



Parish Church News

Interesting Entries from the Parish Registers

Bishops Cannings 1651 - 1811

1651

A parchment book in modern binding entitled Bishop's Cannings Registers, 1651-1702 - on the new fly-leaf is written, "I found this Register in a most miserable state on my succeeding to the living, and had it fresh bound, A.D.1825, W. MacDonald." This note explains numerous omissions of names and dates rendered illegible by decay and damp.

1653

10th October - Wilts. By virtue of the late Act of Parliament touching Marriages, Births and Burialls and the registering thereof I do hereby approve of Thomas Merrett, of Bishops Cannings, to be parish register for the sayd parish, the sayd Tho. Merrett being thereunto elected by the greater part of the inhabitants who were present at the sayd election according to the tenor of the sayd Act. In testimony whereof I have set hereunto my hand this 10th day of Oct. 1653. *Tho. Eyre.*

Three severall Lord's Dayes was publication made in the church of Bishops Cannings

Thomas Merrett, the first parish Register, elected in the year of our Lord, 1653

1654

The burials in this year, 1639, and the rest of the years following, are to be found registered before in the first written page after the weddings in the book; where you are to look for them. Tho. Ferebie, vicar, Stephen Bowman, his name written by me John Snell; William Dugdaile; Edward Ashley his name; William Neate the elder. *Thomas Merrett*, the parish Register, Anno Dom. 1654

1655

(Undated) - On three severall market daies was publication made in the market place in the Borough of Devizes, between the houres of 12 and 2, that Thos. Neate and Katherine Fewe both of Bishops Cannings do intend to marry

1656

Tho. Merrett, Register

1657

Tho. Merrett, Register

1659

Thomas Merrett, Register, 1659

1663

I did new-lay and point the tiles of my house and build the kitchen and chamber chimneys in the year 1663. *Tho. Ettwall*, Vicar

1705

Baptism. 10th March 1705, Melior Lancaster, base born daughter of Jane Lancaster, who (according to her own confession) was an egregious adulteress. (Note egregious means:- extraordinary in some bad way; glaring; flagrant)

1754

On the printed title page of new Register:- "conformable to an Act of 26 Geo. II for the prevention of clandestine marriages." (The parties are of Bishops Cannings parish, bachelors or spinsters, and married by banns unless the contrary is stated.)

1775

John Weston, Clark and sexton

1783

8th September - From hence go to the new Registry, where the tax commences. *J. M. Hazeland.*

1st October - The Registry of burials from 1st Oct. 1783, when the stamp duty of three pence commenced

1st October - The Registry of baptisms from 1st Oct. 1783, when the stamp duty of three pence commenced

1807

John Weston, clerk and sexton and vestry clerk.

1811

8th January - Jan. 8th, 1811, the organ, the gift of Mr. Wm. Baily, was opened at Bishops Cannings, and the organist's pay began the 13th instant, the interest of £600 for the salary.