



Account of Purley on Thames

William St Barbe

WILLIAM ST BARBE BUYS THE LIVING OF PURLEY

Browsing in the Public Record Office the other day I came across the grant made to William St Barbe in August 1546 when he purchased the College of St Edmund from the Crown after it had been surrendered to the Mayor of Salisbury in June of that year. William was a gentleman of the King's Privy Bedchamber who had assumed the position of Provost of the College in 1543 on the death of John Gough. The College had been founded in Salisbury in 1269 by Walter de La Wyle as a centre for 12 priests and a number of lay brothers. It had fallen into disrepute in the mid 14th century and from 1339 in Provost Peter de Wymbourne had set about expanding its revenues. In the process he had acquired the living of Purley.

The grant is referenced in the PRO as E318/19/990 and is a large parchment roll dated 5th September 38 Henry VIII It list all the assets of the College which William acquired for £400. It includes various rents in New Sarum, the values of the churches of St Edmund and St Martin in Wilts, the rectories of Compton and Whiteparish in Wilts, a pension from Purley in Berks and Whiteparish in Wilts, rents from Hannington Berks, tenths from Mylforde, the rent of the site and precincts of the College of St Edmunds, also its farm and its appurtenances. The farm etc of Whiteparish, the church of Whiteparish, the manor of Alverston, Wilts, the rectories of St Martins, Salisbury, Compton Chamberlayn Wilts and Purley Berks, Farms in Hannington Berks and in Minster St, St Bedrew's Street and Rolleston St in Salisbury and the rent of pasture and herbage of the cemetery of St Edmund's. Also listed were rents in Typhulfeld and tenths from the free chapelries of Whelplay and St James in the parish of Whiteparish.

There were two items from Purley. First a pension of 20s to be paid annually and secondly all the great tithes of the parish with the lesser tithes going to the then vicar John Leke.

William St Barbe continued to hold this very miscellaneous collection of assets until his death when it reverted to the Crown. Thereafter all appointments to Purley were as rector, not vicar, the first being John Leke's curate Richard Gatskyll who was appointed rector in 1554 when John Leke was deprived by Queen Mary.

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