



Bishop's Visitation Questions & Answers

NORTH TIDWORTH

1783

Shute Barrington, Bishop of Salisbury 1782-1791

In July 1783 Shute Barrington, Bishop of Salisbury, prepared a list of questions to be answered by incumbents during his visitation of their parishes. These were:

Q.1. [a] How often and at what hours upon the Lord's day is divine service, both prayers and preaching, performed in your church or chapel? [b] If divine service be not performed twice every Lord's day, what is the reason'?

Q.2. Is divine service performed in your church or chapel upon any weekdays, holidays, or festivals that happen on weekdays'?

Q.3. Do you perform divine service as incumbent, or as curate, of your parish?

Q.4. [a] Do you serve any other cure? If so, what cure, and how many, and [b] at what distance are the cures you serve from one another'? [c] Are you duly licensed to the cure which you serve'?

Q.5. How often in the year is the holy sacrament of the Lord's Supper administered in your church or chapel'? And at what times of the year'?

Q.6. [a] What number of communicants have you, generally, in your parish? [b] In particular, what was the number which communicated at Easter last ? [c] Was it greater or less than usual '.7

Q.7. [a] Are there any reputed papists in your parish, or chapelry, and how many and of what rank? [b] Have any persons been lately perverted to popery, and by whom and by what means'? [c] Is there any place in your parish, or chapelry, in which they assemble for divine worship, and where is it'? [d] Doth any popish priest reside in your parish, or resort to it'? And by what name doth he go? [e] Is there any popish school kept in your parish'?

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Q.8. [a] Are there any Presbyterians, Independents, Anabaptists, or Quakers in your parish or chapelry '? And how many of each sect '? And of what rank'? [b] Are there any other places made use of for divine worship, than such as are used by the above-mentioned sects'? [c] What are the names of their teachers, and are they all licensed as the law directs'? [d] Is their number greater or less of late years than formerly, according to your observation, and by what means'? [e] Are there any persons in your parish who profess to disregard religion, or [f] who commonly absent themselves from all public worship of God'?

Q.9. [a] Do your parishioners duly send their children and servants, who have not learned their catechism, to be instructed by you? [b] And do you either expound to them yourself, or make use of some printed exposition, and

what is it? [c] At what particular seasons of the year, and in what language, are the young persons of your parish, or chapelry, catechized'?

Q.10 [a] Have you a register book of births and burials duly kept, and in good preservation'? [b] And do you regularly make your returns of births and burials into the registrar's office, as the canon requires'? [c] How far back does your register of births and burials go?

Q.11. Is there a register book duly kept, according to the directions of the Act of Parliament against clandestine marriages?1

Q.12. [a] Are there any chapels of ease in your parish'? What are the names of them'? [b] How often are there prayers and sermons in them'? [c] Have they any estates or funds particularly appropriated to their maintenance '? [d] How far distant are they from the parish church'? [e] By whom are they served '? [f] Have you any ruined chapels in which there is no divine service performed '?

Q.13. [a] Have you a true and perfect account or terrier of all houses, lands, tithes, pensions, and profits, which belong to you as minister of your parish'? [b] Hath a duplicate thereof been laid up in the bishop's registry'? [c] Hath there been, since that was done, any augmentation made of your living? [d] And hath an account of such augmentation been transmitted thither also '?

Q.14. [a] Is there any free school, alms-house, hospital, or other charitable endowment in your parish'? And for how many, and for what sort of persons'? [b] Who was the founder'? And who are the governors or trustees'? [c] What are the revenues of it'? Are they carefully preserved, and employed as they ought to be ? Are the statutes and orders made concerning it well observed '? [d] Have any lands or tenements been left for the repair of your church, or for any other pious use'? [e] Who has the direction and management of such benefactions? And who takes an account of and conducts them'?

Q.15. [a] Are the churchwardens in your parish chosen every year in the Easter week? [b] How are they chosen'? By the minister and parishioners together, or one by the minister and the other by the parishioners?

Q.16. [a] Is there (or has there been founded) any public school in your parish'? [b] Is there any charity school in your parish'? How is it supported '? By voluntary subscription, or by a settled endowment'? Is it for boys or girls, and for how many'? [c] What are the children taught? More particularly, [d] is care taken to instruct them in the principles of the Christian religion, and to bring them regularly to church'? [e] And are they also lodged, fed, and clothed'? [f] And how are they disposed of when they leave school '? [g] Does your school flourish '? And if not, for what reasons'?

Q.17. [a] Do you constantly reside upon this cure, and in the house belonging to it'? [b] If not, where, and at what distance from it, is your usual place of residence? [c] How long in each year are you absent'? [d] And what is the reason for such absence '?

Q.18. By whom, and to what uses, is the money given at the offertory disposed of?

Q.19. Is there any matter relating to your parish or chapelry of which it may be proper to give me information'?

Q.20. What is your place of residence, and the nearest post town'?

P.S. They who by illness, or any other just cause, are prevented from attending the visitation, are requested to send their answers by those persons who attend for them; or by the post, in covers, not weighing above two ounces, to the bishop, at Mongewell-House, Wallingford, Berks. It would be an additional satisfaction to the bishop, if his clergy, at the end of these queries, would write the dates of their collation, or institution; of their deacon's and priest's orders; and their degrees.

Replies Given By Henry White, Curate Of North Tidworth

1. Twice every other Sunday and once every other Sunday alternately; the sermon at 11 in the morning, and 3 in the afternoon in alternate orders as above.
2. None excepting Christmas day and the public festivals and fasts.
3. As curate.
4. I serve Fyfield near Weyhill, Hants, which rectory I reside on; it is 4 miles distant from North Tidworth.
5. At the 3 great festivals, Christmas, Easter, and Whitsuntide.
6. About 10. And the same number I believe last Easter.
7. [a] None. [d] None. [e] None.
8. [a] None of any sect in or near the parish! [b] None. [c] None. [e, f] None, but a very regular decent congregation.
9. The catechism is duly attended to; and there are several small schools where they are regularly instructed.
10. There is a register book regularly kept of births and burials. The oldest register remaining commences in the year 1700. A former one was lost, and destroyed about 30 years since by the parish clerk's children
11. The marriage register prescribed by the Act of Parliament is duly kept.
12. [a] None. [f] None.
13. The terrier is sent in; there has been no alteration in the lands since the terriers were delivered in. The alterations in the buildings are specified.
14. There is an alms-house founded by Dr. Thomas Pierce, dean of Sarum in the year 1689, for 4 inhabitants in succession for ever.
15. Two churchwardens are chosen every year by the minister and parishioners jointly.

16. None.

17. I reside in the rectory of Fyfield aforesaid.

18. None given.

19. None.

20. Fyfield near Andover, Hants. Henry White A.M.,? curate. Who constantly has served the cure since midsummer 1760, and resided there 3 years till he came to reside on his own rectory of Fyfield above mentioned. Rev. Mr. Thomas Fountaine, the rector, attended the late visitation at Reading.

Information supplied courtesy the Wiltshire Record Society