

Researching 18th - 20th century Anglican clergymen: where to look

By Dr Jane Platt

1. In the church and grave-yard: for framed clergy lists, memorial inscriptions in stone or stained glass windows, on furniture etc.
2. In the parish community: for local memories, scrap books, parish magazines, memorial publications, church history booklets etc.
3. In the archive centre holding records for the diocese in which the clergyman served, looking at:
 - i) Bishops' Registers (1292-1972 in CACC) and transcripts: use the index to find your parish
 - ii) Deanery records (if the dean and chapter were patrons of your church)
 - iii) Parish records: look at absolutely everything, including baptism, wedding and funeral records, tithe agreements, vestry minutes, churchwardens' meetings, charity activity etc. These documents will yield clergy names, and show when they were active in the parish. Some curates served for very short periods or were loaned from neighbouring parishes, and are easily missed
 - iv) Bishops' Visitation Returns (in CACC, DRC/A3966, from 1858): invaluable questionnaire format
 - v) Wills
4. Clergy of the Church of England Database (CCED): this stops around the mid 1830s. Some dioceses have been awarded fuller records than others. Search using both **location** and **name**, as curates in particular tended to move frequently, not only within the diocese but also throughout the country. Beware the CCED dates for your clergyman appearing in and leaving the benefice: the clergyman may have been in the job for some time before being licensed or collated, and may have died some time before the fact was placed in the bishops' register. If in doubt, trust a church memorial inscription. Multiple sources were used to compile the CCED database (see handout), so there is a bewildering duplication of names and dates.

5. Cambridge University Alumni and Oxford University Alumni sites (both on *Ancestry* though Cambridge is also accessible on the web): if your clergyman attended one of these universities your job is almost done as extensive biographical information is usually given
6. *St Bees College Calendar* 1858: available online
7. Early clergy lists. The list for (e.g.) 1840 is on the web but it is not comprehensive
8. Diocesan Year Books: available in CACC
9. *Crockford's Clerical Directory*, first issued in 1858. Records from 1868 are available on *Ancestry*. Record offices and libraries hold some copies
10. The *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*: may help to provide clergy details through a search for more famous relations; the *Dictionary of Evangelical Biography 1730-1870* (2 vols, ed. D. M. Lewis) may provide further clues
11. *Cumberland Families and Heraldry* and the *Armorial for Westmorland and Lonsdale* (Hudleston and Boumphrey)
12. The National Archives: searched online through A2A. This links to the catalogues of local archives and large libraries such as Lambeth Palace library. Searches will bring up names with interesting and informative connections: for example, to the records of an Insurance Company or the correspondence of an archbishop
13. National newspapers, local newspapers and journals, using databases such as *The Times Digital Archive* and *Nineteenth-century UK Periodicals*.
14. Local Directories: give names and show residences
15. Local newspapers on microfilm. Often a Google search for your clergyman before you go to the library will unearth the date of a relevant article and save you time
16. Google! Google the clergyman's name using his title, first initial and surname (rev w black): this will turn up references in newspapers and magazines (e.g. the *Gentleman's Magazine*), information collated by other local historians, and the names of books in which the clergyman's name appears, including those from countries of the British Empire. Clergymen (often those who had attended St Bees theological college) frequently emigrated to officiate and teach abroad, or were missionaries for short periods.

17. UK census online. If your clergyman seems to have disappeared entirely from the clergy lists you may find him here ‘without cure’
18. *Ancestry*: in which you can search for your clergyman as if he were a lost relative; this will enable you to find the date of death if no other research tool is helpful. *Ancestry* also provides access to university alumni
19. For the Cumbrian Chester diocese parishes before 1856: *The Cumbria Parishes 1714-1725 from Bishop Gastrell’s Notitia with additions by Bishop Porteus 1778-1779* (ed. L. A. S. Butler)
20. Other published local histories, such as Nightingale’s *The Ejected of 1662 in Cumberland and Westmorland* ; Bishop Nicolson’s *Miscellany Accounts of the Diocese of Carlisle* (1703-4); Joseph Nicolson and Richard Burn, *The History and Antiquities of the Counties of Westmorland and Cumberland*, 2 vols (1777); John F. Curwen, *Records relating to the Barony of Kendale, Vol. 3* (Kendal, 1926)
21. Lesser-known biographies: such as John Breay’s, *A Fell-side Parson: Joseph Brunskill and his diaries 1826-1903* (Norwich, 1995)
22. Diaries: such as John Kendale, *The Vicar of Lyssel a Clergyman’s Diary of 1729-82* (London, 1860); A. W. Rumney, *Tom Rumney of Mellfell (1764-1835) by himself as set out in his letters and diary* (Kendal, 1936); *The Diary of Benjamin Newton 1816-18* (Cambridge, 1933); Diary of Richard Burn, 1780-1814, and Richard Burn, 1815-1846: CACC, DX 434/2
23. Manuscripts of Thomas Machell: CACC, DCHA/11/4
24. Hugh Todd’s manuscript: ‘An Historical Account of the City of Carlisle and an Historical Description of the Diocese of Carlisle, 1685-1687’: CACC, DX1915/3
25. Pamphlets. It is well worth searching the online catalogues, card indexes and open shelves at record offices and libraries. CACC contains many local parish histories and boxes of church and parish pamphlets, all on open shelves. Carlisle library has much unexplored material in its Jackson collection.

Some examples of recent research

Short biography of a clergyman who seemed to disappear

Twentyman, Joseph (c. 1806-1854); cur. St Cuthbert, Carlisle, 1837; Carlisle minor canon; possibly descended from John Twentyman, v. Castle Sowerby, 1770-93 (CCED). He married the daughter of John Fawcett of St Cuthbert's (q.v.) in 1838. In 1851 he was living alone in a Kendal hotel with no cure, having had his licence revoked in 1843 by Bishop Percy on Fawcett's advice. An alcoholic, he died after drinking and driving his gig at Carlisle: DRC1/9, p. 205; *CJ*, 8 Sept. 1838, p. 3; *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1838, p. 543; CACC, DCHA8/23: letters to Twentyman from Bishop Percy, 19 and 23 Jan. 1843; *Preston Guardian*, 25 Feb. 1854.

- **Difficulty**

Search of the bishops' registers and CCED could only reveal that Twentyman had been curate at St Cuthbert's in 1837. Further CCED search suggested his parentage. The *Gentleman's Magazine* revealed his marriage (Google search). The 1851 census showed that he was living apart from his wife. A Google search brought up the *Preston Guardian* article which recorded his death. Extensive research in the Dean and Chapter records eventually produced the letters from Bishop Percy which suggested that alcoholism had caused the loss of his licence in 1843.

Short biography of a forgotten clergyman/meteorologist

Redford, Francis (1813-1886) M.A. (King's College London: M.A. 1843); F.M.S 1855; F.R.A.S. 1859; F.R.S. Edin. 1865; missionary, Trinidad, 1837-41; cur. Heref. and Notts., 1843; missionary, Jamaica, 1844; perp. cur. St Paul's Holm Cultram (rector of Silloth from 1867), 1849-86; a keen meteorologist, he contributed to meteorological journals and was responsible for the growing popularity of Silloth as a health resort due to his measurements of its levels of ozone and sunshine; hon. sec. of the Cumb. and Westm. Convalescent Association, Silloth: CACC, DRC1/9, p. 493; DRC1/10, p. 2; *Missionary Register*, 33 (1845), p. 346; *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society*, 12 (1886), p. 83; *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*, 14 (1888), pp. 133-4; *CJ*, 19 Feb. 1864; *London Gazette*, 27 Dec. 1867.

- **Difficulty**

The rector of Silloth was a keen meteorologist who had begun his clerical career as a missionary, but Crockford's did not reveal the full extent of his career and interests. This had to be found in Google searches which brought up entries in periodicals, and through a trawl of Carlisle library's newspaper articles.

Research difficulties

Nembhard, Henry (1795-1876)

- **Difficulty**

Henry Nembhard was curate at Wetheral and Warwick for only a few years before disappearing from the Carlisle diocesan records, but his history is a fascinating one. **Cambridge University alumni database** provided most of the following information.

Nembhard, Henry (1795-1876) (Queens' and Trinity Coll. Cambridge, 1818-19; St Bees Coll. 1842); as an undergraduate he led a wild life and was therefore refused by the lady of his choice.

Taking her refusal to heart, he disappeared, c.1821. Fifteen years later his sister-in-law, while on a continental tour, accidentally found him imprisoned for debt in a French town; she paid his debts, brought him to England and reconciled him to his sweetheart, whom he married in 1842. After attending St Bees theological college, he became cur. Hensingham, 1845-6; perp. cur. Wetheral, 1846 (resigned 1849); r. Instow (Devon), 1866-70; r. West with East Putford (Devon), 1870-76: DRC1/9, pp. 446, 471; *St Bees Coll. Cal.*, pp. 53, 90; CAD.

Mason (Mayson), John (1761-1845)

- **Difficulty**

At first this clergyman's life seemed obscure. Who would have known that this rector of Great Orton was Mrs Beeton's grandfather, that she had lived with him as a child, and that she had named her son after him? **An internet trawl brought up the book by Kathryn Hughes where all was revealed..**

Mason (Mayson), John (1761-1845) (lit.); cur. Thursby, 1786-c.1828; r. Great Orton, 1825-45; DRC1/9, pp. 24, 372; CCED. Grandfather of Mrs Isabella Beeton, author of *The Book of Household Management*: Kathryn Hughes, *The Short Life and Long Times of Mrs Beeton* (2006), Chapter 1.

Marshall, James (1750-1842)

- **Difficulty**

When details of a clergyman's life seem sparse, **local newspapers** and even **national periodicals** may provide the details which make all the difference to the biographer. Internet searches may also reveal **works of literature** written by or about clergymen.

Marshall, James (1750-1842) (lit.); perp. cur. Ireby, for 64 years: *John Bull*, 12 Mar. 1842, p. 125; also schoolmaster: CCED. Marshall added to his slender income by leading coal: *Maryport Advertiser*, 7 July 1882. The father of 10 children, in 1807 he received part of an £800 benefaction 'to poor clergymen with good characters and large families' distributed amongst 78 applicants, 7 of them in Carlisle diocese: *Lancaster Gazette*, 20 June 1807, p. 3. As a result, Marshall became the subject of a poem by the curate/writer, Arthur Benoni Evans: *The Curate and other Poems* (London, 1810).

Christie, Campbell Manning (c.1812-1887)

- **Difficulty**

Christie at first seemed a dull dog, but his life began to appear interesting when a trawl of **Google Books** revealed that his ministry was criticised while he was officiating in London (see below). The *Spectator* (searched in **19th century periodicals** online) offered an opposing viewpoint.

Christie, Campbell Manning (c.1812-1887) (St Bees Coll. 1840); cur. St Nicholas, Whitehaven, 1841-44; perp. cur. Thornthwaite, 1844-51; perp. cur. Stony Stratford (Bucks.), 1851-57; perp. cur. St Simon Zelotes, Bethnal Green, 1857: DRC1/9, p. 364; Crockford's, 1868; *St Bees Coll. Cal.*, p. 49. While at Bethnal Green he was judged 'only a slug in the Lord's vineyard – consequently he has scarcely any congregation': 'My Unfortunate Parish: Anglican Urban Ministry in Bethnal Green', ed. Arthur Burns, in, *From the Reformation to the Permissive Society: A Miscellany in Celebration of the 400th anniversary of Lambeth Palace Library*, eds, M. Barber, G. Sewell and S. Taylor (Woodbridge, 2010), p. 392. For an alternative view of his ministry see *The Spectator*, 2 Jan. 1869, p. 20.

And finally, just for fun and to demonstrate further the sources available online:

The clergyman who wasn't ... and a few bad eggs: from Bishop Percy's list of clergymen not to be admitted to the diocese of Carlisle (*The Diocese of Carlisle, 1814-1855: Chancellor Walter Fletcher's 'Diocesan Book' with additional material from Bishop Percy's parish notebooks*, ed. Jane Platt)

- 1. Hamilton, John Thomas**, alias Berry alias Younge: A sham clergyman and frequent debtor bearing a distinct physical likeness to, and operating in the same manner as, John George Lambton Younge, a clever imposter who duped and defrauded clergy and congregations in several parishes, aided by his 'sister', because, he said, he enjoyed 'acting': *Sheffield & Rotherham Independent*, 22 Jul. 1854, p. 8; *Reynolds's Newspaper*, 30 Jul. 1854; *Ipswich Journal*, 13 Oct. 1855; *Morning Post*, 19 Feb. 1857; *Daily News*, 5 Mar. 1857; *Morning Chronicle*, 7 Apr. 1857.
- 2. Bray, Bidlake** (M.A. Emmanuel Coll. Cambridge, 1827); deacon 1825, priested 1826; r. Lydford (Devon), 1827-28; r. Merston (Kent), 1856-64. In 1827 Bray was involved in a divorce in which his wife accused him of cruelty, while he claimed that she was not a virgin on marriage and that her incest with her uncle had led to the birth of a child which was not his: *Reports of cases argued and determined in the English Ecclesiastical Courts*, ed. Edward D. Ingraham (1832), pp. 76-8.
- 3. Sweet, John Hales** (1819-80) (B.A. St John's Coll. Cambridge, 1844); cur. Hunslet (Yorks.), 1843-46; lived without cure, 1859-71; r. Kilmacow (Co. Kilkenny), 1872-80: CAD. In Nov. 1845, Hunslet parishioners physically attacked Hales, a married father of four, for seducing a young woman under the pretext of visiting her sick mother: *Bradford Observer and Halifax, Huddersfield, and Keighley Reporter*, 13 Nov. 1845, p. 5.
- 4. Hawley, John Toovey** (born c.1800) (M.A. St John's Coll. Oxford, 1826); r. Eversley (Hants.), 1831-44. Predecessor of Charles Kingsley at Eversley. His neglect of his duties was great, but his interest in the females of the parish was greater, the discovery of an indiscretion 'of a most revolting nature' concerning one of these ladies causing him to flee the country and so leave the living vacant: Susan Chitty, *The beast and the monk: a life of Charles Kingsley* (1975), p. 94; CCED; OAD.

Resources from Carlisle and Chester Archives used to compile CCED data

CAC Carlisle

RC 1/3	Episcopal register 1561-1643
DRC 1/8	Bishop's register 1768-1823
DRC 1/9	Bishop's register 1823-49omitted all records after 31 Dec. 1835
Uncatalogued register of curates' licences	Curates' licences 1823-1848omitted all records after 31 Dec. 1835
DRC 3/2	Consistory court act book 1573-8This volume are contains lists of clergy at a general chapter (1573) and at seven synods (1574-7).
DRC 3/53	Episcopal visitation of Carlisle cathedral, 1585
DRC 5/1	Correction court act book, 1606-8Includes lists of clergy attending five synods in 1606-8.
DRC 5/49	General Chapter call book, 1770
DRC 5/54	General Chapter call book, 1775
DRC 5/59	General Chapter call book, 1780
DRC 5/64	General Chapter call book, 1785
DRC 5/69	General Chapter call book, 1790
DRC 5/74	General Chapter call book, 1795
DRC 5/80	General Chapter call book, 1800
DRC 46/1	Bishop White's rental, 1626 Contains a reference to the schoolmaster of Dalston.
D&C 1/1	Carlisle Cathedral Dean and Chapter register 1570-8Extracted appointments to cathedral offices and chapter livings.
D&C 1/2	Carlisle Cathedral Dean and Chapter register 1579-96Extracted appointments to cathedral offices and chapter livings.
D&C 1/4	Carlisle Cathedral Dean and Chapter register 1610-18Extracted appointments to cathedral offices and chapter livings.
D&C 1/5	Carlisle Cathedral Dean and Chapter register 1618-27Extracted appointments to cathedral offices and chapter livings.
D&C 1/6	Carlisle Cathedral Dean and Chapter register 1627-40 Extracted appointments to cathedral offices and chapter livings.
D&C 1/7	Carlisle Cathedral Dean and Chapter register 1638-44 Extracted appointments to cathedral offices and chapter livings.
D&C 1/11	Carlisle Cathedral Dean and Chapter Act Book 1752-92 Extracted appointments to cathedral offices and chapter livings.
D&C 1/12	Carlisle Cathedral Dean and Chapter Act Book 1792-1833 Extracted appointments to cathedral offices and chapter livings.
D&C 1/13	Carlisle Cathedral Dean and Chapter Act Book 1833-55 Extracted appointments to cathedral offices and chapter livings before 31 Dec. 1835.

Resources from Carlisle and Chester Archives used to compile CCED data

Chester, Cheshire Record Office

	Register 1660–1704
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extracted:• f. 9: letters of orders 1654• f. 19: collation• f. 52: election of schoolmaster• ff. 54–5: order of committee of plundered ministers to officiate at Cheadle, followed by institution• f. 184: list of clergy of Manchester collegiate church• f. 196: institution• f. 236: list of clergy of Chester cathedral 1698• f. 253v: revocation of licence of curate.
EDA 2	
	Act book 1579–1686
EDA 1/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extracted ff. 137–70, covering the period 1660–86. For this period, the volume is essentially an institution act book.
EDA 1/6	Act book 1752–60
EDV 2/8	Exhibit book, episcopal visitation, 1674
EDV 2/9	Exhibit book, episcopal visitation, 1677
	Exhibit book, episcopal visitation, 1686
EDV 2/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covers the archdeaconry of Chester and the deanery of Amounderness.
EDV 2/10A	Exhibit book, episcopal visitation, 1691
	Exhibit book, episcopal visitation, 1701
EDV 2/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covers the archdeaconry of Chester, excluding the deaneries of Leyland and Blackburn.
	Exhibit book, episcopal visitation, 1712
EDV 2/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covers the archdeaconry of Chester.
EDV 2/16	Exhibit book, episcopal visitation, 1716
	Exhibit book, episcopal visitation, 1725
EDV 2/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covers the archdeaconry of Chester.
	Exhibit book, episcopal visitation, 1728
EDV 2/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covers the archdeaconry of Chester.
	Exhibit book, episcopal visitation, 1733
EDV 2/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covers the archdeaconry of Chester.
	Exhibit book, episcopal visitation, 1738
EDV 2/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covers the archdeaconry of Chester.
	Exhibit book, episcopal visitation, 1742
EDV 2/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covers the archdeaconry of Chester.
	Exhibit book, episcopal visitation, 1747
EDV 2/33	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covers the archdeaconry of Chester.
	Exhibit book, episcopal visitation, 1754
EDV 2/34	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covers the archdeaconry of Chester.

GLOSSARY

All derivations unless specified otherwise have been taken from the 'Clergy of the Church of England Glossary' online <http://www.theclergydatabase.org.uk/reference/glossary.html> .

Bishops' Transcript: An annual return at Easter by each parish of the births, marriages and deaths over the preceding year. The certificate was usually signed by the incumbent or curate.

Canonry: The office held by a canon or prebendary of a cathedral or collegiate church.

Cession: One of several ways in which an incumbent's tenure could be terminated. Although pluralism was still commonplace in the Church of England in the early nineteenth century, certain combinations of offices were forbidden by ecclesiastical law. When a cleric was appointed to a living that could not be held alongside his current position, the latter living was deemed void by cession.

Clerk: Title given to all clergymen.

Collation: Form of appointment to a benefice, applied when the diocesan bishop appointed to a living of which he was the patron or which a lapse had brought within his gift.

Assistant or stipendiary curate, as distinct from a perpetual curate (see below).

Dilapidations: As an incumbent of a living is regarded as a tenant for life of his benefice, any waste on his part must be made good by his administrators to his successor.

Ecclesiastical Commission: Formed in 1836 from a commission set up in 1832 to investigate Church revenues: G. F. A. Best, *Temporal Pillars*, p. 298.

Gilbert's Act: The Clergy Residences Repair Acts, 1776 and 1780, known as Gilbert's Acts after their promoter, Thomas Gilbert MP. Under their provision, the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty were permitted to lend money for the repair and rebuilding of parsonage houses on the security of benefice revenues. The money could be repaid over a long term by successive incumbents: Best, *Temporal Pillars*, p. 140.

Impropriator: Lay rector in possession of church property.

Induction: the final stage in the appointment of a clergyman to a benefice, following presentation and institution, or collation. It was at this point that the clergyman took possession of the temporalities of the benefice. After institution the ordinary (usually the bishop) would issue a mandate to the archdeacon or other empowered person to carry out the induction, which involved laying the hands of the clergyman being appointed on the doors of the church and the tolling of a bell. Induction did not normally take place on the same day as institution.

Institution: One form of an appointment to a benefice or dignity. Institution was the act by which a bishop or other ordinary committed a living to the care of a clergyman. It followed after a presentation, the cleric's subscription, and the receipt of letters testimonial, and was followed by induction or installation. It was the only one of these events normally recorded in the episcopal register or act book, and as such can be regarded as furnishing the date from which an appointment commenced.

Lapsus Temporis: 'Lapse of time' or lapse. When a patron neglected to make a presentation to a benefice within six months of a vacancy occurring, the right of presentation 'lapsed' to the bishop. If the bishop neglected to collate within six months, the living lapsed to the archbishop, from whom after another six months it lapsed to the crown. The calculation of the six-month period depended on the circumstances of the vacancy. Where it resulted from an episcopal act, it ran from the point at

which the bishop informed the patron. In cases of death in post, resignation, and refusal of a patron's candidate by the bishop, it was calculated from the vacancy itself.

Letter Dimissory: letter from a bishop, the superior of a religious order, etc., authorizing the bearer as a candidate for ordination: *OED*.

Letters of Orders: issued to newly-ordained deacons and priests as evidence of their ordination. They were to be exhibited at a bishop's visitation or 'at the next visitation' after a clergyman's institution or licensing. The summary of many are recorded in exhibit books. On occasion letters of orders were transcribed into an episcopal register, as proof of an individual's ordination.

Liber Cleri: visitation books (sometimes called call books or lists) are lists of clergy (incumbents, curates, readers and preachers) and others (schoolmasters, churchwardens, and sometimes surgeons and midwives) drawn up in advance of a visitation by an archdeacon, bishop or archbishop, or their officials.

Literate (Lit.): a clergyman who did not possess a degree but was judged by a bishop to possess sufficient learning to qualify for ordination.

Patron: The person(s) possessing the right to make a presentation to a benefice.

Perpetual Curacy: Curacies and chapels augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty became perpetual curacies, giving their incumbents access to freehold land and protecting them from exploitation. Before the Pluralities Act of 1838 perpetual curacies were not formally regarded as benefices: Best, *Temporal Pillars*, p. 90.

Perpetual Curate: Clergyman nominated by the impropriator and licensed by the bishop in a parish which was not served by a rector or vicar. Unlike rectors and vicars their income did not derive from the possession of tithes. Appointments became 'perpetual' in that the incumbent could only be removed by the revocation of the bishop's licence.

Prebend: endowment of land given to a cathedral for the maintenance of a prebendary or canon.

Queen Anne's Bounty: Fund established in 1704 to augment the incomes of the poorer clergy of the Established Church, funded by a tax on the incomes of all Established Church clergy, which had been paid to the Pope until the Reformation, and thereafter to the Crown: Best *Temporal Pillars*, pp. 28-34.

Rector: Clergyman with the charge or cure of a parish church and the right to the great tithes of the parish. After the dissolution of the monasteries many impropriate rectories along with the 'great' tithes of the parish became the property of laymen, who were known as 'lay rectors'.

Rectory: The office held by a rector.

Register Act: George Rose's Register Act of 1812 required the keeping of separate baptismal and burial registers. Printed register books were introduced for this purpose in 1813: Stuart Basten, 'From Rose's Bill to Rose's Act: a reappraisal of the 1812 Parish Register Act', *Local Population Studies* 76 (Spring, 2006), pp. 43-62.

Resignation: One of several ways in which an incumbent's tenure of an ecclesiastical office could be terminated. In a resignation, an incumbent voluntarily surrendered his preferment into the hands from which he had received it. Through 'resignation bonds', the legality of which was the subject of some dispute, some incumbents undertook to resign a living when requested to do so by the patron who had presented them.

Revocation: The formal act by which an ordinary (normally the bishop) rescinds a license issued to a curate or schoolmaster.

Sepulture: The act of interment; burial.

Simony: The illegal act or practice of buying or selling ecclesiastical preferments, benefices, or emoluments: *OED*.

Vacancy: The vacancy of an ecclesiastical office could be the result of a voluntary resignation, cession under ecclesiastical law, or death in post of the incumbent.

Vicar: Clergyman who has the charge of a parish where the tithes have been appropriated. Traditionally vicars received the 'vicarial' or 'small' tithes for their maintenance.

Vicarage: Office held by a vicar.

Visitation: Regular inspection by a bishop or archdeacon to ensure that ecclesiastical law was observed. Most bishops conducted visitations once every three years; archdeacons, more often. In Carlisle diocese the chancellor carried out the visitation functions of the archdeacon until the end of the nineteenth century: *VCH Cumb.* II, pp. 119-20.