

ALL SAINTS CHURCH COVINGTON

FORMERLY DEDICATED TO ST. MARGARET



A Guide to the history, architecture and people of our Parish Church.

The earliest features in the church building date it to 1120, establishing continuous Christian worship on this site for nearly 900 years. However, it is extremely probable that an earlier structure existed in this prominent location – the highest point in Cambridgeshire is only a few metres into the field behind. Over the centuries, the building has been repaired, modified and enhanced many times, recording its central role in the life of this village. At times, there were other places of worship: In the early 1800s, permission was given for Non-Conformist Meetings to be held in private houses; in the first half of the 20th century, there was a Congregational Mission Hall in the village (a subsidiary of that in Upper Dean).

Although the information in this leaflet is mostly specific to our church, there are occasional glimpses of the effect of national events and policies: In 1662, William Turner, the then Rector, signed the Oath of Non-Resistance following the Restoration of the Monarchy after the Civil War; the original tower/spire/steeple was destroyed in the well documented Great Storm of November 1703; insurance was taken out in 1916 against zeppelin attacks following a local incident. The Parish Accounts show interesting trends in spending: During Thomas Fairy's tenure as Churchwarden, bellringers were paid 4/- annually, however, after 1863, there were no payments to bellringers but expenditure on communion wine increased considerably! The condition of the church path, fencing, organ, heating and bell-ropes has been a continual source of anxiety over the last two centuries.

Particular Rectors stand out for their personality and contribution to the village: Cornelius Binns was one of the first 'gentry' rectors to live here; Robert Watson appears to have been a hands-on philanthropist; Robert Fairhurst must have given the most marvellous sermons judging by his PCC minute-taking!

This leaflet is free to take, but we would be most grateful for any contributions towards further maintenance of our church.

Supported by
 **The National Lottery**[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

 heritage
lottery fund

www.covington.org.uk www.kymchurch.org.uk

c1120

Nave dates from this period. Chancel slightly later and was almost immediately rebuilt.

1120-30

Tympanum added to north wall.

1225

Fulk de Bayeux held the advowson.

1280-1300

Current chancel dates from now, but there may have been an older one dating from 1120 with a rebuild in 1160.

Early 14th century

Chapel added to south side. Tower built. Chancel rebuilt. Purbeck coffin lid (now in the chancel) dates from this period.

1352

William Rufford (itinerant founder from London) cast the first bell. William Dawe cast a second bell.

1418

Third bell cast by John Walgrave.

Early 16th century

Original 1330 tower rebuilt.

1536

Living valued at £10 1s 8d.

July 16 1662

William Turner (Rector) signed Oath of Non Resistance, probably at Buckden Palace – to re-establish the loyalty of the clergy to the Crown at the Restoration.

1670

Bell cage constructed by John Landell.

May 1674

The Reverend Bartholomew Mountford was deprived of the living for misconduct.

1698

Rector Sam Taylor lived in Kimbolton because *rectory house was ruinous*.

October 13 1704

Samuel Taylor, Rector, confirmed that the church steeple had been *sufficiently repaired* following serious damage in the Great Storm of 1703.

May 16 1709

Terrier states that the Rector was due *eggs, milk, pigs, calves, lambs wool, pigeons* and that the church contained *three bells, fair large bible of the Oxford edition, a new common prayer book, a book of homilies, a book of canons, one surplice, a fair linen cloth with a cross, canvas covering for the Communion Table and a small silver cup of 8 or 10oz weight with the name of the parish engraved upon it*.

August 27 1715

A Decree of Excommunication was ordered in the case of Sarah Cuthbert, but it does not appear that this was carried out.

1717

Bishop's visitation – *communions held 3 or 2 a year*.

1720

Visitation – *They will not come often*. Living valued at £79 19s 7d.

October 1799

John Simpson left £3 p.a. to the Minister and Churchwardens to be distributed to the *hardworking poor not receiving collection at St. Thomas's*.

April 28 1800

Reverend Sir,

The Chancel has been new roofed two casements fixed in the church.

Furniture of the church: A Bible and two prayer books, surplice, tablecloth and napkin, pulpet cloth and cushion, tankard, plate. I am Sir, your most humble servant, Thos Barber Churchwarden.

1801

Tithes commuted for 196 acres of land.

1820s

Two bells from Stow Longa hung at Covington.

1841

Tenor bell recast by Thomas Mears of Whitechapel. It is inscribed with *Thomas Fairy Churchwarden 1841*.

1849

New Rectory built on glebe land for the Revd. Cornelius Binns.



1851

Kelly's Directory - ...the church is *very much out of repair*.

1855

A Berlin black fluted stove was installed in the vestry to provide hot air through the vents in the aisle.

1861

Discovery of Dunham coffins.

1868

The Revd. Watson started his campaign for a proper school for Covington children.

1881-3

Substantial alterations to the church were carried out. These included the addition of the vestry, organ chamber and porch, the building of the buttresses, repair of the medieval pews and provision of extra seating. The font and purbeck coffin (lid?) were relocated. Church reopened May 24 1883.

1885

Church starts paying insurance for the first time.

1915

Discussion about replacing the existing organ with a new American organ. This evidently did not happen as the present organ is a cut down Victorian house organ.

1916

Insurance taken out against *war risks* (zeppelin attacks).

March 12 1919

Parish sword retrieved from the Rectory and placed in church chest.

Summer 1919

A day of festivities to celebrate Peace included at 2pm *Divine Service at the Parish Church conducted by The Rev. Powley*.

1920

First payment of Diocesan quota.

1921

First record of *Sale of Harvest Festival Gifts* – raised £5-17s-6d.

1927

Old organ sold for £1-15s-0d. New, second-hand, organ purchased for £35.

1940

Oak cross and candlesticks bought.

1941

War damage insurance – 4/6d p.a.

1946

Slabs bought for the paths to finally replace previous cinder, gravel and chipping coverings.

1949

Electricity installed. Shades for lamps bought.

1960

It was decided that the dedication was All Saints and that the dedication to St. Margaret was probably based upon the day of consecration. However, Covington Feast is held on or close to St. Margaret's Day.

1963

First mention of Parish Magazine.

December 18 1964

New communion rails and lace for an altar cloth were provided as a memorial to Mrs. Carew Barnett.

In the last twenty years the chancel has been reroofed. All walls have been repointed. The inside of the church has been repainted. Some nave floors have been replaced. The tower has been strengthened with locally produced ties. The circular east window has been reglazed with glass coloured to represent the importance of farming to the village. In 2012, the dedication on the purbeck coffin lid was rediscovered as being to Richard de Bayeaux. The bells have been rehung on a new, lower, frame and a fourth bell added.

WW1 and WW2 Memorials

On March 17th 1919, the Parish Council appointed a committee to create a suitable memorial to those killed during the Great War, namely Major Carew Barnett, Lt. Norman Heaton (son of the former Rector), Private Fred Mehew and Private Albert Smith.

Major James Bonsor Brown MC (Jim) of The Welsh Regiment was killed on 2nd February 1945 near the Irrawaddy River in Burma, where he is buried. The chancel furniture was installed in his memory.



OUTSIDE

The churchyard is very old, and full! A survey of memorials was carried out recently, but there is sadly no burial plan in existence.

Dunham coffins (see over): We think the flat stone reads *In memory of David Dix Dunham who died May 20th 1861 aged 85 years Also of Sarah, wife of above, who died November 30 1837 aged 50 years Also Sarah, daughter of the above who died June 1843 aged 27 years William Pape Dunham who died Sept 20th 18XX aged 59 years And of Lucy his wife who died April 20th 1905 aged 55 years* Nearby is a memorial to Sarah Lucy Pape, daughter of William and Lucy Dunham.

The bench on the south side of the church commemorates the life of Augusta Marian Reeder who died while she and her husband, the Revd. W. C. Reeder, lodged with the Revd. R. Fairhurst at the Rectory. He was a curate at Cottisford when young Flora Timms (later Thompson) was unaware that that village would become 'Larkrise' –as in 'Larkrise to Candleford'. Marian died in 1933 but her grave is unknown. Charles Reeder left the parish and PCC Minutes record that he '*had always been most ready to lend a hand during any holiday or emergency*'.

The churchyard paths have remained unchanged for centuries, except for the constant battle with surface maintenance! In addition to regular cleaning, in 1892, £2-5-3d was spent on granite chippings. In 1922 £2-16-2d worth of slag was purchased for the paths. In 1932, the paths were tarred and gravelled at a cost of £2-9-0d. Finally, in 1946, slabs costing £57-9-2d were bought and cleaning the church and laying the paths as we know them cost an additional £90-19-6d.

FROM THE REGISTERS...

Baptism, marriage and burial registers survive from 1604, although with some gaps. They give a fascinating insight into the social history of the village. Gentry have the prefix Mr., Mrs or Miss. or the name is followed by 'gent', for example, on 28th April 1727, Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. John and Mrs. Mary Simpson, was baptised. Occupations are often given, which is particularly useful prior to the introduction of the Census. In addition to 'husbandman', 'yeoman' and 'ag.lab', there are farmers, shoemakers, shepherds, servants, butchers, lacemakers, thatcher, an ale drawer and publican.

There appear to have been quite a few sets of twins in Covington over the years – between 1793 and 1801, Luke and Elizabeth Rawlins baptised two sons, a daughter and two sets of twin boys! Illegitimate births are noted in the Register of Baptisms, in earlier times with the word '*base*'.

Not surprisingly, many marriages took place where both parties were '*of this parish*'. In the early 1800s, entries often record '*with the consent of parents*'. Perhaps this was a nicety or perhaps it reflected the young age of one or both parties.

The burial register gives an indication of state i.e. widow, single man/woman, youth. In 1700, Elizabeth Bonner was buried, '*a poor woman maintained by her son*' and, in 1701, Hugh Robinson '*a poor man maintained by the parish*' was buried. The first quarters of the 18th and 19th centuries appear to have been bad times for the village, with many burial entries listing infants or poor people. In 1733, an '*unknown male, believed to be an Irishman*' was buried! 1783 sees two burials '*by the parish*'.

• NORTH SIDE

The top of the north chancel wall is mainly ironstone and has a slight backward slope. The dates from the 1480s re-roofing. When the roof was rebuilt, the top of the window next to the tympanum was sliced off. This window dates from 1350-1380. The window nearest to the chancel has two gargoyles and the one nearest to the chancel could be the patron at the time. The purpose of this window could have been to shed light on a lady altar or the patron's pew.

The tympanum dates from 1120 and is in the Romanesque style. It features a lion and a wingless griffin (representing good-v-evil) and is highly unusual.

• FONT

Scallop decoration was used from 1110 until about 1200. There are two different patterns. The top is an irregular octagon and there is a lead-lined bowl. By the fourteenth century, all fonts became octagonal. In medieval times there had to be a cover over the font as the water would remain in the bowl all year. The cover would be locked and there are the remains of holes in the side of the top rim. The church on top of the font cover is probably Victorian but the cover itself is seventeenth century. The font may be contemporary with the north door.

• WEST-END TOWER

The window tracery suggests 14th century. The hood stops have 'laughing' gargoyles with large ears. The south side of the tower has a 12th century horse's head corbel.

The tiling at the top of the tower is there because the 1870s Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings stipulated that repairs should be obvious and not intended to mimic the original. The tower was dug out to expose the foundations and then rendered over.

There was never a stone spire, although there could have been a timber and lead one. The tower was considerably altered in the 1500s and the spire could have been taken down then (Victoria County History). However, there is a note dated 1704 as *Stow's* is to certify the Court that the steeple of Covington is sufficiently repaired. *My hand, Samuel Taylor Rector of Covington, October 13 1704.* This is significant because, in November 1703, southern England was hit by arguably the most severe storm ever experienced in the UK, with winds of up to 120 mph. It was so ferocious that thousands of people died and lead roofs and spires were ripped off churches, including, it would appear that at Covington. 'Steeple' used to be synonymous with 'tower' but, in this area, a spire is more likely than a tower.

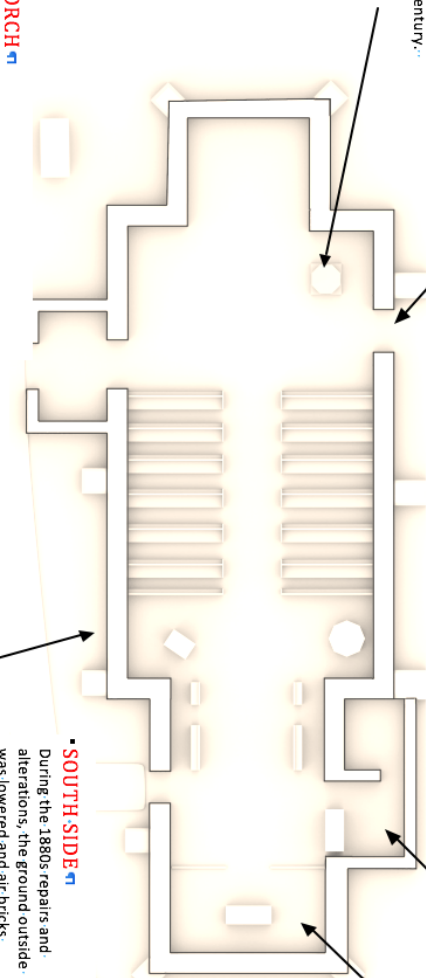
Bells: The tower contains a ring of 4 bells - two of which are dated 1710 & 1841. Until recently, they hung in an oak bell frame, originally constructed in 1670, located in a chamber about 30 feet above the ringers on the ground floor. The first mention of bells is thought to be when a London itinerant bell founder, William *Burford*, cast a bell in 1352. The treble is inscribed *Henry Penn fycgbe 1710.* No.2 is inscribed *Edward de Newcombe* and the tenor is inscribed *Thomas Meers founder London Thomas Farry Churchwarden 1841.* In 2014, a new bell frame was installed and a fourth bell added.

• NORTH DOOR

The ironwork dates from 1120s-30 and has one of the earliest examples of split curl ironwork in the country. Parts of the door could also date from this period but there has been some replacement of timbers. The old timbers still have the 'fores' - the nails that go through them from the *woodwork*.

• THE NAVE

The nave is the oldest surviving part of our church dating to 1120. The roof dates from 1480 and is less steep than the original. Church seating dates from the late 14th century when parish priests were ordered to preach sermons and many of the pews would have been privately owned. The middle left hand side wall rails date from 1480. Many of the pews were remade in the 1881 restoration on condition that all pews should be free for any member of the congregation to use. The buttress panel pew ends are standard for Cambridgeshire. The concrete slabs at the tower end of the aisle cover what was a grating. Before electricity was installed in 1949, the church was heated via a coal burning stove in the vestry with heat being channelled into the nave. The south window opening dates from about 1330. The mouldings are well made and would have been very expensive. This was actually the opening to a chantry chapel. The window itself dates from about 1430 and may have been the east window of the chantry. The south door dates from about 1300 and has a medieval door ring and escutcheon.



• PORCH

The porch was added in 1881-3. The *baroque* hood moulding over the door would have shed water easily so there may never have been a porch prior to this.

The arch and the door both date from around 1300. The blocks of stone supporting the arch are 100 years older than the arch so an older doorway was refurbished. Some of the stone could be as early as 1120 (i.e. contemporary with the original nave). The acanthus carving is late 12th century. The moulding to the right of the door goes with a bigger arch and the whole doorway was remade to take a larger door in the 14th century. There is a gargoyle in the form of a lion on a block of stone which looks like another corbel (roof support). The WW1 temporary grave marker is for Major Carew Barnett. It was brought back from France and donated by his family.

• HIGH WINDOW

This could have been a window to shed light on the roof beam or a doorway from an outside stairway for stairway within the chantry to give access to the roof. The chancel wall shows regular courses of bricks and so was completely rebuilt in 1880s and refaced in 1911.

• SOUTH SIDE

During the 1880s repairs and alterations, the ground outside was lowered and air bricks inserted so that the floor of the pews did not get damp. The doors show the original levels. The chancel wall shows regular courses of bricks and so was completely rebuilt in 1880s and refaced in 1911.

• CHANTRY CHAPEL

There was a chantry chapel on the south wall from early 14th century until the mid 16th century. The beneficiary is not known but may have been related to the nearby manor, or indeed the *outbeck* coffin lid in the chancel.

DUNHAM COFFINS

In 1861 a series of coffins were discovered at Three Shires House, following a dispute over their burial. These were finally laid to rest in the churchyard, between the footpath and the gate. The areas marked with a gravestone.

• VESTRY

The top of the arch in the east vestry wall is thought to be bridging a big hole and not going into a cellar. There was definitely a chimney at the west end of the vestry but no trace of it remains.

The vestry and organ chamber were added in the 1880s restoration. There are pieces of 1160 stonework in the interior wall. The table is an altar dating from 1700. In the floor (and originally outside) are memorial slabs to Cornelius *Abbas*, his wife Margaret and daughter Sarah.

• PURBECK STONE COFFIN LID

Records held at Lambeth Archive show that in 1881 it was known that this was the coffin lid of Richard de Bayeux. It is currently thought that this Richard de Bayeux was Lord of the Manor and Sheriff of Huntingdon in 1330, at a time when such coffins were very fashionable among the *well-to-do*. (It was also fashionable at that time to endow a chantry.) The 1881 restoration plan shows this coffin lid situated centrally in the chancel, in front of the altar.

• EAST-END

There is a piece of *baroque* stone embedded in this wall. It dates from 1160s (concurrent with the south door) and is part of a door or window which was lost when the walls were rebuilt.

• THE CHANCEL

The chancel, as we know it, was built around 1300. The blocks in the wall either side of the altar are medieval and almost certainly carried statues of St. Mary and the patron saint. The east window dates from the restoration of the 1880s but copies the style of the 13th century. The original window would have had stained glass. The circular window above is Victorian with stained glass recently inserted. All the other windows date from the 1280s. The north chancel window has an upside down inscription 'R. W. 1864' and a coat of arms, possibly that of Richard de *Bayeux*.

On the right hand side is the original piscine where the priest would wash his hands and comb his hair before celebrating mass. On the left is a niche - probably an ambry where the sacred vessels or sacrament would have been stored. The altar itself is modern.

The south doorway dates from the late 12th century and shows the original floor level. The stone slab under the organ stool is Lincolnshire limestone and could possibly be an early altar stone.

BOX TOMBS

There are four stone box tombs outside the porch. The nearest to the porch is inscribed: *In memory of John Head Gent who departed this life March 5. 1818 aged 56 years.* The next tomb is in memory of John Simpson, who died in 1799, and also remembers his parents, John and Mary Simpson who are buried nearby. John Simpson lived at The Old Hall and John Head was the main beneficiary of his Will. Then there is a gravestone in memory of Elizabeth, daughter of John and Mary Simpson. There is an additional inscription on the stone which cannot be read. The third tomb was erected in memory of Mary Simpson and the final tomb is inscribed: *In memory of Suzanne, relic of Thomas Wolfe who died July 2nd 1810 aged 89 years.*

PATRONS, CLERICS AND PARISHIONERS

JOHN OF GAUNT

John of Gaunt held the advowson for Covington during the minority of King Richard II and so was the patron of Edmund Nicol de Covington installed as Rector here in 1381. For much of the early medieval period, the manor of Covington was presented by the Crown to the Earldom of Cornwall, along with other Huntingdonshire manors. Edmund, the Black Prince, was the last Earl of Cornwall but after his death and the death of his widow, the earldom reverted to the Crown. John of Gaunt was 'regent' for the young Richard II and this is how he appears on the list of patrons.

BARTHOLOMEW MOUNTFORD

Bartholomew Mountford was installed as Rector in 1664. Ten years later, he was deprived of the living after a series of complaints about his conduct resulted in a citation against him being '*affixed to the outward door of the parsonage house of Covington*'. The depositions against him included several instances of being drunk and of being elsewhere when he should have been taking services and even being suspected of attempting to take part in bull baiting in a Northamptonshire village. '*He has missed many Sundays, not reading divine scripture, preaching or administering the holy communion – at least 6 times*', '*He is living in Brampton although he should be living in Covington*'.

MARY COOPER/CLARK

In 1726, Mary had to perform a penance in the church, as follows:

'The said Mary Cooper also Clark shall be present in the church aforesaid the day and year above and at morning prayers and attend the whole service and standing in some open place near the reading desk upon a matt or base so that she may be seen by the whole congregation covered with a white sheet from the shoulders to the floor with a white wand in her hand between the first and second service shall make this acknowledgement following in an humble penitent and submissive manner'

CORNELIUS ALPHONSUS BINNS

The Rev. Binns was Rector of Covington from 1838-1865. He was born in Malton, Yorkshire, and was appointed to Covington by Earl Fitzwilliam. In 1817, Binns set sail across the Atlantic, from Liverpool, to visit his uncle on Prince Edward Island. Unfortunately, his ship was wrecked and he was forced to live Robinson Crusoe style for some days.

Before arriving in Covington, Binns lived at the Rectory at Keyston while a brand new house was built for him on glebe and across the road from the existing Rectory. Previously, rectors of Covington lived in a house on land currently occupied by 'Yesterfield'. In 1698, Rector Sam Taylor was permitted to live in Kimbolton because the '*rectory house was ruinous*'! There is a Terrier of 1709 which clearly describes the old rectory house: '*...consists of four bays of building of stud walls, two of low rooms floored with clay and two with broad stone....*'

Binns died on Good Friday, 1865, and his gravestone, along with that of his wife and daughter, can be seen in the vestry floor. (It was of course outside the church until the vestry

was built by his successor in 1882.) He was not a poor man, his Will being valued at £3,000!

ROBERT LANCASTER WATSON

The Rev. Watson was Rector of Covington from 1865-1892. He was born in Yorkshire and was appointed to Covington by Hon. G. W. Fitzwilliam after retiring, at a young age, as Headmaster of Kimbolton School. As soon as he arrived in the village, he began an eleven year campaign for the building of a school, which he finally achieved in 1876, raising some £300 towards building costs and persuading the Duke of Manchester to provide the land. Watson was Chairman of the School Board and actually visited the children in school only a few days before his death. He, along with his wife, daughter and son, were frequent visitors to the school, even taking lessons such as singing. The children were given the afternoon off to attend his funeral on 10th March 1892.

It was during Watson's ministry that possibly the largest alteration and renovation programme in the church since the Middle Ages took place. Between 1881-3, the church was closed to allow for the rebuilding of the chancel walls, completion of new porch, vestry and organ chamber, alterations to heating, reroofing, and repair and provision of new seating. Watson was responsible for raising the required funds, even going so far as to write to the Archbishop of Canterbury asking for his assistance in extracting what turned out to be a measly loan of £15 from the Incorporated Church Building Society. A plaque stipulating the terms of this loan can be seen in the vestry. One year later, the ICBS asked for repayment, but Watson said this would have to wait until the architect had been paid. The school children were given a whole day's holiday for the reopening of the church on 24th May, 1883.

MAJOR CAREW BARNETT

Major Carew Barnett was a career soldier in the Indian Army and retired to live at The Old Hall in 1909, aged 43, after service in Burma and China. While Chairman of the Parish Council, he re-enlisted in 1914. In August 1915, Major Barnett and his battalion were on their way to the Front Line and were billeted in St Martins Cathedral, Ypres. The building was heavily shelled and many men were buried under the masonry. Major Barnett, with others, tried to rescue them, but was fatally injured by the explosion of a shell. Twenty one soldiers were killed in this incident and all, including Major Barnett, are buried in separate graves in Ypres Reservoir Cemetery.

RECTORS OF COVINGTON

Date Appointed	Name of Rector or Curate	Patron	Reason for Departure
1293	Richard de Baiocis		Retired
1293	Gilbert de Malketon de Schenegneye (Shingay)	Robert de Bayons Kt	Died
1311	Nicholas de Wanyngdon (Wavendon)	Robert de Bayons Kt	Retired
1312	Nicolas de Over	Robert de Bayons Kt	Retired
1313	Nicholas de Wanyngdon (Wavendon)	Robert de Bayons Kt	Died
1329	Alexander de Baiocis	Richard de Bayons Kt	Died
1348	Thomas de Baiocis BCL	Richard de Bayons Kt	Retired
1356	Raymond de Melchburn	Richard Bayons	
	Gilbert de Stiveele	Richard Bayons	Died
1361	William Longe de Dene	Richard de Bayons Kt	Retired
1365	William Asser de Wendlynburgh	Robert de Bayons	
1371	Hugo Astell	William de Burton KT, Lord of Covington	
	John Ingram	William de Burton Kt, Lord of Covington	Retired
1377	Andrew Broun	Elienora, Widow of Wm. de Burton	
1381	Edmund Nicol de Covington	John of Gaunt (as Regent)	Retired
1404	Benedictus Nicol		Retired
1417	Thomas Randolph	John Bayons	
	Robert Blyssot	John Bayons	Retired
1446	Richard Wylkok	John Bayons	Retired
1450	Richard Whyte	Margareta, late wife of John Baihous	Retired
1452	Thomas Hardy	Thomas Chelford	
	Laurence Wodin	Thomas Chelford	Died
1520	Peter Calcott	Anna Broughton (widow)	Retired
1526	Richard Arnold	Wm. Hugons (by gift of Anna Jerningham formerly Broughton)	Died
1556	Robert Wakerly	Lady Anna Russell, Countess of Bedford, (formerly Jerningham)	Died
1556	Stephen Myrfyn	Anna, Countess of Bedford	Died
1559	John Mounon		Died
1586	Robert Clarke	Lord Chancellor, because Earl of Bedford was a minor	
1587	John Kinde M.A.	Lord Chancellor - Earl of Bedford was a minor	
1588	George Priestland B.A.		Died
1607	Cesar Walpole	Edward Duncombe	

1613	John Heyward M.A.		
1657	Thomas Gouge		Departed
1657	William Donne		
	William Turner		
1664	Bartholomew Mountford	Edward Turner of Tharfield	Deprived of living
1674	John Taylor		Retired
1676	Samuel Taylor M.A.	Edward Payne	Died
1689	Peter Boundy M.A.	Margaret Taylor (widow)	Departs to Dean
1698	Samuel Taylor		Died
1738	John Sanderson M.A.	Thomas Earl of Moulton	Retired
1767	John Sanderson B.A.	Marquis of Rockingham	Died
1806	Thomas Moore L.L.B.	Rt. Hon. Wm. Wentworth, Earl Fitzwilliam	
1815	Caleb Bradshaw	Rt. Hon. Wm. Wentworth, Earl Fitzwilliam	Died
1838	Cornelius Alphonsus Binns	Earl Fitzwilliam	Died
1865	Robert Lancaster Watson	Hon G. W. Fitzwilliam	Died
1892	Alfred Frederic Heaton B.A.	Bishop by lapse	Died
1911	Arthur Thomas Powley	Earl Fitzwilliam	Died
1921	Robert George Fairhurst	Earl Fitzwilliam	Died
1938	John Edward Cowgill	Earl Fitzwilliam	Retired
1940	Ray Melville Tuke	Earl Fitzwilliam	Retired
1959	Stanley Bridge	Earl Fitzwilliam	Departed
1974	William Goddard	Earl Fitzwilliam	Retired
1977	Frank Andrew	Earl Fitzwilliam	
1985	R. J. Macklin	Earl Fitzwilliam	
1988	Canon John Hindley	Earl Fitzwilliam	Retired
2000	Stuart Mews	Earl Fitzwilliam	Departed
2012	Stephen Bowring	Earl Fitzwilliam	Incumbent

Not all rectors actually lived in the parish and, in the 17th and 18th centuries, it would appear that the spiritual welfare of the village was often in the hands of a curate. In 1683, Mr Shepard was the curate who married Thomas Flintum and Mary Roberson. He continued registering marriages until 1687 when another curate, Peter Boundy, took over. Boundy went on to become Rector of the Parish. There were then a series of curates until 1698. John Hindley was the last clergyman to be Rector of Covington, his successors being Priests in Charge.

We know the names of some of the earlier clerks and churchwardens:

John Joyce was Clerk in 1729

John Goode – late 1700s

Thomas Barber was Churchwarden in 1800

John Hewitt – Clerk in early 1800s. From 1828, John Hewitt is referred to as Clerk in the Marriage Register.

Thomas, William and Joseph Fairy were prominent 19th century churchwardens.



Edited by Mary-Ann Parsons © Covington History Group 2014
 Documentary sources courtesy of Huntingdonshire, Northamptonshire and Lambeth Archives with further research by Covington History Group.
 Architectural sources: Talk given by Richard Halsey at Covington 2011, Pevsner's Buildings of England, Victoria CountyHistory – A History of the County of Huntingdon.
 Graphics and photographs © John Turrell, Simon Parsons, Mary-Ann Parsons.
 All attempts have been made to ensure accuracy, but our researches are ongoing.

