

Parochial Visitations of Archdeacon Thomas Kaye Bonney

Sileby

1832 July 17

Population = 1491
Patron = George Pochin Esq
Vicar = Rev^d John Dudley

Service on a Sunday = once, alternatively
in the week = none
Sacraments = 4 in the Year

As to the Church Fabric

Fabric

1. This Church has a handsome Tower, in excellent Condition – nothing wanting except three Stones to be put into three Holes this promised by the Churchwardens to be done immediately
2. The Body of the Church consists of three Aisles – the Middle Aisle is in a good state, the parapet of which is of brick - the south and north Aisles are also in a good State
3. The Chancel is in excellent Order : it is repaired by Mr Pochin of Barkby - new Windows were put into it about three Years ago, and the whole Fabric of it made very good
4. The Church Porch on the South Side is in Good order
5. All the Roofs are of Lead and in a good State
6. The Windows are good, but there are no casements –

Mem. The Interior of this Church is so large and airy that perhaps no Casements are wanted

7. The Doors are good and lately painted
8. The interior Roof appears to be in a good state
9. The inside walls want whitewashing
10. The Floors are very even and decent
11. The interior of the Chancel is neatly whitewashed and beautifully kept
12. There are Spouts and an open Drain on the North Side
13. Graves are not nearer than Ten(?) Feet
14. No Mould has accumulated near the Walls – the sides of this Church are neater and cleaner than any I have yet seen

As to the Furniture

Furniture

1. The Pews are neat
2. A very handsome Pulpit, placed in the C[ent]r[e] of the Aisle, made of Elm, without a sounding Board
3. The Reading Desk is the same
4. And Old Font of Stone, well placed in the C[ent]r[e] under the Gallery for Singers which is handsome.
5. A handsome strong oak Communion Table.
6. An iron Register Chest
7. Five Bells, with Chimes & a Clock - Bells good, Bell ropes fair, but a Beam near the Bells is in a decayed State : A Joiner in the Parish has examined it, and said that it was very bad and dangerous. A new Beam ordered to be put in.
8. There are 2 Biers
9. Sufficient Hassocks
10. Two good mats for the Communion

11. The Communion Rails are of Oak, firm and good.
12. No Organ
13. No Stove

As to the Books

Books

1. The Bible is perfect, but in some Pages torn. it may do at present
2. The Prayer Book, date 1809, is very good
3. The Clerk's Prayer Book, date 1783, is decent
4. The ten Commandments are handsomely painted at the East End of the Church
5. No Table of Degrees of Marriage
6. No select Passages of Scriptures
7. There is a List of Benefactions to the Poor

As to the Vestments

Vestments

1. Two Surplices, one very good, the other decent
2. No Hood found by the Parish
3. An old silk Covering for the Communion Table
4. An old Linen Cloth for the Sacrament but decent
5. An old Napkin, but decent
6. An old green Pulpit Cushion
7. No Pulpit nor Desk Cloths
8. Two Palls, one of Cloth, inscribed 1783, in a descent state – the other a splendid velvet Pall with silk Tassels, inscribed 1831
9. A Vestry Room

As to the Vessels

Vessels

1. Two Pewter Flagons
2. Two Silver Cups – one very large and handsome, given by William Lane in 1639
3. A Silver Paten given as above in 1639
4. A Pewter Plate and Basin
5. No Catalogue

As to Benefactions

Benefactions

1. None

As to the Churchyard

Churchyard

1. The Fence of the Churchyard has been lately repaired and neatly whitewashed, and the whole Churchyard is in a better State than any I have yet visited
2. There are 3 Gates, well painted and in good order
3. No Doors
4. The Churchways are very neat and clean
5. One large old Elm Tree
6. One School-room under the Tower of the Church
7. No ancient Cross

As to the Minister

Minister

1. He resides in the Vicarage House, which is a handsome Place and in excellent Order

As to a Parochial Library

Par. Library

1. Three old Books of the Martyrs

Extra Services

Services

1. None

As to the Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk

1. He is a respectable Man and gives great Satisfaction

As to Schools

Schools

1. There is a School for the educating of eight poor Children, founded by G. Pochin about 1650, and further augmented in 1714 by the Rev^d G Staveley, the Lands producing about 7£ p[e]r ann[um]
2. No Sunday School

General Observations

Observations

1. The Church Rate is 6^d in the £, which raises about 53£ - Two Years ago the Rate was 4^d in the £.

Mem. The whole of this Church is in good Order, beautifully pewed, with an excellent Pulpit in the C[ent]r[e], altogether the best Village Church I have yet visited The Churchwardens have prepared and beautified it for my Inspections.

The large Silver Cup has the Inscription "The Gift of William Lane, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London, deceased, To the Parish Church of Sileby, December the first, Anno Domini 1639"

The Paten has the same Inscription

Signed

T K Bonney

Archdeacon.

Leics. RO, 245'50/4, pp. 145-50

