

Holy Cross church research

Vicars of Llanblethian with Cowbridge

1638 Edward Davies M.A. (*Canon of Llandaff*)

1663 John Griffiths M.A.

1666 Jonathan Nicholls B.A. (*1666 – 1671 Matthew Walter was curate of Llanblethian. He married Eleanor Price in a clandestine marriage in St Athan church; persuaded vicar of St John Baptist, Cardiff to officiate – Theodore Price, also rector of St Athan*)

1717 Richard Gregory M.A.

1744 Noah Neale Newcombe M.A.

1748 William Miles B.A.

1773 James Evans (*or John Evans – pluralist vicar, ? vicar of Colwinston and after Cowbridge was vicar of Hatherley, Glos. Appointed series of curates for Cowbridge. Incumbency of Cowbridge looked after by Thomas Williams, headmaster of Grammar School, vicar of St Donats and Bishopston, Gower, paid by borough of Cowbridge - £12 p a*)

1808 William Gwinnit Hornidge M.A. (*or Hornage, son of Wm Hornage of Gloucester*)

1814 Henry Scawen Plumtre M.A. (*father was dean of Gloucester*)

1823 Robert Williams

1835 Thomas Edmondes M.A. (*Vicar of Cowbridge, rector of Llanblethian. Lived in vicarage – St Quintins - too small; moved to Old Hall, the family home. Greatest achievement in his sons – Charles, principal of Lampeter, archdeacon of Cardigan; Frederick, rector of City, canon and archdeacon of Llandaff. Declined bishopric of Llandaff*)

1884 James Havard Protheroe M.A.

1886 David Bowen B.A.

1898 John Owen Evans M.A.

1904 Isaiah Roberts M.A.

1917 Lemuel John Hopkin-James LLD

1924 Gilbert Williams LDiv

1949 Ewart Owen Thomas Lewis M.A.

1963 Stanley Howard Mogford M.A.

Taken mainly from 'Incumbents of the Diocese of Llandaff', compiled by Mrs Augusta Jenkins (Rayer) of St Athan rectory. Cardiff MS 4.1224. (See also L.J. Hopkin-James, 'Old Cowbridge' pp 191-5).

Brian James

(Notes in italics of Jeff Alden)

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Incumbents Llanblethian with Cowbridge – notes of Jeff Alden (difficult to read)

1208 Thomas Vic re Llanblethian et Decarus

1217 Magister Radulph Maelog

1226 Thomas vic re Llanblethian

1242 ? Roger Mayloc Ralph Maelog d 1231, bishop's chaplain 1231

Eustace the Mark (Eustace, prior of Cardiff 1232; Roger Maelog 1242)

1242 Thomas of Penarth

1487 Thomas Wentllong, Cenoricus

1552 Sir John Grant

1565 Philip Robert

1578 Morgan Bassett

1589 Robert Robinson, St Edmunds Hall 1601

1638 Edward Davies (said to have been ejected by Puritans)

? Mathew Seys BD

1662 Edward Davies – restored

1662-5 John Griffiths M.A.

1665 (6) – 1717 Jonathan Nicholl, B.A. Christchurch, Oxford; also vicar of St Donats 1663-73, St Athan 1674-

1717 Richard Gregory M.A., Christchurch, Oxford; also vicar of Penmark 1707-1744

1744 Noah Neale Newcombe, M.A., Corpus Christi, Cambridge M.A. 1746

1748 Wm Miles B.A., son of Wm Miles M.A. of Llanblethian

1773 James Evans – absentee ? John Evan

-1786 John Williams – absentee

1808 Wm Gwinnett Hornidge, B.A. Pembroke college, Oxford 1810, M.A. 1811

1814 Henry Scawen Plumtre, Merton Coll, Oxford M.A. 1816

1823 Robert Williams

1835 Thos Edmondos M.A., Jesus Coll, Oxford

1884 James Havard Protheroe M.A.

1886 David Bowen B.A.

Further notes of J Alden

1743 John Thomas, curate of Cowbridge

1744 Charles Redwood, curate of C

1746 John Thomas, curate of C

1753 Morgan Thomas, curate of C

1764 Thos Williams, minister

1783 Evan Jones, clerk

John Carne

1783-5 Rev John Walters, curate

1786 Thos Evans, curate

1788 Francis Taynton, minister

1789 Wm Williams, minister

Wm Thomas, curate

1793 James Carne

1795 Wm Williams, minister

1799 John Morgan, vicar

1804 John Morgan, vicar

1806 Wm Williams

1812 Wm Williams

1814 Wm Williams

1824-28 Rees Howell

1829 Francis Taynton

1831 Thomas Edmondos

1832 Owen Jenkins

1841 John Powell

1852 J B Gwyn

1884 J H B Powell

Typed by B Alden

Notes on Holy Cross Church (unknown source):

1814 William Williams, minister

1820, Thursday, September 6th Mr Thomas Williams of Brecon appointed organist, at yearly salary of £21, payable every quarter (salary to be defrayed out of the church rate). Released 18th October 1820 from being organist at Brecon.

1821, 10th May William Howe, organist

1822, 27th November Present parish clerk John Rosser, having by repeated acts of drunkenness and of other crimes so disgraced himself and the office he holds in the church – to be deprived of the same.

1824-8 Rees Howell, minister/curate

1829 Francis Taynton, officiating minister

1831 Thos Edmondson, curate

1832 Owen Jenkins, curate

1834 Library to be converted into vestry room

1836 Thos Edmondson, vicar

1841 John Powell, clerk

1843 New organ opened at Cowbridge (Mr Toogood instructed the choir) Glam, Mon & Brecon Gazette

1858 J B Gwyn, curate

1859 Rebuilding of church porch

1863 J W Evans, curate

1877 Letter from chimers complaining of difficulties when they laboured, and the small remuneration they received from chiming

1884 J H B Powell, curate in charge

1884 J Howard Protheroe, vicar

1887 D Bowen, vicar

1892 Removal of organ from west gallery, and its reconstruction in the east end of the south aisle.
Removal of pulpit and reading desk and erection of stone pulpit.

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1913, 26th September Revd Gilbert Thomas, curate for seven and a half years, has been promoted to be vicar of Bonvilston.

1934 Curate – William Reginald Blackford, living at 4 Cardiff Rd, Cowbridge (*visitors' book from 2007*)

After Stan Mogford, incumbents were Gwilym Williams, Robert Paterson, Derek Belcher.

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The dedication of the church.

'There is plenty of evidence that Cowbridge Church was originally dedicated to the Holy Cross. It appears that the name was not used after the Reformation (perhaps for doctrinal reasons) and over time it was completely forgotten. When church dedications were back in vogue in the 19th century, St Mary was the name chosen (first used in the 1830s). The Holy Cross dedication was revived early in the 20th century, in the time of the Revd. L J Hopkin-James, who was the vicar between 1917 and 1924. I suggest that it was he who rediscovered the original dedication when researching his 'Old Cowbridge'. Two editions of Kelly's 'Directory of South Wales' pinpoint the change : in the 1914 edition St Mary is given as the dedication; in the 1920 edition St Cross (i.e. Holy Cross)'.

Brian James, 2014

From the notebooks of WAH Fisher, MS 4.1221, Cardiff Central Library (some difficulties reading them) :

When Cowbridge church was restored, the place was gutted. The old pews, some of them particularly noble looking (for instance the Nash pew which was designed to go with the handsome Jacobean Carne monument), were all knocked to pieces. The pulpit, which was historical as being that in which every Bishop of Llandaff for the last 200 years had preached, as well as Wesley and Dr, and the communion rails were all sold off by auction.

Pulpit bought by Bryant coal merchant atin his coal yard for a time. Rails bought by Stibbs and were applied to the railing in.....the front court of one of his houses in East Village when the 'Chinese pattern' (which had been the favourite pattern for railings...etc....Queen Anne and William III) was a striking feature.

B Alden
