempts to enforce liturgical uniformity by imposing the *Book of Common Prayer* and Anglican practice provoked a Puritan reaction, which resulted in his impeachment by the Long Parliament in 1640 and subsequent imprisonment in the Tower where he remained until his trial in 1644 and execution early in 1645.

GEORGE HENRY LAW (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1824 – 1845)



27

Portrait details: Title: 'George Henry Law (1824–1845)' (located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted c1827 oil on canvas – possibly acquired 1931

Painted by Henry William Pickersgill RA (1782-1875 [Bénézit, viii, 308-9]), c.1830. Other likeness: mezzotint by William Say (1820), NPG D11348.

Plaster gilt frame, but without arms (*ermine on a bend engrailed between two cocks gules three mullets or pierced of the second, impaling B & W [Jewers, 189-90]) and mitre au dessus, as on Wells City Council copy (Smith, 4).*

Exhibited at Royal Academy in 1828 (*RAA Dictionary*, i, 146), in which case Vivian-Neal's note that it was added to the collection by Mrs Lillian Wynne Willson, 1931, may be confused. Copy, by or after Pickersgill, presented to Wells Corporation by sitter, Jan. 1842 (Smith, 4); another at Guildhall, Bath (Ingamells, 275 D2-3)

TQL seated slightly to right in cane-panelled chair with red velvet upholstery before a desk with books, papers, candlestick, inkwells and quills; dark frock coat and breeches, short grey wig, legs crossed and hands clasped on lap; walls of **Bishop's Palace (previous to Bishop Bagot's alterations)**, with chapel, against background of hills and early morning sky viewed through draped open window.
By Henry William Pickersgill,



18

(not displayed in Palace)

Painted by Sir William Beechey, RA (1753-1839), between 1815 and 1824 when Law was bp. Chester, replicating portrait at **Bishop's House, Chester (commissioned for sitter, who paid £126 for it, 16 Apr. 1814; exhibited RA, 1816: RAA Dictionary, i, 163; Ingamells, 274 A1).** Other likenesses: engraving (1829), by Meyer, after this portrait, Cassan, i, *en face* title-page; stipple engraving (1850-84), NPG D16086.

TQL seated to right, head to front; rochet with ham-frill cuffs caught at wrists with black silk bands, chimere, tippet, bands, short white wig; left arm partly across front with elbow resting on low red covered table, hand slightly clenched, the right holding quarto-size closed red-brown gold-tooled book, resting on knee, with blue and gold tasselled markers; columns to right gradually disappearing into darkening background.



41

Title: **'George Henry Law (1824–1845)' (not displayed in Palace)**

TQL seated to left on red upholstered chair, legs crossed; rochet with ham-frill cuffs caught at wrists with black silk bands, chimere, and tippet; short white wig; left hand resting on open book, with red marker, lying on table, the right on lap; arch behind; subdued nondescript background with light effects.

Attributed to Sir George Hayter (1792-1871), c. 1815, when sitter was bishop Chester.

Biographical details:

Previously, from 1815 to 1824, bishop Chester, Law was highly regarded in both dioceses for augmenting small livings and for improvements to church fabric. In 1836 at Wells he founded a church building society and originated an agricultural allotment movement, leasing out land to poor labourers in the neighbourhood. He was a supporter of Queen Victoria at her coronation, 1837. Mental and physical incapacity towards the end of his life resulted in episcopal duties being assumed by bishop Salisbury by royal letters patent, Dec. 1843.

He became Bishop of Bath & Wells aged 64, reviving Diocesan life and starting a Church Building Society. Opposing the Reform Bill in 1831, he raised the drawbridge to protect himself from the anger of the population of Wells. He established Wells Theological College and created a museum of fossils and mineralogy in the undercroft. At auction, he bought medieval glass fragments from Rouen which can be seen in many of the Palace windows. As an originator of Horticultural Allotments, he rented 60 acres of land in Wells to poor labourers.

He died in Banwell and is buried in Wells Cathedral

He demolished two walls of the Great Hall to make a picturesque ruin.

The Glastonbury Chair and the Abbot's Chair were given to Bishop Law in 1824 as the ownership was disputed. He was known as a great pastoral bishop and a good man of business. He was a great gardener and a collector of stained glass. Bishop Law turned the Palace (which was looted during the Civil War in 1641, and was neglected for decades afterwards) into a comfortable Georgian residence, including reclaiming the Chapel. He began to accumulate the present collection of portraits, to replace those lost to looting. By 1829 he had acquired 18 portraits through gift or purchase.⁷

⁷ From handout/talk on first floor Palace rooms given by Michael Blandford January 2016

George Henry Law, Bishop of Bath and Wells 1824-45.

George Henry Law, the thirteenth child of Edmund Law, Bishop of Carlisle, and his wife Mary, was born in 1761. He was educated at Charter House School and Queen's College, Cambridge, where he obtained B.A., M.A., B.D, and D.D. degrees. In June 1781 he was elected fellow of Queens, where he remained until he resigned in 1784, when he married Jane Adeane.

He was collated to a prebendal stall in Carlisle by his father in 1785. After this he held clerical appointments in Cumberland, Hertfordshire, and Cambridgeshire. In 1812 he was consecrated Bishop of Chester. Here he proved himself an active and practical bishop, visiting every parish, improving vicarages and churches and restoring the cathedral. In 1817 he established a theological college at St. Bees.

In 1824 on the death of Bishop Beadon he was translated to the See of Bath and Wells, where he continued the good work he had done in Chester. He was an enabler, prominent in the revival of diocesan life, improving vicarages and augmenting small livings. He was instrumental in establishing Wells Theological College, which opened in 1840. The college offered a 1-year course for postgraduates.

Bishop Law was one of the bishops in the House of Lords who opposed the Parliamentary Reform Bill in 1830. Because of this there were riots in Bristol in 1831. Bristol Cathedral and the bishop's Palace there were damaged. When Bishop Law was consecrating a new church a mob stoned his carriage. He hastily retreated to the palace and was very worried that mob violence would reach Wells. He had the drawbridge raised. This is said to be the last time that it was raised.

Bishop Law undertook repairs and restoration work at the Palace, including the Bishop's Chapel, repairing the east window with some glass from a cartload of stained glass which he had brought from France. He landscaped the gardens at the Palace, where he demolished the south and east walls of the banqueting hall to make it more 'picturesque'. He enclosed the wells so that, rather than appearing like a muddy pond, it became the lovely water-filled area one sees today, in which the Cathedral is so beautifully reflected.

In 1824, in the hillside at Banwell a cave containing ancient animal remains was found. Darwin's theory of evolution had not yet been published and bishop believed that the remains had been washed there by Noah's flood. He acquired the site and built a cottage. He landscaped the grounds, planting trees and building follies and grottos, which he encouraged the local people to come and see. Bishop Law held a lifelong interest in antiquaries and was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and also of the Society of Antiquaries. He set up a museum in the undercroft at the Palace in 1826, in order to display a collection of fossils, pottery, coins, glass and minerals.

One of the greater legacies of Bishop Law is the allotment system, which was started by him in the diocese around 1830, so that the poor could grow their own potatoes and vegetables.

Since the time of Richard I it has been customary for the Bishop of Bath and Wells to support the monarch on his left side at his/her coronation. The Bishop of Durham supports him on the right.

Bishop Law contd.

Bishop Law was present at the coronations of William IV and Queen Victoria. There is an amusing account of Queen Victoria's coronation.

Bishop Law and his son, the Archdeacon of Wells and Rector of Weston Super Mare, together with the Smyth-Pigott family contributed to the development of Weston from a small fishing village to an important holiday resort. The Laws gave the land and paid for the building of the Town Hall. They built schools and enlarged the parish church.

Bishop Law spent much of his time at Banwell, and for the last five years of his life his mental and physical health deteriorated. He died on 22nd September 1835, aged 84 and is buried in Wells Cathedral.

PETER MEWS (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1673-1684)



Portrait details: Title: 'Peter Mews, DCL (1673-1684) (possibly after Michael Dahl)' (located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted 1706 oil on canvas - acquired after 1829

Painted by British School, unknown, perhaps after Michael Dahl (1659-1743: Bénézit, iii, 323), 1706 (the year of **Mew's death**), on the evidence of the George (cf. Ingamells, 54); much restored, probably during 19th cent. Other likenesses: Wells town hall, attributed to Dahl, 1684 x 1706 (Smith, 3); Wolvesey Palace, Winchester, also attributed to Dahl, though perhaps copy, 1684 x 1706; engraving (c.1680), NPG 637 (cf. also NPG 1872, plumbago on vellum, of same date).

Also, another version exists at Dunster Castle, Somerset.

TQL standing to front, head slightly to right, as bishop Winchester and prelate of the Garter; mantle with heavily tasselled gold cords and Garter badge on left side, rochet, chimere, wide bands, skull-cap, short dark hair; order of St George on gold chain; black silk patch on left cheek, covering war wound probably sustained during time with the **king's army in Scotland or the Low Countries, while** helmet on table to right, on which right hand rests, may recall service as commander of royal horse artillery at Battle of Sedgemoor, 1685; plinth and foot of column to left.

Biographical details:

President of St John's College, Oxford, 1667-73, Mews was appointed dean of Rochester, 1670, becoming bishop of Bath & Wells, 1673, and Winchester, 1684; died at Farnham Castle, Surrey, 1706.

JAMES MONTAGU (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1608 – 1616)

No image available

Portrait details: Title: **'James Montagu (1608–1616)' (not displayed in Palace)**

Painted c1608-1616 oil on panel – possibly acquired from Wells Cathedral

Painted by British School unknown, probably contemporary (between 1608 and 1616), identified wrongly on evidence of label (Vivian-Neal) as Leonard Mawe, bp. Bath & Wells, 1628-9 (*ODNB* 18392; *NPG* D134, watercolour, said to be of Mawe)

HL to left, (perhaps portraying sitter before translation to Winchester, 1616), but rochet with embroidered top edge over black cassock and frilled cuffs (right sleeve shown only), chimere, ruff collar, soft square cap, short brown hair, tapered beard with moustache; right hand across front, holding small book, with green silk ties, before him, partly open with forefinger between pages; nondescript grey-green background.



Portrait details: Title: 'James Montagu (1606–1616)
(after original at Sidney Sussex College)

(located Long Gallery East Wall)

oil on canvas – possibly acquired between 1827 and 1829

Painted by British School unknown, contemporary, after original at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge

BLO to left, as bishop of Winchester; rochet with embroidered top caught at wrists with black silk bands, chimere turned back to form lapels, high white collar, black square cap, short brown hair, tapered beard with moustache; subdued nondescript background; arms encircled by Garter with motto, top right, Winchester impaling Montagu (*argent within a bordure sable three fusils fessewise gules*)

Biographical details:

Montagu (or Montague) was first master of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 1598-1608, and dean of Worcester, 1604-8, previous to his appointment to Bath & Wells. He made extensive improvements to the **Bishop's Palace** (the **Jacobean staircase** is attributed to him) and his manor at Banwell, and restored the nave of Bath abbey. From 1616 until his death in 1618 he was bishop of Winchester and prelate of the Garter. A scholar of some distinction, he edited and translated the Latin works of James I.

CHARLES MOSS (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1774-1802)



14

Portrait details: Title: 'Charles Moss, FRS (1774-1802)' (located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted c1800 oil on canvas – acquired between 1827 and 1829

Painted by John Hoppner RA (1758-1810), c.1800, though Romney is also a possibility (Gibson). Excessive and pointless use of bitumen or dark varnish, probably applied later, detracts considerably from quality of portrait, which has unfinished and uncomfortable look about it.

TQL seated to left on wooden red upholstered high-backed chair with scrolled arms; black frock coat and cassock with white stock just showing, short white wig; right hand resting on lap, fingers curled inwards, left hand and arm resting on chair; subdued background, showing hills, dark clouds and red sunset to left of sitter.

Biographical details:

He was Bishop of St David's 1766-1774 before coming to Bath and Wells. He was 'much esteemed throughout his Diocese for his urbanity and simplicity of manners and he was revered for his piety and learning'. He supported Hannah Moore for her promotion of Christian education in the Cheddar Valley. Hannah came to dine at the Palace and Bishop Moss 'received her with affectionate cordiality'. He died at his house in Grosvenor Square, London. He was involved in a controversy over the ownership of the Glastonbury Chair, which was eventually given, together with the Abbots Chair, to the Palace in 1824. Bishop Moss's bible is used in the City of Wells Mayor Making ceremony.

He was the father of Charles Moss, bishop of Oxford, 1807-11.

WILLIAM PIERS (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1632-1670)



Portrait details: Title: *William Piers (1632–1670)*
(located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted c1600-1670 oil on canvas - acquired after 1829

Painted by British School, unknown, c.1660 x 1670, though sitter would have been much older than here portrayed.

HL to left, apparently aged about 40; rochet, tippet, wide bands, skull-cap, short dark hair, slight moustache and tuft beard; dark green subdued background.

A second portrait is missing since 1981 when described by Ingamells as 'of crude quality'. Perhaps mid 19th-cent. version of remaining portrait.

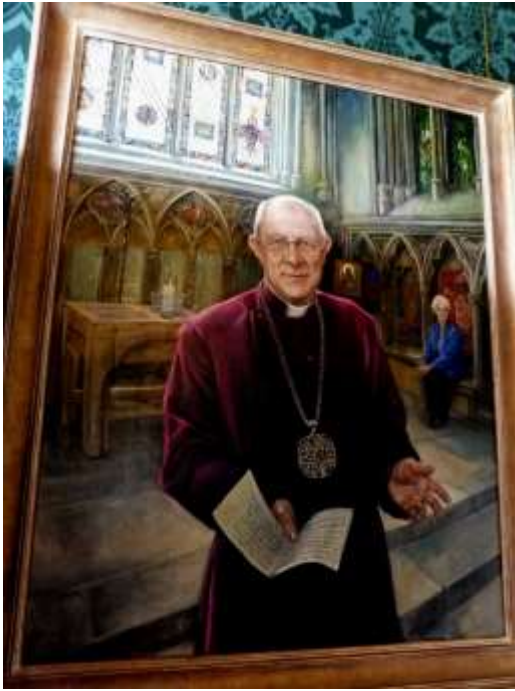
Biographical details:

Previously dean, 1622-30, and bishop, 1630-2, of Peterborough, Piers (or Pierse) was a supporter of Archbishop Laud. He was deprived of his see and imprisoned in the Tower for treason in 1641 just before the outbreak of the Civil War, regaining his freedom shortly after when he retired to his estate in Oxfordshire until his reinstatement as bishop at the Restoration.

Bishop Piers was the longest serving Bishop of Bath and Wells (1632-70). His coat of arms appears in the elaborate papier maché decorative work on the walls of the Drawing Room; it is fashioned from a single ring of oak and was made to mark the restoration of Charles II in 1660.⁸

⁸ From handout/talk on first floor Palace rooms given by Michael Blandford January 2016

PETER PRICE (Bishop of Bath & Wells 2002-2013)



Located Long Gallery, to left of doorway (North Wall)

Painted by: Jane Allison

The paper that Bishop Price is holding contains the following text:

Jesus says in his society there is a new way for people to live.

You show wisdom, by trusting; you handle leadership, by serving;

You handle offenders, by forgiving;

You handle money, by sharing;

You handle enemies, by loving;

You handle violence, by suffering.

In fact you have a new attitude to everything, toward everybody,

toward nature, toward the state in which you happen to live, toward women, toward slaves, all and every single thing.

Because this is a Jesus Society

and you repent by not feeling bad,

but by 'thinking different'.

(source: from *The Blue Mountains of China*, Rudy Wiebe, born 4 October 1934, Canadian author and academic).

He and wife Dee cleaned up the neglected woodwork in the Chapel, commissioned the icons and altar and president's chair. ⁹

⁹ From handout/talk on first floor Palace rooms given by Michael Blandford January 2016

Bishop Price contd:

Newspaper article about the painting

Their vital role supporting their husbands' work may long have been acknowledged by worshippers, but bishops' wives have always been omitted from official portraits of their husbands in the Church of England. Now centuries of tradition have been overturned with the first painting to include a bishop's wife.

Bishop Price, 64, said 'Having Dee in the portrait was my tribute to her and to all of the amazing work she's done. Throughout our ministry we have always worked together.'

John Andrews, a spokesman for the diocese, said '*Before the Reformation (in the 18th century), bishops didn't have wives and many still don't. But Dee has been a massive inspiration in the regeneration of the Palace.*

Having a man and woman together had never been considered suitable before as portraits have always just been individuals.

*Having her in the portrait shows the role of women is now very much appreciated in the Church.'*¹⁰

¹⁰ Daily Mail 12 September 2008 – 'Church of England breaks 802-year-old tradition... by allowing bishop's wife in official portrait'

JOHN STILL (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1593-1608)



23

Biographical details:

Still enjoyed a distinguished academic career at Cambridge before appointment to Bath & Wells, having been Lady Margaret professor of divinity, 1570-3, **master of St John's College, 1574-7**, master of Trinity College, 1577-93, and twice vice-chancellor of the university, 1575-6 and 1592-3. As bishop, he profited from the Mendip lead mines, which he developed. Supposed at one time to be author of the comedy *Gammer Gurton's needle* published in 1575, though this is now discredited.

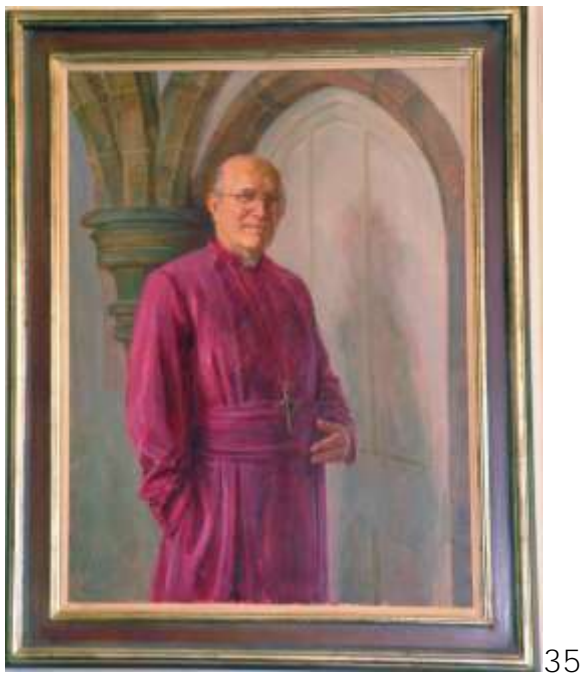
Portrait details: Title: 'John Still (1593–1608) (after original at Trinity College, Cambridge)' (not displayed in Palace)

Painted 1607 oil on canvas - acquired between 1827–1829

Painted by British School unknown, after original at Trinity College, Cambridge, 1607. Other likenesses: mezzotint by William Say, after unknown artist, 1607,

HL to left, rochet with embroidered top caught at wrists with black silk bands, chimere, ruff collar, skull-cap, grey forked beard with moustache; right hand across front, holding small book before him, partly open with forefinger between pages; subdued nondescript background; inscribed, top right: 1607 | Æ.T. 64.

JAMES LAWTON THOMPSON (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1991 – 2001)



35

Portrait details: Title: James Lawton Thompson (1991–2001) (located Long Gallery North Wall, to left of doorway)

Painted 2000-2001 oil on canvas – acquired 2001

Painted by June Mendoza 2000-1, by whom signed (NPG 5691, 5915, and 6164 also by same artist); **unveiled by sitter at Bishop's Palace, Jul. 2001**. Other likeness: photographic copy of original on canvas, Old Deanery (Diocesan Board of Finance offices), Wells.

TQL standing to left in Palace undercroft before gothic, white-panelled door with vault rib springing from corbel to left; purple cassock with matching sash, gold Celtic-style pectoral cross, with precious stones, on purple cord, short receding hair, spectacles; right hand in cassock pocket, the left, fingers slightly splayed, resting

Biographical details:

He qualified as a chartered accountant before being ordained. After serving as Rector of an ecumenical team in Thamesmead, he was appointed Bishop of Stepney in 1987 and Bishop of Bath & Wells in 1991. As Bishop Jim, he was well-known for his broadcasting and writing. His love of the countryside enabled him to adapt easily to a changing rural diocese and he gave great support to the farming community. He provided an inspirational focus to education and to young people both in the diocese and as Chairman of **The Children's Society**.

He built the Palace Visitor Centre, received and treasured the Pilgrim statue and started the current **archaeological research**. His panel in the **Bishop's Chapel** depicts his hands at prayer, using the heraldic colours for white and black. He died in September 2003.

His coat of arms can be seen in the Chapel

FRANCIS UNDERHILL (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1937-1943)



30

Portrait details: Title: 'Francis Underhill (1937-1943)' (located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted 1940 oil on canvas – acquired 1940

Painted by Harry Morley, ARA (1881-1943: Bénézit, vii, 549), 1940, in 'the neo-classical linear style of the 1930s and 40s' (Gibson).

TQL seated to left on wooden, high-backed chair; black and scarlet robe (degree of DD), purple front-buttoned cassock with matching sash, clerical collar and bands, short white hair and brown horn-rimmed spectacles; hands clasped across middle, gold ring with amethyst on second finger of right hand; stonework background with Purbeck marble shaft and capital (female head said to represent Underhill's sister Elizabeth, who lived in Palace with him) to left of sitter, and vaulting inspired by doorway to undercroft); inscribed, top: THE RIGHT REVEREND FRANCIS UNDERHILL D • D • | LORD BP. BATH & WELLS; arms, top left, B & W impaling Underhill (*argent a chevron azure between three trefoils slipped azure*) surmounted by mitre with lappets.

Biographical details:

Before coming to Bath and Wells he was Canon of Birmingham Cathedral (1921-3), Canon Theologian at Liverpool Cathedral (1931-1932), and Dean of Rochester from 1932-1937. He was the author of a number of books of spiritual and theological interest and he enjoyed travel. He was at Bath and Wells throughout most of the Second World War. With the outbreak of war in 1939 and facing the trials of war in his Diocese, he made the Palace State Rooms available to St Brandon's School, who evacuated from Bristol. Bishop Underhill was unmarried and he and his sister lived in rooms in the north wing of the Palace. He was the author of a number of books of spiritual and theological interest. He died in 1943.

St Brandon's School was evacuated to the Palace during WWII and the Long Gallery was used as a classroom; Bishop Underhill, a shy man, had his study next door and was uncomfortable walking through the classroom to access it. ¹¹

¹¹ From handout/talk on Palace rooms first floor, given by Michael Blandford January 2016

CHARLES WAND (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1943-1945)



Portrait details: Title: 'John William Charles Wand, KCVO, PC (1943-1945)' (located Long Gallery East Wall)

Painted 1945 oil on canvas – acquired c1945

Painted by Fearnley Whittingstall

38

Biographical details:

Previous to appointment to Bath & Wells, Wand was archbishop of Brisbane and metropolitan of Queensland, 1934-43. He was bishop of London from 1945, when elected to Privy Council, 1955, serving also as dean of the Chapels Royal, 1945-56, prelate of the Order of the British Empire, 1946-57, and **treasurer of St Paul's cathedral**, 1956-9. A distinguished New Testament scholar and ecclesiastical historian, specialising in the Early Church, Bishop Wand was a prolific writer, being awarded honorary doctorates by Oxford, London, and other universities.

EDWARD WILLES (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1743-1773)



16

Portrait details: Title: 'Edward Willes (1743–1773)'
(Not displayed in Palace)

Painted c1747 oil on canvas – acquired between 1827 and 1829

Painted by Thomas Hudson (1701-79: *Bénézit*, v, 650), c.1747, but inscription, which does not seem to be **Hudson's, may be later**. Other likenesses: mezzotints by John Faber the younger (1750), after Hudson, NPG D4811-12, 4991.

TQL standing to left, head to front; rochet with ham-frill cuffs caught at wrists with black silk bands, chimere, tippet, bands, long curled white wig reaching to neck; right arm resting on thick marble-top table with elaborate gilt scrolled sabre legs (one shown only) with *putti* decoration and crimson drapery, left hanging straight by side with hand holding small brown book partly open with forefinger between pages; subdued indistinct background with flowing crimson drapery to left. Inscribed, lower right: *Hudson. Pinxit.*

Biographical details:

He served as Dean of Lincoln and became Bishop of St David's in 1742 and Bishop of Bath & Wells in 1743. He was decipherer to King George 1 and the duties of his office were shrouded in secrecy and were probably influential in his promotion in the Church. He was Bishop of Bath & Wells for thirty years and shared the job as decipherer with his eldest son Edward, who was Archdeacon of Wells. He had five sons and four daughters with his wife Jane. He was buried in Westminster Abbey. His work as decipherer is supposed to have contributed to the downfall of Bishop Francis Atterbury of Rochester, who was imprisoned for treason and exiled on account of his Jacobite sympathies.

Previously dean of Lincoln before his appointment as bishop of St Davids, 1742, and Bath & Wells, 1743. **A gifted linguist, whose attainments included Swedish, he held the obscure office of chief 'decypherer', or cryptanalyst, to the king, in whose service he had been engaged early in his career.** While the exact nature of his employment remains a mystery, Willes was evidently involved in secret royal business, intercepting and interpreting Jacobite messages, and seems to have been very influential. His work, indeed, is believed to have contributed to the downfall of Bishop Francis Atterbury of Rochester (1713-23 [*ODNB* 871, with likeness]), a Tory high churchman, who was imprisoned for treason and finally exiled on account of his **alleged Jacobite conspiracies.** The office of 'decypherer' seems to have been hereditary, passing to the bishop's male descendants, beginning with his son Edward, who became archdeacon of Wells, and whose canonical house just off the market place was purchased and demolished by the city council in 1778 to make way for the present town hall. Perhaps unfairly, Willes has been described as 'the only man in history to use crypto-analytic talents to procure ecclesiastical rewards' (from D. Kahn, *The code breakers*, 1966, cited by *ODNB*).

THOMAS WOLSEY (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1518-1523)



19

Portrait details: Title: 'Thomas Wolsey (1518–1523) (after Samson Strong)' (located Drawing Room East Wall)

Painted (no date) oil on canvas - acquired after 1829

Painted by British School unknown, after panel by Samson Strong (c.1550-1611: Bénézit, ix, 872) at Christ Church, Oxford, 1610-11, which portrays sitter with robes over black cassock and rochet, with white gloves (Poole, iii, 11). Other likenesses: NPG 32, panel by unknown artist, c. 1520; mezzotint by John Faber the elder, NPG D4888.

TOL standing sideways to right, as cardinal archbishop of York; red robes and biretta, dark green velvet sleeves with white tasselled cuffs turned back; right hand in attitude of benediction, the left holding small roll of paper, both hands stylised though in keeping with rest of portrait; subdued nondescript background with red column to right; arms (*sable on a cross engrailed argent a lion passant gules between four leopards faces azure on a chief or a rose of the third between two Cornish choughs proper* [Jewers, 268]) surmounted by cardinal's hat, top right, and left, view of Wolsey's foundation, Cardinal College, Oxford, later Christ Church, through opening.

Biographical details:

A brilliant statesman and career ecclesiastic, Wolsey held Bath & Wells together with other sees by royal favour, enjoying their revenues while leaving their administration to suffragans. In 1514, he was appointed archbishop of York, becoming cardinal and lord chancellor of England the following year. His growing influence both at home and abroad, together with his pride and personal extravagance, soon made him enemies, though he continued to retain the support of Henry VIII. As a result of his failure to secure papal dispensation permitting the royal divorce he incurred the displeasure of Anne Boleyn, through whom he fell from favour with the king. Forced to resign the chancellorship in 1529, he was charged with high treason late the following year, but died soon after on his way to London to face proceedings. A statesman rather than a churchman, much of Wolsey's career had been loyally devoted to promoting the interests of king and country by striving, unsuccessfully in the event, to make England dominant in European affairs.

JOHN WYNNE (Bishop of Bath & Wells 1727-1743)



1

Portrait details: Title: 'John Wynne (1727–1743)' (not displayed in Palace)

Painted (no date) oil on canvas – acquired between 1827 and 1829

Painted by British School, unknown, (attributed to Francis Hayman) reduced version of TQL portrait at Jesus College, Oxford, c.1730 (Ingamells, 422 A1); but of poor quality. Attributed, certainly erroneously, to Francis Hayman, RA (1708-76), by Vivian-Neal.

TQL seated to left in dark high-backed carved and upholstered chair; rochet caught at wrists with black ties, tippet, bands, long curled white wig reaching to neck; subdued nondescript background with dark drapes.

Biographical details:

Wynne succeeded George Hooper as bishop of Bath & Wells, having previously been Lady Margaret professor of divinity, Oxford, 1705-15, principal of Jesus College, Oxford, 1712-15, and bishop of St Asaph, 1715-27.

ST JOHN BASIL WYNNE WILLSON,
(Bishop of Bath & Wells 1921-37)



32

Portrait details: Title: 'St John Basil Wynne Willson (1921–1937)

(Located panelled room East Wall)

Painted c1930 oil on canvas – - possibly acquired c1935

Painted by Aidan Savage (1901-86), ?c.1930 (NPG 5946 also by same artist).

TQL seated to left in plain wooden high-backed chair; side-buttoned purple cassock with matching sash, white shirt cuffs showing beneath; gold pectoral cross on gold chain, with amethyst in middle; short, receding hair, gold-rimmed spectacles; both hands holding purple cap in lap, gold ring on little finger of left, gold with amethyst and another stone on third and little finger of right.

Portrait details: Title: 'St John Basil Wynne Willson (1921–1937) (Not displayed in Palace)

Painted 1937 oil on canvas purchased 2004

Painted by George Owen Salisbury (1874-1962, *ODNB* 35912), by whom inscribed and dated ('Study of the Bishop of Bath & Wells | Frank O. Salisbury | Oct. 7, 1937'). Unfinished, this is one of the trial sketches for his *Coronation of their Majesties George VI and Queen Elizabeth, 12 May 1937*, a print of which is displayed at north end of Gallery. Other likenesses:

Biographical details:

Previously master of Haileybury, 1905-11, and of Marlborough, 1911-16, and canon of Bristol, 1916-21, Wynne Wilson was a classical scholar of distinction, being created honorary DLitt by Bristol University in 1925. Supporter of George VI at his coronation, 1937.

10/02/2016 edited by Meredith Roberts