



Account of Purley on Thames

Chronicles 1620-1639

1620 - 17/18 Jas I

1621 - 18/19 Jas I

William Green of Purley died, his will is preserved. (S321)

1622 - 19/20 Jas I

1623 - 21/22 Jas I

For the first time the living of Purley was described as being a rectory when Richard Watts became Rector to succeed Randall Wright who had died. (S22).

Following the visitation of Berkshire by Henry Chitting (Chester Herald) and John Philpott (Rouge Dragon) on behalf of the College of Heralds, James Winch of Purley promised that he would no longer take the title of squire or gentleman. (S90)

Lady Bridget, Countess Dowager of Berkshire, held a Court Baron for Purley Parva on 1st October (ref 424-28661-174)

1624 - 22/23 Jas I

Sir John St John was elected MP for Wiltshire (S26-3-419)

1625 - 23 Jas I / 1 Chas I

1626 - 1/2 Chas I

The coat of arms on the church tower bears the date 1626 and the arms of Viscount Grandison who died in 1630. Grandison was the uncle of the Lord of The Manor of Purley Magna and it is highly likely that this was the date the church was rebuilt in the form it was to remain until 1870. (S1-8/81)

1627 - 2/3 Chas I

The fourth bell in the ring in the tower was cast by the brothers Ellis and Francis Knight of Reading (S1-1/82)

Charles I gave a lease of two thirds of the lands belonging to Francis Hyde to William Smith. The land had been seized by the Crown because Francis was a Roman Catholic and a Recusant, ie one who persistently refused to attend the services of the English Church. S26-3-421, Patent Roll 3 Chas I pt 33 no 10)

It is likely that Sir John St John came to live in Purley as his brother in law, Sir Allan Apsley (who had married Lucy St John), Lieutenant of the Tower was staying there at the time of his illness. (S26-3-419)

1628 - 3/4 Chas I

1629 - 4/5 Chas I

The third and tenor bells in the ring in the church tower are dated 1629. They are believed to have been gifts of the St Johns, who were Lords of the Manor at the time.

John Goodboye of Purley died, his will is preserved (S321)

1630 - 5/6 Chas I

Lord Grandison (Oliver St John) died. He was the uncle of John St John (d1648) and great uncle to Ann Hyde (d1632). He had been created Viscount Grandison and Baron Tregoze of Highworth. He had married Joan, the daughter of of Henry Roydon and widow of Sir William Holcroft.

Edward Wray held the manor of Purley Parva with his wife Elizabeth, the daughter of Francis Norreys, Earl of Berkshire (S26-3-420)

1631 - 6/7 Chas I

1632 - 7/8 Chas I

Ann Hyde died on 2nd July. She was giving birth to a still born child while suffering from smallpox. She was born in 1612 to Sir George Ayliffe of Grittenham Wilts and Ann (Nee St John). She was buried in Purley Church and a memorial to her erected by her husband Edward Hyde who later became the Earl of Clarendon and Lord Chancellor. His second wife bore him two daughters, one of whom, Anne , married James, later King James II, and was the mother of both Queen Mary II and Queen Anne. (S12, S1-7/81)

John Taylor noted that there were 'three faulty and untowards weirs' at Mapledurham. (S43-222)

Barnaby Simons of Purley died. He had been churchwarden from 1619-1621. His will is preserved. (S321)

On April 7th the Lord of the Manor of Purley Parva gave Mr Pecoke 5s for copies of Fines and a recovery suffered by the late Lord Norris. (424-28661-175)

1633 - 8/9 Chas I

Sir John St John dealt with the manor of Purley Magna by Fine (S26-3-419, Feet of Fines 9 Chas I)

1634 - 9/10 Chas I

The Glebe Terrier drawn up in 1634 gives interesting details of the ancient parsonage which sat in three acres of grounds. There was a main house of six bays and thirteen rooms, two barns and a newly built stable (S426-14)

1635 - 10/11 Chas I

Henry Iremonger was drowned in the Thames at Purley on May 8th. His father Henry complained that he had been bound apprentice to George Marten, a clothworker of Reading, and had run away from his master. (S360-C-278)

The second bell, a maiden, in the ring in the church tower bears the date 1635. It is believed to be the gift of the St Johns. (S1-7/81)

1636 - 11/12 Chas I

1637 - 12/13 Chas I

1638 - 13/14 Chas I

George Osmund of Purley died. His will is preserved (S321-67)

1639 - 14/15 Chas I

William Henwood of Purley died. He had been churchwarden from 1634-36. His will is preserved.
(S321)

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