
Adam of Orleton 1301-1322 Born Adam Tarleton in a remote north-west Herefordshire village, he entered the church, joining the Augustine Abbey at Wigmore. He proved an able administrator and after qualifying as a Doctor of Canon Law at Oxford, was appointed "auditor to the Papal Court" of Pope John XXII. The exiled Pope was so impressed with him that he regularised him and appointed him vicar of Wotton. "The best known of the absentee vicars" he received the tithes until his preferment to the see of Hereford in 1317 - although, nominally at least, he remained vicar until 1322. He was subsequently Bishop successively of Worcester and latterly Winchester where he died in 1245, being buried in Portland Chapel in Winchester Cathedral. He was a central figure in the successful plot to overthrow Edward II and was the man who finally obtained his abdication in favour of his son, Edward III, collecting along the way the somewhat dubious title of "the cruellest man in England" because of his treatment of the captured supporters of the deposed king. He was also linked to the murder of Edward II at Berkeley Castle in 1327. (Full details of Orleton's involvement can be found in the booklet "Wotton's Cruel Vicar".)

Richard of Wotton 1322-1332 Believed to come of a local family, Richard entered the Cistercian Abbey at Kingswood and was eventually elected Abbot in 1319, a post he held for three years. He had been ordained by the Bishop of Worcester. During his predecessors time the priestly duties were carried out by a number of assistants and Richard had acted as one of those. In 1322 he was presented to the living, being Edward II's personal choice. When he died ten years later (still in office) he was granted the rare distinction and honour of being buried in front of the high altar. His tomb was marked with a ledger stone but during subsequent church refurbishment this was eventually moved to its present position under the tower. Sadly the stone was cracked while being moved and is now covered with a carpet to prevent further damage. The tomb remained in its original position.

Peter de Lacy 1329

Ivo de Clynton of Northfleet 1356 (exchanged with de Lacy)

Wotton's Vicars

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Roy Badman - December 1995

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*"The use of history is to give value to the
present hour and its duty"*

Emerson (1803 - 1882)

50p

WOTTON'S VICARS

(a brief history)

by

Roy H. Badman



St. Mary's Parish Church,
Wotton-under-Edge

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society