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978-1-108-05886-5 - Archbishop Herring's Visitation Returns, 1743: Volume 4

Edited by Sidney Leslie Ollard and Philip Charles Walker

Frontmatter

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ARCHBISHOP HERRING'S
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VOL. IV.

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Edited by Sidney Leslie Ollard and Philip Charles Walker
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Letter and Questions from the Archbishop	vii
List of Abbreviations	xii
List of Parishes and Chapelries	ix
The Returns from the Clergy	2
Appendix A	186
Appendix B	223
Appendix C	234

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-05886-5 - Archbishop Herring's Visitation Returns, 1743: Volume 4
Edited by Sidney Leslie Ollard and Philip Charles Walker
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

The Letter from the Archbishop to the Clergy.

Good Brother,

Being by God's Providence call'd to a new Diocese, with the Circumstances whereof I am very much unacquainted, I shall hold myself extreamly oblig'd to You for your Assistance in the Administration of it. To render that move effectual, I send to you and the rest of my Clergy the following Paper of Questions; a clear and satisfactory return to which under the Hand of every several Minister and delivered to my Secretary, or the Register, at the Time of my Visitation, will make me much better acquainted with the Circumstances of this large Diocese, than I cou'd be by any other way, save that of a Parochial Visitation, which it is out of my power to take.

You will therefore be so good as to gratify my request herein, and as this is the only design of my sending these Enquiries to You, You may rest perfectly assured, that no other use shall be made of them, but for my own Information; and for that reason I will hope that You will deal very freely and plainly with me in your Answers to the several Questions.

To God's Favour and Blessing I heartily commend yourself, and your Labours in His Church, and remain,

Reverend Sir,

Your very affectionate Brother,
Tho. Ebor.

Kensington,
2, May 1743.

To the Minister of.....
in the Deanry of.....

QUESTIONS.

- I. What Number of Families have you in your Parish? Of these, how many are Dissenters? And of what Sort are they?
- II. Have you any Licens'd or other Meeting House in your Parish? How many? Of what Sort? How often do they assemble? In what Numbers? Who teaches in them?
- III. Is there any public or Charity School, endow'd, or otherwise maintain'd in your Parish? What Number of Children are taught in it? And what Care is taken to instruct them in the Principles of the Christian Religion, according to the Doctrine of the Church of England; and to bring them duly to Church, as the Canon requires?
- IV. Is there in your Parish, any Alms-House, Hospital, or other Charitable Endowment? Have any Lands or Tenements

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

been left for the Repair of your Church; or to any other pious Use? Who has the Direction of such Benefactions? How are they managed? Do you know, or have you heard of any Abuses or Frauds committed in the Management of them?

- V. Do you reside Personally upon your Cure, and in your Parsonage House? If not, where do you reside? And what is the Reason of your Non-Residence?
- VI. Have you a Residing Curate? Is he duly qualified according to the Canons in that Behalf? Does he live in your Parsonage House? What allowance do you make him?
- VII. Do you know of any who come to Church in your Parish that are not Baptized? Or that being Baptized, and of a competent Age, are not confirmed?
- VIII. How often is the public Service read in your Church? Is it duly perform'd twice every Lord's-Day? If not, how often, and at what Times is it perform'd? And how comes it not to be twice done, as the Act of Uniformity and Canons of the Church require?
- IX. How often and at what Times do you Catechise in your Church? Do your Parishioners duly send their Children and Servants who have not learned their Catechism, to be instructed by you?
- X. How often is the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper administer'd in your Church? What Number of Communicants have you in your Parish? How many of them usually receive? Particularly, how many did communicate at Easter last?
- XI. Do you give open, and timely Warning of the Sacrament before it is administered? Do your Parishioners send in their Names to you as required? Have you refused the Sacrament to anyone? For what Reason? And how has the Person so refused behaved himself since that Time?

If you have met with any particular Difficulties in the Discharge of your Duty;

If you have observed any particular Defects in the present Canons or Discipline, of the Church;

If you have discover'd any Abuses or Corruptions in any Ecclesiastical Officers, or others concern'd in the Execution of the same;

If you have any Advices to give, or Proposals to make, by which the Glory of God, and the Honour and Interest of our establish'd Church may be promoted, or the Government of this Diocese be better ordered.

I desire you freely to communicate your Thoughts to me; and be assur'd, that a proper Use shall be made of your Suggestions, in order to the Attainment of the End propos'd by them.

List of Parishes and Chapelries in this volume.

	PAGE		PAGE
Adbolton (<i>s.v.</i> Holme Pierpoint)	67	Costock	26
Annesley	4	Cotgrave	183
Apesthorpe	6	Cottam Chapel (<i>s.v.</i> Leverton, South)	93
Arnold	3	Cromwell	31
Askham	6	Cropwell Bishop	40
Attenborough	2	Cropwell (<i>s.v.</i> Tythby)	152
Austerfield	5		
Averham	2	Darlington	43
		Drayton, East	42
Babworth	22	Drayton, Great (<i>see</i> Drayton, East).	
Balderton	12	Drayton, West	41
Barnby-in-the-Willows (Barnby)	12	Dunham	42
Barnston (<i>s.v.</i> Langar)	87		
Barton-in-the-Beans	7	Eakring	46
Basford	17	East Bridgford (<i>see</i> Bridgford, East).	
Bawtry	182	East Drayton (<i>see</i> Drayton, East).	
Beckingham	25	East Leake (<i>see</i> Leake, East).	
Beeston	16	East Markham (<i>see</i> Markham, East).	
Bilborough	13	East Retford (<i>see</i> Retford, East).	
Bilthorpe	19	East Stoke (<i>see</i> Stoke, East).	
Bingham	9	Eastwait (<i>see</i> Eastwood).	
Bleasby	24	Eastwood	177
Blidworth	25	Eaton	55
Blythe	21	Eddingley	183
Bole	23	Edwalton	45
Bothamsall	22	Edwinstow	52
Boughton Chapel (<i>s.v.</i> Kneesal)	80	Egmanton	50
Bridgford, East	182	Elkesley (Elksley)	53
Bridgford, West	8	Elston Chapel	48
Broughton Sulney	10	Elston Church	46
Bulcote	15	Elton-upon-the-Hill	44
Bulwell	14	Epperston	49
Bunney	11	Everton	51
Burton Joyce	15		
Burton, West	182	Farndon	55
Calverton	176	Farnsfield	58
Carburton	39	Finningley	57
Carcolston	30	Flawborough (Flawbrow)	138
Carlton Chapel (<i>s.v.</i> Norwell)	111	Fledborough (Fledborrow)	56
Carlton-in-Lindrick	38	Flintham	183
Caunton	183		
Clarborough (Clareborough)	39	Gamston	63
Claworth	37	Gedling	61
Clifton	27	Girton (<i>s.v.</i> Scarle, South)	140
Clifton, North	34	Godling (<i>see</i> Gedling).	
Coddington (Codington)	35	Gonalston	62
Collingham, North	33	Gotham	58
Collingham, South	32	Grandby	60
Colston Basset	28		
Colwick	36		
Cortingstock, <i>see</i> Costock.			
Cossall (<i>s.v.</i> Wollaton)	166		

List of Parishes and Chapelries in this volume—*contd.*

	PAGE		PAGE
Greasley	63	Missen (Misne)	100
Great Drayton (<i>see</i> Drayton, East).		Misterton	102
Gringley (Greenley) upon the Hill	65	Moorhouse (<i>s.v.</i> Laxton)	88
Grove	65	Morton	104
Gumalston (<i>see</i> Gonalston).		Muskham, North	184
		Muskham, South	103
		Newark	106
Hallam, West	183	Normanton-upon-Soar	179
Halloughton	75	Normanton-upon-Trent	105
Harworth	74	North Clifton (<i>see</i> Clifton, North).	
Hawksworth	68	North Collingham (<i>see</i> Collingham, North).	
Hawton	69	North Leverton (<i>see</i> Leverton, North).	
Hayton	73	North Muskham (<i>see</i> Muskham, North).	
Headon	72	North Wheatley (<i>see</i> Wheatley, North).	
Hickling	66	Norton Cuckney	111
Hockerton	70	Norwell	111
Holme Chapel (<i>s.v.</i> Muskham, North)	184	Nottingham, S. Mary	180
Holme Pierpoint	67	Nottingham, S. Nicholas	109
Houghton (<i>see</i> Hawton).		Nottingham, S. Peter	107
Hoveringham	72	Nuthall	110
Hucknall Torkard	71		
		Ollerton	115
Kelham	80	Ompton (<i>s.v.</i> Kneesal)	80
Keyworth	75	Ordsall	113
Kinalton	76	Orston	112
Kilvington	79	Ossington	184
Kingston-upon-Soar	183	Owthorpe	77
Kirkby-in-Ashfield	81	Oxton	114
Kirklington (<i>s.v.</i> Hockerton)	70		
Kirkton	84	Palethorpe	117
Kneesal	80	Papplewick (Papelwick)	116
Kneeton	78	Plumtree	116
Lambley	90	Radford	122
Laneham	183	Ragnell	130
Langar	87	Rampton	129
Langford	89	Ratcliffe-upon-Soar	119
Laxton	88	Ratcliffe-upon-Trent	120
Leake (Leak), East	86	Rempston	118
Leake, West	85	Retford, East	123
Lenton	92	Retford, West	124
Leverton, North	94	Rolleston	122
Leverton, South	93	Rossington	126
Lindby	90	Ruddington	121
Littleborough	94		
Lowdham (Loudham)	91	Saundby	184
		Scarle, South	140
Mansfield	178	Scarrington Chapel (<i>s.v.</i> Orston)	112
Mansfield Woodhouse	97	Screveton	134
Mapplebeck	96	Scrooby	148
Markham, East	99	Selston	184
Markham, West	98	Shelford	135
Marnham	95		
Mattersey	101		
Melton-on-the-Hill	184		

List of Parishes and Chapelries in this volume—*contd.*

	PAGE		PAGE
Shelton	138	Thurgarton	156
Sibthorpe	184	Tollerton	152
Sierston (<i>see</i> Syerston).		Treswell	157
Skegby	146	Trowell	155
Sneinton	184	Tuxford	158
Southwell	185	Tythby	152
South Collingham (<i>see</i> Collingham, South).		Upton	159
South Leverton (<i>see</i> Leverton, South).		Upton (with Headon) ..	72
South Muskham (<i>see</i> Muskham, South).		Upton (with Kneesal) <i>see</i> Ompton.	
South Scarle (<i>see</i> Scarle, South).		Walesby (Wailsby)	170
South Wheatley (<i>see</i> Wheatley, South).		Walkeringham	170
Stanford-on-Soar (Stanford)	131	Warsop	168
Stanton-upon-the-Wolds ..	133	Wellow (Welley)	172
Stapleford	143	Weston	174
Staunton Chapel	185	West Bridgford (<i>see</i> Bridgford, West).	
Staunton Church	136	West Burton (<i>see</i> Burton, West).	
Stockwith, West	149	West Drayton (<i>see</i> Drayton, West).	
Stoke, East	139	West Hallam (<i>see</i> Hallam, West).	
Stokeham (Stoakam) ..	148	West Leake (<i>see</i> Leake, West).	
Strelley	142	West Markham (<i>see</i> Markham, West).	
Sturton (Stourton) in-the-Clay	185	West Retford (<i>see</i> Retford, West).	
Sutton-in-Ashfield	144	Whatton	162
Sutton-on-Lound (upon Lown)	147	Wheatley, North	169
Sutton-on-Trent	141	Wheatley, South	173
Sutton Bonnington, S. Ann ..	132	Widmerpool	162
Sutton Bonnington, S. Michael	132	Wilford	163
Syerston (and <i>s.v.</i> Stoke, East)	142, 139	Willoughby-on-the-Wolds ..	161
		Winkburn	165
Teversall	156	Winthorpe	164
Thorney	154	Wollaton	166
Thoroton Chapel (<i>s.v.</i> Orston)	112	Woodborough (Woodborrow)	174
Thorpe Buzzard <i>al.</i>		Worksop (Worksopp) ..	171
Thorpe-in-the-Clotts <i>al.</i>		Wysall	160
Thorpe-in-the-Glebes ..	151		
Thorpe-by-Newark (near Newark)	153		
Thrumpton	153		

ABBREVIATIONS.

A.C.—Assistant Curate.	<i>Hor. Sat.</i> —Horace. <i>Satires</i> .
Add.—Additional.	Incorp.—Incorporated.
Adm.—Admitted.	Inst.—Instituted.
App.—Appointed.	Lect.—Lecturer.
B. and W.—Bath and Wells.	Lic.—Licensed.
Bk.—Book.	Lic. to pr.—Licensed to preach.
B.N.C.—Brasenose College.	Lich. and Cov.—Lichfield and
C.—Curate.	Coventry.
Cant.—Canterbury.	Lit. Reg.—Litterae Regiae.
Ch. Ch.—Christ Church.	Magd.—Magdalen.
Ch. Coll.—Christ's College.	Matr.—Matriculated.
Chan.—Chancellor.	Migr.—Migrated.
Coll.—College or Collated.	N. & Q.—Notes and Queries.
Com. Reg.—Comitia Regia.	Non. Res.—Non-Residence.
Comm.—Commissary.	P.—Priest.
Cons.—Consecrated.	Patr.—Patron.
Cr.—Created.	Preb.—Prebend or Prebendary.
C.W.—Church Warden.	Prof.—Professor.
D.—Deacon.	R.—Rector or Rectory.
D. and C.—Dean and Chapter.	S.C.L.—Student of Civil Law.
Dencd.—Denounced.	S.S.—Surtees Society.
Dim.—Dimissory.	S. S. Coll.—Sidney Sussex College.
Dio.—Diocese.	S.T.B.—Bachelor of Divinity.
Disp.—Dispensed.	S.T.P.—Doctor of Divinity.
D.N.B.—Dictionary of National Biography.	Scho.—Scholar.
Dom. Chpl.—Domestic Chaplain.	Seq.—Sequestrator.
Emm.—Emmanuel.	T.C.D.—Trinity College, Dublin.
Excomd.—Excommunicated.	Tr.—Translated.
Fell. Com.—Fellow Commoner.	V.—Vicar or Vicarage.
Gr. Sch.—Grammar School.	Vic.-Chor.—Vicar Choral.
	Y.A.J.—Yorkshire Archaeological Journal.