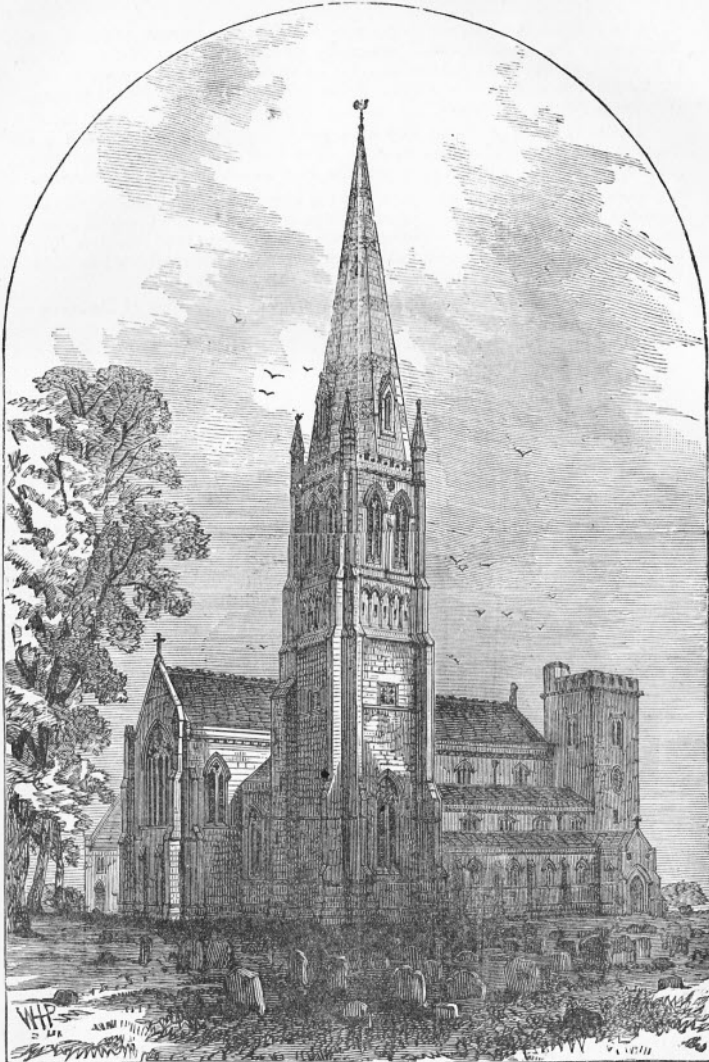


Price 50p

# THE RECTORS OF

❖ S. : ANDREW'S : RUGBY, ❖



# AND THEIR MINISTRIES

## **RECTORS OF RUGBY**

1253 Alexander de Rokeby  
1291 Roger  
1301 Robert de Halughton  
1302 William de Leone  
1313 Richard de Towcester  
1313 Ralph Coband  
1314 John Falconar  
1332 Richard de Walton  
1341 William de Lyons  
1349 William le Pyndre  
1349 Peter de Bilney  
1361 Roger Geffen  
1375 Richard de Langton  
1376 John Baron  
1384 Richard de Hessel  
1416 Thomas Thurston  
1454 John Stones  
1477 Thomas Mansfield  
1507 William Melder Thomas Winter  
1527 John Swale  
1558 Anthony Blake  
1570 Edward Bolton  
1623 Jonathan Grover  
1627 William Wilcockson  
1632 James Nalton  
1648 Richard Mitchell  
1660 Thomas Shaw  
1676 Francis Burden  
1718 Samuel Towers  
1767 Thomas Rowland Berkeley  
1825 John Moultrie  
1875 John Murray  
1898 Albert Victor Baillie  
1912 Claude Martin Blagden  
1927 Joseph Wellington Hunkin  
1935 Richard Brook  
1941 Henry Wolfe Baines  
1949 Patrick Charles Alexander Carnegie  
1961 Dilwyn Morgan Davies  
1973 Alan Alfred Coldwells  
1987 Michael Laurence Langrish  
1993 Edward Francis Condry  
2003 Mark Howard Francis Beach  
2013 Imogen Nay

## THE RECTORS OF RUGBY

For the past eight or nine centuries at least a church has stood upon this consecrated ground – at first, only a tiny chapel; for the hamlet of Rokeby, dependent on the Mother Church of Clifton and in the possession of the Augustinian Abbey of St. Mary of Leicester. Then, in the reign of Henry III (1207-1272), it was made a Parish Church and given its own Rector.

The names of 44 Rectors are recorded in the history of St. Andrew's Church but, before the days of Parish Magazines and photographic portraits, we have very little information about them, the exception being James Nalton (1632) who was well known as a leading Puritan minister. Apart from James, the Rectors become much more interesting from John Moultrie (1825) onwards – we can look at their photos and gain some insights into their personalities through reading the parish magazines.

The influence of St. Andrew's has not been restricted to Rugby; indeed, its influence has spread all over the world. Some of our Rectors, for example, have gone on to be bishops of Peterborough, Truro, Singapore, Wellington, St. Edmondsbury & Ipswich, Exeter and Ramsbury, and others have been Deans of Windsor and Rochester. They are all links in a chain stretching over 850 years up to the present day, representing all those people who have worked to uphold the Gospel in this place.



**ALEXANDER DE ROKEBY**  
**1253-1291**  
**THE FIRST RECTOR OF RUGBY**

Alexander de Rokeby became the first Rector following the death of Simon the Deacon. He was appointed Rector by Henry de Rokeby, the Lord of the Manor, who was probably a relation. However, a chapel was probably built in Rugby around 1140 by Ernald de Bois of Clifton. He gave the chapel to Robert Bossu, Earl of Leicester, founder of the Abbey of St. Mary de Pratis in Leicester. In 1200, following a lawsuit, Henry was given the advowson, or right to appoint a priest to the parish of Rugby, and that was when Rugby became a parish church distinct from the mother church of Clifton.

**JAMES NALTON**  
**1632- 1642(?)**  
**‘THE WEeping PROPHEt’**

James Nalton, probably the most historically notable Rector of Rugby, was born around 1599 and was a contemporary of Oliver Cromwell. The son of a clergyman, James graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge and, having first worked as an assistant to a man called Richard Conder, arrived in Rugby as Rector in 1632. We know nothing of his ministry here (except that Rugby had a plague epidemic in 1634) until ten years later, when he signed a petition concerning the appointment of a Rugby School master; this may have contributed to his leaving the town and leaving the church rectorless when he briefly acted as a regimental chaplain before being appointed Rector of St. Leonard's, Foster Lane, in London, around 1644.

This was the time of the English Civil War, which passed through Rugby in 1642. It was a time of political turmoil lasting from 1642 to about 1649, when Charles I was executed. James Nalton is described by those who knew him as a man of great piety and learning who led a holy, blameless life and became known as ‘The Weeping Prophet’ because he shed tears as he preached. Although he was a Puritan, he opposed the execution of the King. In leaving Rugby to serve as a Chaplain to Colonel Grantham's regiment, part of the Parliamentary Forces fighting against the Royalists, James was later implicated in a plot to restore Charles II to the throne, as a result of which he had to flee to Holland for refuge. He had already irritated the House of Commons in 1646 when he preached before them and argued for greater Church reform.

Rather than being politically motivated, James Nalton seems to have been driven by conscience. Permitted to return to London after six months in exile, he was ejected from the Church, along with 2,000 other ministers, as a result of the Act of Uniformity introduced on St. Batholomew's Day, 24<sup>th</sup> August

1662. The Act, which required all ministers to conform to a list of terms and conditions including the Prayer Book, was designed to be offensive to the conscience of Puritans and thus to drive them out of their posts. James, who was married with children he could no longer support, had always suffered from severe bouts of depression; passionate, sensitive and emotional, he sank into despair and died four months later, in September 1662.

This is a sad story of a deeply committed and conscientious man suffering from depressive illness who tried to remain faithful to his beliefs at a time of political instability. It is to be hoped that his ministry in Rugby, at least, was fulfilling and that he was well supported here.

**SAMUEL TOWERS**  
**1718-1767**  
**THE LORD'S SON-IN-LAW**

Samuel Towers was inducted as Rector on October 28<sup>th</sup> 1718. His wife Mary was the daughter of William Burnaby, who was Lord of the Manor in 1670, and his wife Ann who survived him and held the avowdson in dower until about 1720. The avowdson (the right of presentation to a vacant benefice) had been held by the Lords of the Manor of Rugby, but during Towers' incumbency it was sold to Lord Craven of Coombe Abbey. (Interestingly, there was a curate in charge of St. Peter's in 1912 whose surname was Burnaby).

Samuel was a graduate of St. John's College, Cambridge. He remained as Rector for nearly 50 years, until he died. During this time there were serious fires in the town (1719, 1738), which in 1730 had 183 houses. In 1740 Rugby School moved from Church Street to its present site.

**THOMAS ROWLAND BERKELEY**  
**1767-1825**

**THE ABSENT RECTOR**

Thomas Rowland Berkeley was educated at New College Oxford and ordained Deacon at Christchurch in 1765. He was presented as Rector by Lord Craven in 1767 but, after 'reading himself in', he probably never took a service in the church throughout his 58 years of incumbency. He lived in Oxford and visited Rugby only once a year to attend the Trustees' Meeting at Rugby School. He appointed a curate to do his work.

During this time the church was re-pewed and the south aisle enlarged. Rugby School Chapel was completed and the School stopped attending St. Andrew's. A workhouse was built in Lower Hillmorton Road. The population of the town rose, to 1,487 in 1801 and 2,300 in 1821.

## **JOHN MOULTRIE 1825-1875 THE PASTOR-POET**

John Moultrie arrived in Rugby in 1825 and stayed here as Rector for almost fifty years. He died in post from smallpox, which he caught while visiting sick parishioners during an epidemic, despite being warned to stay away. Described as tall, well-built, dreamy and casual in manner, a sort of spiritual, visionary pastor, Moultrie was much loved. His name lives on in our Moultrie Aisle and the town's Moultrie Road.

When John Moultrie came to Rugby, having been educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, he was only 25, but already known as a poet. Thomas Arnold was the new Headmaster at Rugby School and the two men became friends. The population of Rugby at that time was about 2,400, rising to 9,000 by the time Moultrie died. The old St. Andrew's Church became too small for the growing congregation and the building was dilapidated to the point of being unsafe. Moultrie envisioned a new, larger church, and in 1874 an Association was formed to collect weekly penny subscriptions to pay for building it. John Moultrie hoped to raise £200 a year in this way which (bearing in mind that there were then 240 pennies in a pound) means that about a third of Rugby's population must have agreed to contribute.



During Moultrie's time in Rugby there was a cholera epidemic (1832), the main footpaths were paved (1835), the railways were developed (1838/40) and Holy Trinity Church was built (1854). In December 1873 the first issue of the Parish Magazine was published.

Moultrie's four surviving children were born and grew up in the old Rectory (next to the church). His elder son, Gerard, who himself became a clergyman, is remembered as the translator (from Greek) of the hymn 'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence'. He gave St. Andrew's £100 towards the cost of the marble arcade on the north side of the sanctuary.

*John Moultrie wrote the 'Song of the Rugby Church-Builders', including:*  
Haste and lay the strong foundation, haste the choicer work prepare;  
Friends of every rank and station, each the toil, the blessing share;  
Each his separate service render, each his will aid afford,  
Till in grave majestic splendour stands the temple of the Lord.

## **JOHN MURRAY** **1875-1898** **THE REBUILDER-REFORMER**

John Murray was quite different to his predecessor and no doubt came as a bit of a shock to some of his congregation. Short and stocky, with an impressive beard – concise, practical, energetic, a good organiser and a keen reformer, Murray was a man of action. He immediately set about getting the new St. Andrew's Church built, as well as sorting out the Church School system. Courteous, genial and benevolent, he was also strong-willed, determined and tenacious; he never compromised. Two years after his arrival he invited Freddie Temple (a former headmaster of Rugby School, then Bishop of Exeter, and subsequently Archbishop of Canterbury) to lay the foundation stone of the new church, and then he thoroughly involved himself in every stage of the building project.

During Murray's time as Rector the population of Rugby continued to grow, from 9,000 to about 15,000, and Murray oversaw a tripling of church school places, from 500 to about 1,500. When he was forced to retire from ill health (he died six months later) he asked that his retirement gift should be the clearing of the £85 debt on the school building fund.

Murray believed that every detail of a church building should have a meaning. This is reflected in the carvings above and opposite the Rector's stall, which feature birds with ears of corn and grapes, symbolising the bread and wine distributed at Communion: the Body and Blood of Christ.



During John Murray's time as Rector the church was rebuilt to Butterfield's design and was consecrated on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1879 (the last services in the old church were on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1877). The clock tower was built to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. A Mission Room (later to become St. John's Church in Cambridge Street) was built for the use of the navvies working on the construction of the Market Harborough railway line. Parishioner George Benn paid for the school named after him, and also agreed to pay for a tower, spire and vestries to be added to the church. St. Cross Hospital was opened in 1884 and a procession led by John Murray and the choir toured the wards.

When the elderly John Murray was discovered in June 1897 by his butler, lying unconscious at the foot of the rectory stairs, it made headlines in the Rugby Advertiser. By that time he had become as much a part of Rugby life as John Moultrie had been before him.

## **ALBERT VICTOR BAILLIE**

### **1898-1912**

### **THE SOCIABLE DIPLOMAT**

During Albert Victor Baillie's fourteen years as Rector the population of Rugby grew to 22,000 (which Baillie believed was the limit for the town) and underwent a massive change. In Baillie's own words it changed "from a little country town centering round the great School, into a busy manufacturing town". Baillie involved himself fully in every aspect of town life. Described as jovial, hearty, ardent, enthusiastic and full of vitality, he had a wide outlook on life. He is described as driving 'a sparkling pair of bays' round the parish, wearing a checked cap and smoking a fat cigar. A godson of Queen Victoria (hence, presumably, his Christian names!), Albert was socially at ease as he negotiated to manage change, solve problems, achieve financial stability for the church, renovate Holy Trinity Church and administer pastoral care.



Photo by G. A. Brown

*Yrs affectionately*  
*Albert Baillie*

In Baillie's day men and women were viewed as having complementary roles rather than being equal. He strongly supported the Church of England Men's Society and gave lectures to the men of the parish, 34 in one year with an average attendance of 125. He took separate confirmation classes for males and females, who were confirmed in separate services. All the positions of authority in the church were open only to men. Evensong was the main service of the week, when the better-off members of the congregation (called 'pew-holders') paid rental for specific seats that were reserved for them until just before the service began, when those who couldn't afford to pay rent were allowed to fill any remaining spaces.

Baillie complained that he was finding it hard to manage without a sixth curate to look after three churches (St. Andrew's, Holy Trinity and St. Peter's), two missions (St. John's and St. Philip's), the hospital and the workhouse. He claimed that he should have one man for every 2,000 people in the population, which means that we should now have a Rector and 49 curates!

In Baillie's time Rugby was in the Worcester diocese and he was anxious to foster a sense of belonging to the wider church, for example by persuading the Bishop to hold an Ordination in St. Andrew's in 1904. He started a club for grooms and stablemen passing through the towns, to try to keep them out of



the pubs! He also harangued the congregation about supporting local businesses instead of going farther afield to shop.

Baillie seems to have had an uncanny knack of extracting money from rich parishioners, especially Emily Bennett of the Firs who paid (in memory of her husband) for the Transfiguration painting behind the altar, the altar cross and the wrought iron screens. She even paid for the Transfiguration artist and his friend to travel to Florence to study Fra Angelico's painting, of which ours is a partial copy.

Albert Victor Baillie went on to serve as Dean of Windsor for 27 years.

## **CLAUDE BLAGDEN**

### **1912-1927**

### **THE ACADEMIC DON**

Claude Blagden's first visit to Rugby, when he was on holiday with his wife and baby, ended in a heated argument with an officious porter down at the station about how a cot should be transported; the porter may have been disconcerted when, a few years later, the new Rector arrived and recognised him in the congregation. Blagden included this story in his memoirs, together with his recollection of the first Communion service he took at St. Andrew's, during which the church cleaner suddenly emerged from behind the High Altar carrying a bucket and a broom. Blagden described her as "combining a passion for scrubbing with an instinct for self-advertisement and a vendetta against the verger, wherever he might be."

Claude Blagden was an Oxford University Don with no experience of running a parish. One of his curates (Percy Herbert, later Bishop of Norwich) described him as shy and reserved, precise and decisive. He was abruptly plunged into the task of managing a team of up to eight curates as the country was faced with the awful prospect of war, and later of caring for his parishioners during the 1926 General Strike. Claude didn't have a carriage or a car (there were few cars in those days), and he didn't ride a bike, so he walked everywhere and found this was a good way of being accessible to people who wanted to speak to him.

During the First World War the church clock had to be silenced and evening services were cancelled to save on coke and electric-



ity. Curate Dick Dugdale went off to be Chaplain of the Royal Flying Corps in France and returned to preach at Holy Trinity a few weeks before he was killed by a German barrage just before the Armistice, aged 28. This was dreadful for Blagden, who had known him as an undergraduate at Oxford, especially as it happened at about the same time as his rather frail wife Edith died from influenza. She was much loved by her friends in Rugby, and there is a brass plaque over the Rector's seat in her memory. Blagden oversaw the building of the war memorial which still stands outside the church.

Claude Blagden left Rugby to take up the position of Bishop of Peterborough.

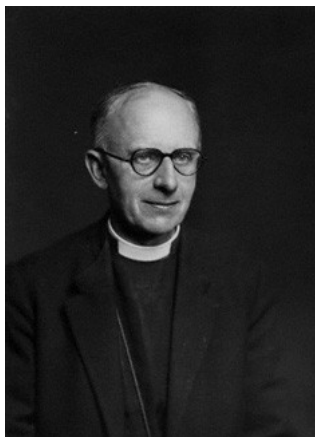
## **JOSEPH HUNKIN**

### **1927-1935**

### **THE CORNISHMAN**

Joseph Hunkin was Rector of Rugby for eight years, between the two World wars. He was appointed with a record of academic success and military service. He was also an Archdeacon. During his time a number of curates arrived and left, and a succession of senior clergy came to preach at services in St. Andrew's, which celebrated fifty years of the new church in 1929.

During Hunkin's time as Rector the new Church House was built on land bought adjacent to the church (vacating the building that is now called Brotherhood Hall). St. Peter's Church was completed and plans were made for a new church (St. George's) in Hillmorton.



From his letters to parishioners in the Parish magazines, Joseph Hunkin seems to have been particularly concerned that people tended to neglect their weekly worship when they went away on holiday in August. He claimed that the February issues of the Parish Magazine were especially interesting because they contained the published Accounts of all the churches!

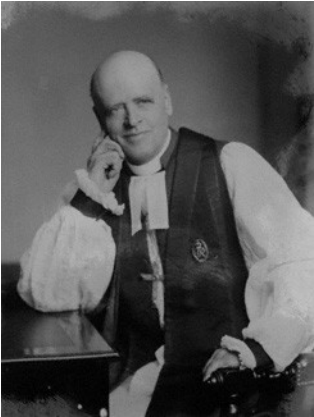
Joseph Wellington Hunkin was a Cornishman, born in the shadow of Truro cathedral, so he was delighted to be appointed as Bishop of Truro, the first Cornishman to hold that post.

## **RICHARD BROOK**

### **1935-1941**

### **THE WARTIME RECTOR**

Richard Brook arrived in Rugby from Doncaster in 1935, as war was once again looming, and stayed for six years before leaving to become Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. He is often pictured wearing a four-cornered hat, probably because he was bald. He introduced the Christmas service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St. Andrew's.



In 1936 Brook took part in a service at the Stretton roundabout on the A45, where a memorial is erected to the men of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division (in which Hunkin had served). Many of these men had been quartered locally before being reviewed at the memorial site by George V as they prepared to leave for Gallipoli.

During Brook's time as Rector King George V died and George VI and Elizabeth were crowned. St. Michael's Church in Coventry became our cathedral, and Hamilton House in Bilton Road (then Hamilton Home for Girls) was opened. Despite the outbreak of war, plans went ahead for a temporary church building in

Hillmorton.

As war began, the congregation was warned about the possibility of air raids during services. At evening services after dark only two candles were allowed, on the altar in the Moultrie Aisle; members of the congregation were advised to take torches to services, and the sidesmen were charged with the task of making sure their light wasn't directed towards the windows. Curate Wingfield Digby left Rugby to serve as a Chaplain and was taken Prisoner of War at the defence of Calais. Against this background Brook tried to maintain the life of the church and to make theological sense of the political situation.



## **HENRY BAINES** **1941-1949** **THE PROPHETIC THEOLOGIAN**

Henry Wolfe Baines moved to Rugby from Radford in Coventry, where he had experienced bombing in his parish. Like Brook, he sought to apply theology to wartime experience. It is difficult to gain an impression of Henry through his writing in the Parish Magazines because he generally avoided personal comments and focused on Biblical teaching. As the war progressed he had to contend with shortages of rations (so no parish breakfasts), petrol (so smaller congregations), staff (so some cancelled services) and paper (so smaller parish magazines). Such frustrations no doubt caused minor irritations, but Henry was also looking ahead to life after war.

Henry Baines realised that VE Day would mark more of a beginning than an end. He agonised over actions like the Dambusters' raids – was the killing of civilians justified if it brought victory nearer and thus saved lives? And how would people returning from war settle down to 'normal' life? His concern for those returning from war led him to warn his congregations that they would need imagination, humility and sympathy when interacting with those who had experienced the horrors of war at first hand. When curate Wingfield Digby was released from his prisoner-of-war camp and returned home, Henry re-appointed him with special responsibility for welcoming home those who had been fighting.



Henry Baines was married in June 1944, and this may have heightened his concern for women coming back from war. It is quite stunning to read the words of a Rector of Rugby written seventy years ago as he states that women should be assured they have a ministry in the Church of England for which they will be given proper training, paid a reasonable salary, and given appropriate status.

During Henry's time as Rector, Archbishop of Canterbury Freddie Temple (who had been Headmaster of Rugby School) preached at St. Andrew's Evensong to a packed church, and the service was relayed to the overflow in Church House. The iron railings surrounding the church were removed to be melted down as part of the war effort, and he didn't think they would ever be replaced. Fire-watching rotas had to be organised in case of incendiary bombs.

Henry Wolfe Baines left to take up an appointment as Bishop of Singapore and subsequently became Bishop of Wellington, New Zealand.

## **PATRICK CARNEGIE**

**1949-1961**

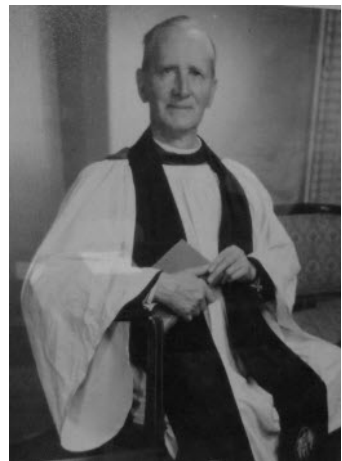
### **THE TRADITIONAL RECTOR**

The wars were over, and Patrick Charles Alexander Carnegie arrived in Rugby to deal with more mundane matters like the deficit in parish funds. Perhaps this accounts for the rather odd money-raising activities advertised in the parish magazine: a competition for the best decorated handkerchief, a pear-bottling competition, and 'Guess the weight of curate Joe Humble'. There seems to have been a lot of church fetes, and the Rector had to attend them all. Patrick Carnegie was continually having to ask people for money, and it can't have gone down well when he tried to put pressure on the daughter churches to pay for the mother church's spring-clean, at a cost of £2,000.

Carnegie did make the effort to cut down on his own expenditure, negotiating the sale of the old Rectory next to the church and the purchase of 79 Clifton Road. He claimed that, due to the impossibility of staffing the old rectory with servants and gardeners as in times past, the housework had become drudgery for his wife and the maintenance in general much too expensive. They moved out, and the vacated building (now demolished) was taken over by the William Temple College, adapted and enlarged. When the buildings were dedicated on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1954, St. Andrew's Church hosted the Archbishop of Canterbury and six bishops – a service to remember!

During Patrick Carnegie's time as incumbent a sounding board was erected above the pulpit to try to improve the acoustics so that sermons could be heard more clearly. It didn't work and was removed. In 1952 King George VI died. The use of women as lay Readers was approved by the Church of England. In 1956 the Queen laid the foundation stone of the new Coventry Cathedral.

All was going well until June 1959, when appendicitis followed in quick succession by a throat infection, further surgery, a dislocated elbow and a badly sprained ankle led Patrick Carnegie to announce his retirement. As he said, you have to be in good health to do the



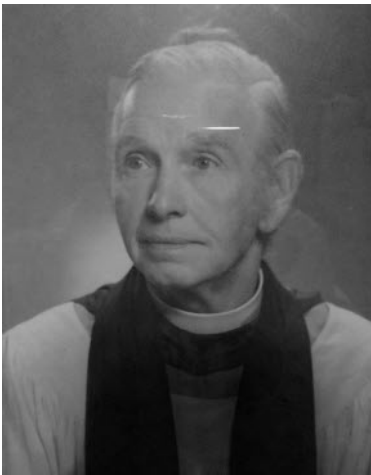
Rector's job. Coincidentally, Henry Baines had to cancel a visit to preach in St. Andrew's because he had appendicitis too.

## **DILWYN MORGAN DAVIES**

**1961-1973**

### **A WELSH EXTRAVERT**

Dilwyn Morgan Davies was Rector of Stoke St. Michael in Coventry when he was called to be Rector of Rugby. The importance of teamwork was stressed in his job description, but the Mother-Daughter church model was still dominant, and Dilwyn was very much in control of the curates he trained at St. Andrew's before sending them out as priests-in-charge of the smaller churches, ready after a few years to be launched into other parts of England and, sometimes, other parts of the world. There is no doubt that the Rugby Parish had a great influence on the Church of England, as the number of curates trained here to a high standard of ministry is impressive and it would be interesting to follow their future careers.



One curate, who had been appointed by Patrick Carnegy, was Alan Alfred Coldwells, who followed the examples of Carnegy and Baines by being rushed into hospital with appendicitis too. Alan was appointed priest-in-charge of the new St. George's Church, which was nearing completion, and he became very popular with all, especially with Pat Hemsley whom he married at the first wedding in St. George's church shortly after he moved to Norwich.

Dilwyn Morgan Davies was a larger-than-life character whose sermons kept the congregation on their toes and entertained. On one occasion he stopped the service in the middle of a hymn to change it for one he liked better, then stopped everyone again because they weren't singing loudly enough. When a new curate and his wife arrived at the rectory one evening, Dilwyn dragged them inside and began to give them marriage preparation until the curate got a word in edgewise, protesting that they'd been married for years and had several children - and anyway, he was the new curate. Dilwyn liked going to schools and talking to the children; a familiar approach was to tell them he was going to show them something no one had ever seen before, and then cut an apple in half to show them the inside.

During Dilwyn's time in Rugby a Kenyan priest, Julius Adoyo arrived on a placement; his arrival, to Dilwyn's delight, was heralded in the Daily Mail. Dilwyn's wife, Kate Davies, organised the St. Andrew's ladies to equip the church with tapestry kneelers, and a social committee was formed. For one year, Dilwyn swapped jobs with an American minister, Charles Douglas, both being warmly welcomed by their respective host congregations.

After twelve years in the post, Dilwyn retired to the parish of Ilmington in the south of the county, and was pleased to show visitors the 'Mouseman' carved mice for which the church there was well known.

## **ALAN ALFRED COLDWELLS**

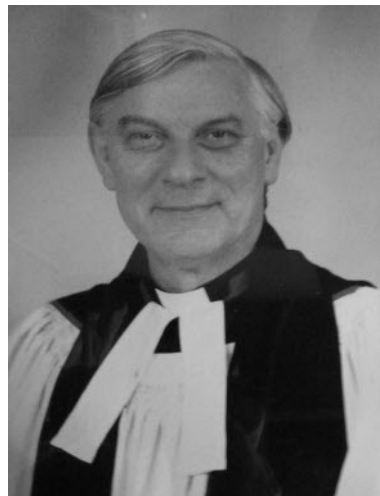
**1973-1987**

### **THE MUCH-LOVED FORMER CURATE**

When Alan Coldwells' appointment as Rector was announced there was general rejoicing from those who remembered him as a curate in the parish, and also remembered his wife Pat as a local girl. They returned with their three children and lost none of their initial popularity in the fourteen years that followed. Good-humoured and approachable, Alan beamed at his congregations and cared for them pastorally, steering St. Andrew's through choppy waters as the parish was formally turned into a Team Ministry. He was well liked not only by churchgoers but by the wider community, and there was such concern when he suffered a minor heart attack that parishioners had to be banned from visiting him in hospital because they were wearing him out.

During Alan's time in Rugby the decision was made to close and demolish Holy Trinity Church, the two churches being too close together and Holy Trinity being in a bad state of repair. Residential care flats were built on the site, together with a new Rectory to be inhabited by subsequent incumbents. A memorable occasion was a celebration of Alan's 25 years as a priest, which took place at a dinner in Lawrence Sheriff School hall.

While Alan was Rector there were 26 boys in the choir, and concert tours were organised to Evreux in France and Russelsheim in Germany (Rugby's twin towns). Alan accompanied the choir on one of their trips to France and was deep in discussing the



Immaculate Conception with French Père Clanquard in the early hours of the morning, while the choirman interpreting the conversation tried to stay awake.

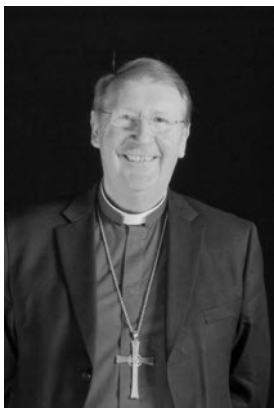
Eventually Alan was appointed Canon Chancellor of St. George's Chapel Windsor, treading in the footsteps of Canon Baillie before him. He told stories of walking his undisciplined hound Dino in Windsor Great Park and meeting a headscarfed lady walking corgis, approaching from another direction. There was great sadness some years later when Alan collapsed and died as he left his house to attend his wife's funeral. He inspired affection in all who knew him.

## **MICHAEL LAURENCE LANGRISH**

**1987-1993**

### **THE TEAM RECTOR**

Michael Langrish initially arrived in Rugby as Priest-in-Charge, his appointment as Rector being officially confirmed once he and his family were able to move from 79 Clifton Road into the new Rectory built on the site of the demolished Holy Trinity Church. Michael had previously been a curate at Holy Trinity Stratford, Chaplain of Rugby School, and Rector of Offchurch/ Diocesan Director of Ordinands. He came to Rugby to manage the Team Ministry, which included St. Andrew's, St. George's, St. John's, St. Peter's and St. Philip's churches. During his time as Rector, St. John's Church was closed and St. Peter's became Peter-John's. A new church, Christchurch, was built on the new Brownsover Estate, so there were still five churches in the Team.



Now that the Team churches and their clergy were on an equal footing, rather than being a Mother Church and her Daughter Churches, the traditional authoritarian leadership of a Rector and a team of curates gave way to more time-consuming team-building (including a clergy retreat) and a new pattern of working together. Michael Langrish encouraged the various congregations to join together in worship at Team services and to socialise together, memorably at a Tudor Banquet in Lawrence Sheriff School, an 'Allo 'Allo Evening at Christchurch, and a fete at St. Peter's. At St. Andrew's he set up a group of Lay Pastors with different areas of responsibility. Several members of this group and of the wider congregation explored vocations and some were subsequently or-

daind or became Readers. During Michael's incumbency women were ordained priest for the first time and he encouraged, Paticia Martindale, our first woman curate at St. Andrew's, to develop her ministry.



A kitchen and a toilet were built at the base of the tower, so that people did not have to walk across to Church House for these facilities. Offices were also built along the north wall of the church.

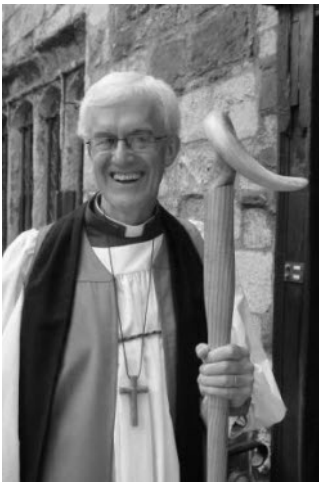
Michael Langrish left Rugby to become the Bishop of Birkenhead and was subsequently the Bishop of Exeter, with a seat in the House of Lords.

## **EDWARD CONDRY**

**1993-2003**

### **THE FAMILY MAN**

Edward Condry moved from Bloxham into the Rectory with his wife Sarah, their four children and an assortment of animals, all functioning as one big family unit. The wall dividing the kitchen from the small dining room was knocked down to accommodate them all, and church meetings suddenly became more casual, taking place around the kitchen table with dogs and guinea pigs running round peoples' feet.



Together, Edward and Sarah lived out the ministry of hospitality, welcoming people into their home and introducing breakfasts after the 8am Sunday Service. They were concerned for outreach in the parish and for wider issues of justice such as Fair Trade. They undertook major fundraising (£350,000) for substantial repair work on the church roof and tower and organised a sponsored mountain trek in Morocco to raise money for the setting up of Rugby Myton Day Hospice. Further afield, they organised a major aid project for Albania.

Edward joined the Rugby Athletics Club and could be spotted out running; during his time as Rector he took part in the London Marathon. He organised Parish Retreats at the Sheldon centre in Devon, and walking weeks in the Lake

District. The family's love of animals was extended to the introduction of occasional Pet Services, which had a mixed reception!

Edward Condry left Rugby to become the Canon Treasurer at Canterbury Cathedral and was subsequently consecrated Bishop of Ramsbury, in the Salisbury Diocese, in 2012.

## **MARK BEACH**

### **2003-2013**

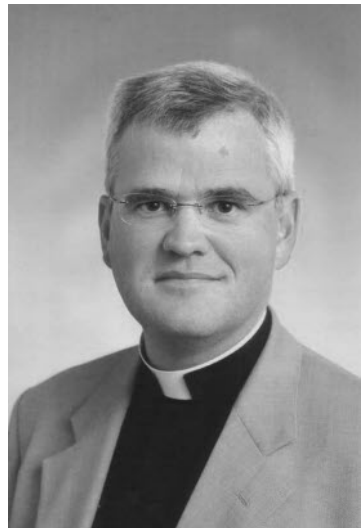
### **THE THESPIAN**

Mark Beach came to Rugby from Wakefield, where he had been the Bishop's Chaplain, and stayed as Rector for ten years. During that time a new kitchen and café area was developed along the north wall of the church, taking over part of the office area. Three new toilets were built under the tower, the wooden doors in the north porch were replaced by glass, and some of the pews at the back of the Moultrie Aisle were removed to give more space. These changes were designed to open up St. Andrew's to the wider community in the hope that more people would come into the church, which belongs to the whole town.

Mark Beach set out to strengthen the Team congregations by moving away from the traditional role of the Rector being in charge of every aspect of church life, promoting and developing more collaborative ministry. His pioneering sector-based (rather than church-based) approach to Team clergy responsibility provoked much thought about the functioning of Rugby Team Ministry, but the authority structures of the past made it difficult for the remaining churches to have confidence in working together on an equal footing. St. Philip's Church had closed and Christchurch Brownsover had left the team to join with the parish of Clifton, reducing the team to three churches: St. Andrew's, St. George's and Peter-John's. As time went on St. George's and St. Peter-John's congregations began to consider independence; this would eventually lead to the break-up of the Team in 2013.

In his civic role, Mark liaised with other church and community leaders to work towards whole-town goals. Towards the end of his time in Rugby, he was appointed Transforming Communities Officer for the Coventry Diocese. He also sat on General Synod.

Three rescue chickens were adopted by Mark and installed in the rectory garden, but sadly they met an untimely end in the jaws of Murphy the Lurcher! To escape from the pressures of parish life for long enough to complete his doctorate thesis, Mark spend time on his canal boat, once waking to find the boat had been untied and was



drifting along the bank. He embraced modern methods of communication on Facebook and Twitter, blogging regularly.

With a keen interest in music, Mark Beach supported the choral tradition of St. Andrew's, his wife and daughter singing in the choir which had admitted women partly due to the increasing difficulty of recruiting choirboys. He joined Rugby Operatic Society and took leading roles in 'Iolanthe' (as Private Willis) and 'Trial by Jury' (as the Counsel for the Plaintiff).

Mark left Rugby to take up an appointment as Dean of Rochester.

## **IMOGEN NAY**

### **2013-**

Imogen Nay was appointed Rector of Rugby in July 2013, to take up her position at the end of October. Apart from being the first female Rector, she brings her own unique approach and personality to the role. The future is exciting, as we travel together on the path along which God is going to lead us together in this church.



