

Chelsfield Parochial Notes
by
Arthur Thomas Waring
of Woodlands,
Lord of the Manors of Chelsfield
and Hewitts, c. 1912.

Transcribed and typed by Mrs. Sarah Tanner,
1992.

Part one - pages 1 to 87.

Arthur Thomas Waring of Woodlands, Chelsfield -

an introduction by Geoffrey Copus.

To quote from the extensive family notes which Mr. Waring wrote late in life, he was "the third son of William Waring. He was born at Chelsfield on Decr. 24th. 1851. He was educated at Eton and called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in June 1875, a member of South Eastern Circuit and Kent Sessions. He served for some ten years from 1871 in the Kent Artillery Militia, retiring as a Captain. He is a Justice of the Peace for Kent, and a Member of the First and following County Councils for Kent, being elected an Alderman in 1901. He succeeded his father to the Chelsfield property in 1904 and added the Billiard Room and some further accommodation for the Servants to Woodlands. He married at Orpington on Oct. 25th. 1877 Agnes Birkett the youngest daughter of Daniel Birkett who then lived at East Hall Orpington. She was born at High Burton, Yorkshire, on Septr. 29th. 1851."

Later, Col. Henry Waring, Arthur Waring's younger son, added: "He died on March 21st. 1920 and was buried in the private ground at Chelsfield Churchyard. Agnes Waring died on March 15th. 1921 and was buried in the same grave as her husband."

After he retired from the Kent County Council, Mr. Waring wrote his wonderfully comprehensive "Chelsfield Parochial Notes", and with great industry he copied them out three times, each time expanding his work. What would seem to be the first version found its way into the extensive archives of St. Martin's church, Chelsfield, and I believe that the two volumes now lodged there may originally have been presented to Edward Norman of Chelsfield House by Mr. Waring. I think it likely that they would have been given to St. Martin's by Mr. Norman's son in law Arthur Norman Butler when he left the parish in 1940. A photocopy of this version is now at Bromley Local Studies Library, and I was most interested to discover that my friend Mrs. Sarah Tanner - a descendant of another prominent Chelsfield family, the Skeggs of Norstead - had typed out a copy. I have now scanned this and put it into pdf form in the following pages. Everyone interested in the history of the parish must be grateful to Sarah for her work, which has made this possible. I would only comment that in the twenty years since she wrote her introduction I have made much progress in tracking down the title deeds on which much of Mr. Waring's work was based. This collection was dispersed in the course of the sale of the Chelsfield estate, a gradual process which began in 1920 and continued until after the death of Mr. Waring's son William Waring of Hewitts in 1945.

In 1949, when I first became interested in the history of Chelsfield and I was doing my National Service in the RAF, I got in touch with Col. Waring, and he and Mrs. Elizabeth Waring (William's widow) very kindly gave me and my wife (then my fiancée) permission to transcribe the Manorial documents, which were with the old family solicitors in London. My wife worked extensively on these documents, and I have subsequently typed out her abstracts of almost all of the Court Rolls, and related material.

It was not until many years later, after I had retired, that Col. Waring's daughter, Mrs. Beth Nicholls, lent me the further volumes of Parochial Notes which she had inherited from her father, for me to photocopy. I hope in due course to scan and put into pdf form the considerable additional material contained in these further works.

To my surprise, Mrs. Nicholls also produced two more volumes of her grandfather's work. One contained his detailed notes on the Waring and Fuller families, and the other his transcripts of the Rent Rolls and Rentals of the Manors of Chelsfield and Hewitts. Tantalisingly, the latter starts at a page numbered 372, so clearly it is a continuation of a volume now lost, which I presume would have contained transcripts of the Court Rolls. It is fortunate indeed that my wife had done so much work on those documents in the early 1950s, although at that time she was not able to locate some of them.

I salute Arthur Waring over the years for his wonderful work, and I picture him working into the small hours with pen and ink, in the quiet of his study at Woodlands, blissfully unaware that the world with which he was familiar was about to disintegrate in the great economic and social changes brought on by the Great War. I can but marvel at the scope of his researches, particularly as, a century ago, the historian did not have that easy access to vast arrays of material which we now enjoy. Subsequent researches have shown that, like all historians, Mr. Waring occasionally made some mistakes or drew incorrect conclusions, but such slips are rare indeed.

Mrs. Tanner's work is now in pdf form, in three parts, and I intend to add a fourth part, containing copies of many of the photographs taken by Mr. Waring. Most of these appear in the original volumes, although there are some additional ones, apparently taken by him, which have come from other collections. Notable contributions have come from James Ingham and his sister the late Mrs. Susannah Bowden, descendants of Arthur's younger brother Herbert Fuller Waring.

Geoffrey Copus, 17 Oakdale Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8DS -
1st. December 2012.

Whilst researching the family of my great great grandmother Mary Skeggs, I consulted the original hand written volumes compiled by A.T.Waring in which I found a great deal of genealogical and local history information, which I felt sure would be of considerable interest to other family historians.

The two volumes are held with the parish registers and many other records at the Parish Church of St.Martins Chelsfield, and I suggested making a copy of the originals so that more people with an interest in the past history of Chelsfield could have access to what is a fascinating insight into the early life and times of a Kent village.

In making this copy I have not altered anything except his index which has been enlarged and slightly altered from the original.

Mr.Waring mentions many old documents, deeds and manorial rolls which he had in his possession, but their present whereabouts is still unknown. The Centre for Kentish Studies at County Hall, Maidstone do have some manorial records for the manor of Chelsfield in their collection.

Sarah Tanner
1992

Chelsfield Parochial Notes
collected by A.T.Waring

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CHELSEFIELD

Chelsfield variously spelt in old writings Cheseld, Ceresfel, Cillesfelle, Cilesfeld, Cilesfelda, Chellesfeld and Chellesfield took its name from its cold and open situation. "Eeld" or "Cite" in the Saxon signifying cold: and "feld" a plain or field.

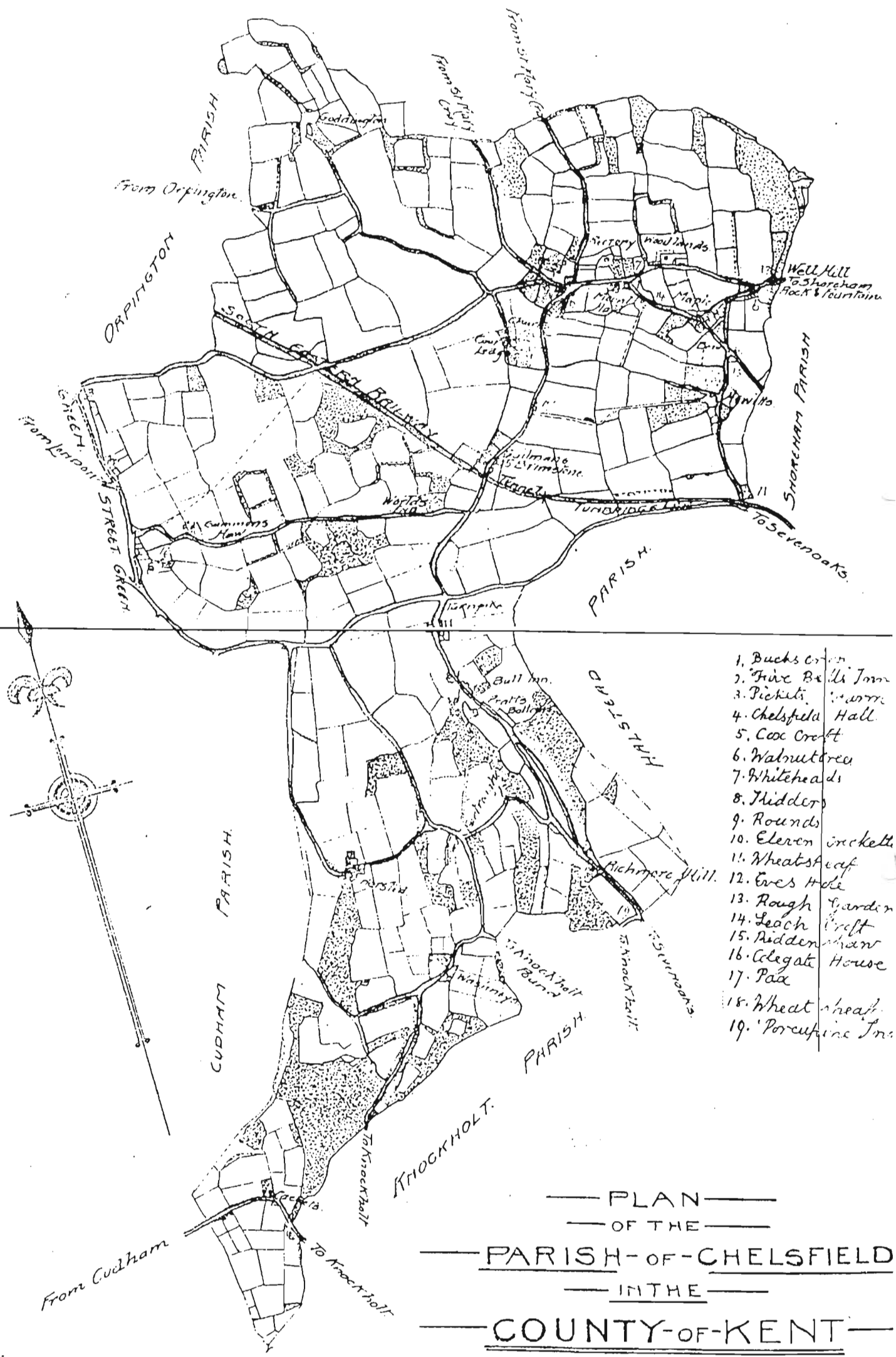
The parish is large, and lies in general on high ground. It contains about 3378 acres of land, and is about four and a half miles long from north to south; but varies much from east to west.

The population has steadily increased during the last century, as the table below will show, but it made a large jump in 1901; this being principally due to the development at Greenstreet Green, now known as New Chelsfield.

	<u>Inhabited Houses</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1801		336	269	605
1811		419	294	713
1821	128	418	338	756
1831	127	426	370	796
1841	151	448	411	859
1851	163	468	400	878
1861	148	416	368	784
1871	181			903
1881	193	517	430	947
1891	232	562	560	1122
1901	330	752	770	1522
1911	428	885	905	1790

Next to population, the advance of a parish may be measured by its rateable value, and it is of interest to note how Chelsfield has varied in this respect during the past three hundred years; but it must be remembered how much the value of money has altered during these centuries, and also that probably in past days much property escaped assessment.

Lambarde in his Perambulations of Kent written in 1570 sets the sum of £3.6.8 against Chelsfield in his Table of "Tenth and Fifteenth" of Kent. These Tenths and Fifteenths were practically an Assessment upon which taxes, tributes, or contributions of money were paid to the King, or in other words they were the rateable value of the parish at that time.



1. Bucks Croft
2. Five Bells Inn
3. Picketts Farm
4. Chelsfield Hall
5. Cox Croft
6. Walnut Tree
7. Whiteheads
8. Hidders
9. Rounds
10. Eleren Crockett
11. Wheat Sheaf
12. Eves Hole
13. Rough Garden
14. Leach Croft
15. Hidden Lane
16. Colgate House
17. Pax
18. Wheat Sheaf
19. Porcupine Inn

— PLAN —
 — OF THE —
 — PARISH OF CHELSFIELD —
 — IN THE —
 — COUNTY OF KENT —

The next Assessment to be found is that in the Churchwardens Book for 1742 for a Church rate, and these assessments appear with some regularity up to the time that Church rates were abolished. In making these assessments the parish was divided into two divisions. The Upper Division consisting of the northside of the parish, and the Lower Division of the south side. It appears from the Books that one of the Churchwardens acted for each Division. In the year 1743 the assessment of the Upper Division produced £9.16.3, and that for the Lower Division £7.14.9, making a total of £17.11.0. The rate made was six pence in the pound; therefore it would seem that the assessable value of the whole parish was £702.

In 1844 the amount collected was £59.5.3 on a similar rate of six pence in the pound, which gives an assessable value of £2370.10.0.

In 1911 the assessable value had risen to £16,290.

The customs and manners of our forefathers, and the way in which parochial government was carried on, is to be gleaned from the old Registers, and the parish Account books; but unfortunately the parish chest is very deficient as regards the latter. It only contains the various registers and a Churchwardens book dating from 1742, all the other parochial books are missing. Therefore in collecting any notes on our parish history, private documents and County Histories have mainly to be relied upon for information; and old wills when accessible throw much light upon the customs of the time in which they were made.

In 1468 one William Whythed willed "To be buried yn the porche of the chyrche of Chelsfield. To the pavement of the porche iiis iiijd". And again another William Whitehedde in the year 1500 desired to be buried in the Church porch of Chelsfield and gave for the Reparations of the Nave vjs viiij (Test Cant 10). It would appear that the Church-porch was the favorite burying place of this family, who seem to have been inhabitants of the parish down to the present day (see p.103).

Thomas Jetour in the year 1472 bequeathed "To ye payntyng of our lady of pite xiid. To Richard Binaunter parson of Chelsfield five acre of lande lying in a field called gretefeld lvyng under ye parsons hawe in Chelsfield to hym and his successors for evermore for to be prayed for and all my frends evermore perpetually" (Test Cant 10). This field is

easily identified as being the one that lies on the east side of the Chelsfield House garden. The Jetours were a family long resident, and land owners in this parish: their name constantly appearing in the old register and Court Rolls. Probably this is the identical John Jetour to be mentioned hereafter in connection with Alice Bray. The name of Johes Jeter of Cheseld appears in the long list of pardons which were granted to the followers of John Cade after his formidable rising in Kent in the year 1450. Chelsfield appears to have taken but a small part in it, as no other Chelsfield name appears in the list (Arch Cant VII.267).

It was a common practice to make bequests for the repairs to the Church, several instances having already been given. These benefactions were usually in money. Henry Beverych the then owner of 'Wheatfields', now known as Maypole Cottage, by his Will dated 1509 (See p.134) left to the Mother Church of Rochester 2d. to the High Altar of Chellesfyld for Tythes forgotten 12d, and money to find tapers to burn before the Trinity in the said Church for evermore. Abraham Dalton a carpenter of Chelsfield in 1631 gave six shillings and eight pence for a Sermon to be preached at his funeral, and he gave ten shillings to the poor of the parish.

It was not an uncommon event for bequests to be made of things that could not possibly be used for the Church, sometimes these articles were sold, and the proceeds devoted to the Church: thus William Cokke in 1472 willed "To the Rodeloft ii boyshell of barlev (Test Cant). John Brasyr the elder of Chelsfield yeoman left in 1597 (see p.146) To the use of the churche of Chelsfield for ever Two sheepe to be put in stocke and towards the reparacons of the same churche Tenne shillings. In 1513 John Beneriche (See p.135) of 'Wheatfields' devised "a cowre pce of 6s to the said churche to fynde a taper of wax brennyng before or lady of pitie ther". He also bequeathed "a cokve pce of 13s 4 to fynde a taper or 2lb waxe to burne before the sepulcre in the said churche forevermor", and "To fuynde a taper of wax brennyng before the Trinitie ise the said churche 9s or a colte prce of 10s". (Par Mag 1895).

A parish often possessed a large stock of Kine, which was farmed out; the rent or proceeds being placed to the churchwardens accounts or devoted to specific purposes, such as providing tapers, or specific objects. In pre-reformation days a most prolific and popular method of obtaining income for church purposes were the Church-ales and Church-plays. These ales were parish feasts, where ale and food were usually

sold for the benefit of the general church fund, or some particular object. Occasionally the Ale was held within the Church itself, more often in the church-house, or some neighbouring place. The parish held brewing gear for the providing of the ale, and it is quite possible that the above bequest of barley was used for this purpose (see Cox's Churchwardens Accounts). Church-plays were also acted for like purposes, sometimes in the Church, or churchyard, but more often in a field near the Church, or in the market-place. The accounts of St. Laurence Reading show that they were acted at that place on the open space near the Church called the 'Forbury' (Cox's Ch Wds Accounts). It is curious that the field opposite our church-green is also called 'Forberry'; and it may be that in olden times Church-plays and Church-ales took place on this spot.

(The following paragraph was on an opposite page as an explanation).

There is a field named "Butts" on Hewetts Farm through which the footpath passes from that farm to Knockholt Station. We wonder whether the name is derived from the fact that formerly butts were erected on this spot for the practice of archery among the inhabitants. There are several references to this name to be found in Hasted (See Hasted folio Edit II 616 and 618 - IV 224, & Arch Cant X 238). The use of the long-bow was obligatory upon every able-bodied free-man below the rank of Knight or Es-quire. The archery practice generally took place on Sundays and Holy Days after Divine Service (Arch Cant XI 153; Cox's Churchwarden's Accounts 327).

Frequently people of substance, and in a good position of life left their household furniture in great detail. William Petley, who was the owner of Bucks Cross Farm, Pascalles Wood, and other land in the parishes of Chelsfield and Shoreham, in the year 1599 (See p. 147) bequeathed to his son William "one bestead which I lye in, one featherbed and boulster with my best coverlett, one cubbord in parlour. An Iron pot and a spitt, Two paire of hempen sheets. Two blancketts Two Chestes the greatest and which the Writinges are in." Robert Petley (see p. 166) who also held Bucks Cross left to Robert Smith his siter's son one long planked table, the frame to it, and eight joined stooles, one carved large presse cupboard, one forme, two iron cobirons, one brasse Cauldron or furnace, four chets, one featherbed, boulster, bedstedle and the furniture belonging to it standing in the Parlour Chamber, And alsoe one brasse potte, one joined bedstedle and bed with what belongs

to it standing in the Kitchen Chamber, One half headed bedstedle and bed with what belongs to the same standing in the Garrett". To his Cosen Mary Peirce one Cubbord in the Kitchen was given. A very similar Will dated 1597 made by John Brasier owner of 'Newlands', now part of Hewetts meadow, and other land in the parish was given in the Parish magazine in the year 1895.

Legacies were often left in Kind, and not in money. The above mentioned William Petley (see p.147) gave unto his daughter Amy Brasiers Children "to everie of them one yonge sheepe". He bequeathed certain Annuities amounting to £2.13.4d to his son Thomas to be paid out of his lands in the occupation of Thomas Mace of Goddington, and out of other lands in the tenure of James Styles "Provided always that if the said Thomas my sonne shall not behave himself godlie and honestlie in the Judgment of my kinsmen Thomas Petley of Filstones and Thomas Petley of Halsted then the said Annuities shall cease and bee of none effecte notwithstanding that is before written". Abraham Dalton a carpenter of Chelsfield, who held land within the Manor of Chelsfield at Greenstreet Green, after desiring that he should "be buried among the faithful people" gave to Alice Kingsland his grandchild an Ewe & her lambe". Robert Petley already mentioned also bequeathed to his Cosen Mary Peirce "The next Fall or Cut of one parcell of the woodland called Pascalls wood lying and being in the parish of Shoreham in the said Countie of Kent when the same wood shall come to bee of nyne years growth after my decease". It is clear that it was possible that several years might elapse before this legacy was realised. He also made a similar gift to his Cosen Elizabeth Smith with the exception that this fall or cut was in Oven Wood. William Petley an owner of Bucks Cross by his Will dated 1522 left to his wife the "Freshe Fysshes" in the Mote and ponds of Filston"; and the "mannynges for too or thrye mylke Kye". This testator also left his "best hakeney riding horse" to Thomas Wyllinghly for his labour as Overseer of his Will (see p.140).

In the year 1513 John Beverych (see p.135) who then was possessed of 'Wheatfields' left by his Will "To the church of Chellisfeld a maser cuppe the whiche I bought of Mastresse Alys for thys entent that every childewife also every bryde shall drynke on it and to contynue as long as it lastith. Also V mares to be bestowed in the most needfullest reparacions that is to be done in the said church. Item I bequeth to the saide church XXs to bye latyn bolles to stande undernethe the tapers that they before the Rodelofte wtin the same church

(Test Cant). Maestresse Alys was without doubt the Alice Bray who by her Will, which is set out in these notes, left her lesser Maser to John Williams the then parson of Chelsfield. Probably it was the larger one which she sold to John Beveryche, and which is the subject of the above bequest. This is more than likely as John Beveryche was appointed by Mrs Bray one of the Executors of her Will. A Maser was a maple cup, or bowl, often mounted with silver, and bound with rings of the same metal (Arch Cant VII.296). The custom of bringing in a cup of wine at the Marriage Service, for which provision was made in the Sarum rite, with a reference to the blessing of the water by Our Lord at Cana led to gifts of vessels for the purpose. There are three such bequests in Kent viz., Birling in 1516, Chelsfield in 1513, and Greenwich in 1506; and all the above instances show that the custom also obtained at the time of the Churching of women (Test Cant p.XIV). A "latyn bolle" was a bowl made of latten, a metal familiar to us as the material of which monumental brasses were made (Arch Cant VIII, 90). John Beveryche also left "to John the sonne of Andrewe Beveryche V mother sheep. To Agnes the daughter of saide Andrewe V mother sheep. To Sybyll Ben'ych that was the wife of Thomas Ben'ych to hir marriage 6L. To the childe that she goothe w^t all be it man chuyte, or woman childe 6L when xviii yeres and if it dye then my executor to distribute the said 6L in meritorious deeds that is to say to poor preests to churches and to high weyes where most nede ys to be done". He bequeathed "to amende the high wayes in Bromley comen where most neede ys 13s-4d, to amende the high wayes in the parish of Farneburgh in London waye where most neede ys 13s-4d. He desired to be buried at Chelsfield.

Mr.T.W.Wilkinson in his 'Highways and Byways of England' says. In Medieval times "The Church taught that the amendment of highways was a pious work of much the same merit as visiting the sick, and that gifts for this purpose were little less pleasing in the sight of God than these to herself". She continually urged the faithful, also to leave money for mending the roads, and declared that those that did so were worthy of remembrance.

Nearly every Will contained directions as to the burial of the testator, generally either within the Church, or else in the Churchyard. Henry Beverych in 1509 desired "to be buried within the Church gerth of Chellesfield (see p.134). 'Gerth' is a North of England word signifying a backside, close or garden (Jacobs Law Dict) and it is rather curious that it should find a place in the Will of a man belonging to Kent.

In former days it was customary upon the death of an important person to drape parts of the Church with black, but only two instances of directions as to this custom have been found in Chelsfield records. The first when Richard Aschlegh in a Latin Will dated 1493 desired that his executors order one black cover of Saye cloth with a white Saye cross with which his grave should be covered for two years and afterwards (Test Cant); and the second when Thomas Norton, the Lord of the Manor of Chelsfield, directed that there be no excutchrons, nor Pall Bearers, nor the Pulpit Hung with mourning upon his burial in 1749.

An Award made in the year 1588 in a dispute as to a debt between one William Palmer, who was a landowner in Farnborough parish, and William and Nicholas Brasier of 'Betses and Wheatfields' in Chelsfield, throws some light upon the customs and manners of those days. One of the four Arbitrators was the Rev^d George Smith, the first Rector of Chelsfield of that name. It was agreed between the parties that all matters in difference between them "from the beginnyge of the worlds until the XXVIth daye of February now last past" should be settled. The Arbitrators awarded that William Brasier should pay nine Pounds to William Palmer; and ordered that the payment should be made as follows: "On the feast daye of the natynytye of St. John the Baptist next comynge after the date of this our Awarde three pounds at or in the Church Porche of Chellisfilde aforesayd between the houre of nyne & twelve of the clocke in the forenoone of the same feast daye". They ordered two other three pounds to be paid on the feast days of St. Mychael the Archangel, and of the birth of our Lord Christe respectively, at the same place and between the same hours (see p.144). We should be somewhat surprised in these days at finding civil debts being discharged in the church-porch upon leaving the church on a christmas morning, and that being done by the order of the Rector of the parish.

Upon the sale of the Manor of Hewetts to William Petley by Lord John Grey and Dame Anne his wife in the year 1522, it was agreed that a part of the purchase money should be paid at the "fonnte - of the Cathethrall Church of Synt Poull wtn London ". (see p.136).

Our Register records the burial of three persons between July 17th and August 5th 1593 with "snatched by the plague" against their names; and at the end of the entries for that year is this note "This yere there was a greate plague in London where of dyed there in one weake about 1600 persons".

The year of the great Plague was 1604, but there were lessor visitations both before and after - 1593 is the only year in which it is recorded as having reached Chelsfield.

In August 1854 a panic was caused in this parish by the death of two women, who were supposed to have died very suddenly from Asiatic Cholera. This disease was present in England during this year, and it is possible that it reached Chelsfield. Evil led to good - A thorough overhauling of the parish ensued so far as sanitary matters were concerned; every house being inspected, and put in good order.

The Power of the Puritan during the time of the Commonwealth is apparent in our Register. By an Act passed in 1653 by the Barebones Parliament, Civil Marriage was instituted. It was ordained that persons about to marry should deliver to the parochial Registrar a statement of their purpose. The Registrar was then required to publish the banns in the Church, or Chapel, of the parish of each spouse on three several Lord's days; or else in the Market place on three several market days. Having published the banns the registrar gave the parties a Certificate which they carried to some Justice of the Peace, who forthwith declared the marriage lawful and complete, after causing the spouses to join hands and exchange the binding promises (Jeaffresons Brides & Bridals II.67).

There are several such marriages recorded in the Chelsfield Register, two of which will be given in full.

"Thomas Sone and Jane Poole married by Justice Skinner at Bromly March 29th 1655".

Dr. Beeby in his 'Bromley Church' states that "On the abolition of episcopacy during the Great Rebellion, the manor of Bromley was sold in 1647 to Augustine Skinner for £5,665.11.11. It was however restored to its rightful owners in 1660". Probably the above was the Justice who performed this marriage.

Augustine Skinner was a strong Parliamentarian, and was a member of the 'Committee of Kent' (Arch Cant IX.32), but probably the "Mr. Justice Skinner who performed these marriages was William, a brother of the better known Augustine; the said William was a Captain in Cromwells' army (Hanmen).

"January 1. George Gilborn and Anne Smith married by Edward Ash Esq Justice of the Peace. The intention of marriage between the foresaid parties being three separate lorde-days before the solemnization published in the parish Church of Chelsfeilde and not being objected to the contrary January the first one thousand six hundred and fifty five. Mr. George Gilborne and Mrs Anne Smith were (after certificate made by the Registers of Sevenoke and Chelsfield of due publication of their intended matrimony) married by me Edward Ashe Esq one of the Justices of the Peace within this County of Kent (according to an Act of Parliament dated ye twenty fourth of August One thousand six hundred fifty three) the day and yeare first abvoo written. In testimony hereof I have hereto sett my hand
Ed Ashe"

Mr. Edward Ashe JP appears to have been somewhat busy with the affairs of Chelsfield; for not only did he make the above elaborate entry as to the marriage; but he also saw that the Registrar (The then Rector of Chelsfield) was properly appointed, as is shown by the following entries in the Register.

"December the 13th 1655

I doe approve and confirm Robert Milles, Clerk to be the parish Register of the parish of Chellsfeilde in the County of Kent according to the choyce made of him by the Parishioners of the said Parish

Ed Ashe

I Robert Milles of the Parish of Chelsfeild above written do sweare to do and performe all the office and duties belongwith to a Parish Register according to the Act of Parliament for Registuring of marriages, births. and deaths

Robert Milles

R "

The Asches or Ashes were a family that at one time owned much land in this neighbourhood. They were written in ancient Latin deeds, De Frascino, and Hasted states they were so called most likely from having their residence near some place well planted with Ash trees. Edward Ashe probably lived at Halstead Court Lodge, as a person of that name had recently bought that house and the Manor of Halstead. He is returned in the Court Roll of Chelsfield for the year 1652 as a tenant of the Manor, but the description of the land is not given. In that for 1717 another Edward Ash paid a Relief of 13s 4d for Charme Wood and Richmore Woods on the death of his father William Ash.

During the Commonwealth an elaborate system for the registration of the movements of those suspected of Royalists sympathies was adopted. A London Office was in Fleet Street, and local Registrars forwarded lists of "suspected persons" to this Office. When one of these suspects travelled, the Registrar forwarded to the Office in London the address at which the traveller intended to lodge; and the traveller himself had to report to the Office the place of his lodging. The names of four Chelsfield men appear in these lists Francis Brasyer, yeoman; John Cocke, husbandman; John Clark, yeoman; and Robert Petley, yeoman; (Arch Cant XXIII.72).

Francis Brasyer was a yeoman of some importance in Chelsfield; he owned three Cottages and a small amount of land on Well Hill known as 'Rese or Rough Garden', and some twenty acres of land adjoining them known as 'Sextees', and now called 'Systeds'; he was also the owner of 'Betses and Wheat-fields', and other property in the parish. His name constantly appears in old deeds, and Court Rolls of the Manors of Chelsfield and Hewetts. He was buried at Chelsfield on October 27th 1662.

Robert Petley was also a substantial yeoman, the son of Anthony Petley of Bucks Cross, who succeeded in 1665. Robert died and was buried at Chelsfield on July 22nd 1668.

The names of John Cocke and John Clark do not appear in the Court Rolls, or in any document to which we have had access; but one Thomas Cocke was a feoffee of the Colgate Charity in 1623.

Soon after the Reformation 'Briefs', or Letters patent bearing the royal signature, and addressed to Clergymen, Churchwardens, and others, authorising collections for any public, or private, loss were issued. It appears that the sum to be collected was quite voluntary, and at the discretion of the parish, and there are instances where the Brief was returned without any money. Our Register contains a list of about one hundred such collections made between the years 1660 and 1670.

Space will allow for only a few being given, but they are a fair sample of the whole, as shewing the objects for which they were issued, and the amount collected on them in this parish.

"1660 For the fire at Wapping 5s 7d"

"1660 For Milton Abbas in Dorset 1s 9d"

In 1658 the upper part of the town of Milton Abbas was destroyed by fire, and a brief was granted for rebuilding. (Lewis' Top Dict of Eng).

"1660 For Church at Scarborough 6s 7d"

The Churches of St. Mary and St. Thomas sustained considerable damage during the Parliamentary war. (Lewis' Top Dict - Arch Cant XIV.206).

"1660 For Henry Harrison mariner 3s 3d"

Henry Harrison was shipwrecked on a voyage from Portugal. (Arch Cant XIV.207).

"1662 For ye Converted Turk Dandulo 3s 4d"

Philip Dandulo was a Mahometan Turk. (Arch Cant XIV.207).

"1665 For a Sea flair Endells ship 2s 6d"

Probably a ship lost by fire.

"1670 For ye Redemption of slaves £2.1.4"

Only one collection for this last object is recorded at Chelsfield, but several were made in other parishes, and in an account of these Briefs in Archaeologica Cantiana Vol. XIV Page 208 it is stated that it was a Brief for raising £30.000 in order to the ransoming of English captives out of Turkish slavery. (See Walford on Kings Briefs 61).

Before the advent of Tithe maps, and the Ordnance Survey, the boundaries of a parish were put into writing detailing the trees and other marks which denoted the boundaries. The better to remember these, the elder and better instructed inhabitants walked the bounds taking with them the younger members of the community. Upon arriving at a well marked point the latter were bumped against the boundary mark so that they might not forget it. In olden times it was ordered that a Perambulation of a parish was to be made by the minister, churchwardens and parishioners, by going round the same once a year in or about Ascension week (Jacobs Law Dict). Business was combined with pleasure, and the day was considered a holiday.

We have in our possession a document headed - "A Perambulation made by the parishioners of Chelsfield through the boundaries of the said parish on Wednesday the 21st May 1788" (see p.128). Then follows a long list of various points constituting the boundaries, chiefly trees which probably by this time have perished. The document then ends with a statement of the expenses of the day. viz.

"pd	Thos Know for one day a going the bounds	0. 2. 0
	Richard Johnson	0. 2. 0
	Thos Buster	0. 2. 0
	Wm Penn	0. 2. 0
	Jn Everest	0. 2. 0
	Rich ^d Skinner	0. 2. 0
	James Brooks	0. 0. 6
	John Brooks	0. 0. 6
	J ^d Johnson	0. 0. 6
	Rob ^t Everest	0. 0. 6
	Baruch Wood	0. 2. 0
	Expenses at Bo-peep & Richmore Hill	0. 9. 6
	Expenses of eating at Baruch Wood	0.15. 1
	Expenses of drinking at Baruch Wood	0.11. 5
		<u>2.12. 0</u>
	pd for Dr.Long	1. 6. 0
	Mr.Harris pd for Parish	1. 6. 0
		=====

(See p.128). "

From the above it appears that the men were paid two shillings each for the day, and the boys six pence; and it would also seem that the Rector and the parish divided the expenses, for Dr.Long was then Rector, and Mr.James Harris was an Overseer in this year.

There is another paper in our hands headed "The Bounds of the Parish of Chelsfield were walked on Wednesday the 18th and Thursday the 19th days of April 1838. The bounds are stated below". A list of these follow which varies from that made in 1788. The names of the persons that perambulated are given, consisting of twenty seven inhabitants of Chelsfield, five from Halstead, and two from Knockholt.

The Churchwardens accounts for this year contain this entry, "pd expenses, eating & drinking, going the bounds of the Parish 2 days £2.1.6.

Curious entries often appear in old parish books; which would not be considered legitimate or appropriate payments in the present day. The Churchwardens Accounts for Chelsfield are exceedingly free from this kind of entry; but possibly if the Overseers books were in existence some such entries might be found. It used to be the universal custom to pay for the destruction of vermin out of the rates. This custom was authorised by Act of Parliament (8 Eliz.C 15) which provided that the Churchwardens, with six other parishioners, should assess holders of land or tithe for the destruction of "Noyful Fowles and Vermyn" to provide a fund to reward every person destroying the same; and this Act sets out the sum of money to be paid for each bird or animal (Cox Chwdns Acc 296).

Our Churchwardens paid in 1743 for "4 Foxes head 4s". In 1744 they paid "Richard Larking for a foxis head 1s". In 1745 they "pd for a Bogger (Badger) head 1s. Pd for four hedghog 1s 4d. In 1752 "For a polecate 4d". In 1748 they entered "For relieving a lame solder 3s 6d. In 1749 "Pd for Orders for distempered Cattle 4d". In 1780 "To a letter enquiring after Papists 2s". In 1833 are the following items, "pd for a corkscrew for the use of the Church 2s", and "Biscuits 1s, 1 bottle of Port, 1 of Sherry by desire of Mr.Williams for the Vestry-room on day of Confirmation 11s".

In olden days the body of a criminal executed for murder, or some other offence, was often hung in chains close to the spot where the crime had been committed. There are several such spots in this district: and Mr.Philip Norman in his notes on Bromley published in the Archeologica Cantiana gives the following instance. "Almost within living memory the body of a man was hanging in chains by the bit of old road, now disused, near Green Street Green, and in my childhood the gibbet, or a part of it still existed at Chelsfield Hall. I believe the culprit had been executed for robbing the mail".

There is a letter dated 1835 in the parish chest which may be of interest. It is from the War Office addressed to the Churchwardens of Chelsfield, and is in the following terms: "That with Reference to the 70th Section of the Mutiny Act- That Robert Broaker a native of Chelsfield dis-charged from the Scots Fusileer Guards after long and faithful service has been awarded the Gratuity which is granted to dis-charged Soldiers who have conducted themselves meritoriously while in the Army, and requests that the fact be made generally known in the Parish to which he belongs".

Robert Brooker was baptized at Chelsfield in 1791, and buried here in 1846. His nephew tells us that he was the son of Robert and Sarah Brooker who lived in one of the former Pax Cottages. That he was present at the Battle of Waterloo, and held the Medal for that Engagement, and also one for Long Service; the latter being now in the possession of our informant, and the former in that of a great nephew. Thomas Brooker the elder brother of Robert was Landlord of 'The Five Bells' Inn for many years, and is still remembered by some of the oldest inhabitants of the parish.

Until quite recent years there was an old custom kept up at Chelsfield which was known as 'Pudding pie day'. This custom is peculiar to Kent. In Shaw's Dictionary of the Kentish Dialect (1888) under the heading of 'Pudding pie' are the following remarks, "a flat tart made like a cheese-cake with a raised crust to hold a small quantity of custard with currants lightly sprinkled on the surface. These cakes are usually eaten at Easter, - but a Kent boy will eat them whenever he can get them (The Kentish Note-Book 87, 160 & 216). The day of celebration in Chelsfield was Mid Lent Sunday, when people came from far and near to eat these pies at the 'White Hart Inn' at Bo-peep. The writer has met people living far away who have told him that they have been to Chelsfield for the sole purpose of eating pudding pies. It is believed that the custom ceased when the Landlord of this Inn closed the House on this particular Sunday for the express purpose of stopping it.

Another old Institution in the Parish is its Clothing Club, which has now (1914) been running for seventy eight years, having been established in the year 1836 - we have a copy of its original rules.

It is interesting to compare the Postal arrangements of the present day with those of years gone by. We now have at Chelsfield a Post Office from which we can send and receive letters, at a cost of a penny each, three times a day, messages by telegraph, and transmit money to nearly every part of the civilised world. From about the year 1785 to 1865, or for a period of eighty years our Post Office was at the house opposite the 'Five Bells Inn'; and during all this time it was kept by some member of the family of Hills. The letters were carried to and from Chislehurst by a walking postman. There are still some in the parish who remember the letters being placed in the window of the above house to be claimed by those to whom they were addressed; a separate pane of the window

being allotted to a particular person or house. Before the institution of the penny post in 1840 it was a matter for consideration before sending a letter by post on the score of expense, and it was almost prohibitive to the poorer people.

In our Churchwardens Accounts for the year 1833 is this entry: "Letter per post from Jos Ady professing to tell something to advantage for £1...5d. It does not appear that the Churchwardens accepted this advantageous offer; but simply contented themselves by paying the 5d postage.

The writer has in his possession an Account book which illustrates the expense of letter writing in those days remembering how few letters were then sent.

"Sep 7th 1833 pd Sally Hills for Letters from
March 25th to Sep 7th 19s".

"1835 pd Sally Hills for letters £4.4.10"

"1838 pd Sally Hills for letters £7.11.0".

There are several more entries of this description, which show that people did not always pay for their letters at the time of sending or receiving, but ran up accounts.

The Post Office when given up by the last of the Hills family was moved to Ivy Cottage where it was kept by Robert Brooker, from there it was transferred to a shop just below Cross Hall with one Wilton as postmaster. After this it was located in the house next to Verrells the Sadler with William Stacey in charge, and he has now brought it back to the original premises where the Hills carried it on for so many years.

The people of Chelsfield can now reach London in about thirty minutes from either Chelsfield or Knockholt Stations. How things have changed during the past sixty years; for before the advent of Railways the ordinary road was the only way to London, travelling by private carriage, postchaise, or coach. The coaches continued to run within the last fifty years, and we can well remember when a small boy going to meet people at the 'Wheatsheaf' who came by coach from London.

The first advance was the opening of the London Chatham and Dover Railway in 1860, when certainly two season ticket holders went daily from Chelsfield to London, using the St. Mary Cray Station.

On March 2nd 1868 the Chelsfield station was opened for traffic on the new London to Tonbridge line; and Halstead Station now called Knockholt was added on May 1st 1876. A few already in this year of grace 1914 travel to London by Motor Car, and some of our neighbours by Motor Omnibus.

Chelsfield has always been noted for the longevity of its inhabitants, and this is confirmed by a perusal of the registers. There are four entries of the burial of centenarians: "1605 Decebris 21 Sybilla Harman vidua, 108 annos nata

Sepulta est".

"1607 Octob 17 Ema Fletcher sepulta e fere 100 annorum"

"1812 April 13th Ann Child aged 101 & 5 months"

"1887 Mrs Glover 103 years".

Between the years 1605 and 1643 thirteen persons were buried at Chelsfield of the following ages 108, 80, 83, about 100, 80, 80, 84, 83, 80, 89, 80, 82 & 92, and possibly several more instances would have been found, if it had been the practice to record ages in the Register; but this was not the case until quite recent years.

Another fact that strikes the searcher of the Register is the vastness of 'Infant Mortality' in early days. In nearly every year there are to be found records of both the Baptism and Burial of children within a few hours or days; and it appears as if it was the case of 'Survival of the fittest'. If a child survived its first year or so, then it lived to a good old age.

The Villagers were somewhat surprised some forty five years ago (1869) by the rare event of banns of marriage being objected to by the son of one of the would be contracting parties. The objector, as is usual in such cases, was invited to go into the Vestry after the Service and state his reasons. The writer has been told by one that was present, that when in the Vestry he gave the following as the grounds of his objection - that his father was an old fool, and had no need for a wife - which was hardly a sufficient ground for preventing the marriage.

Chelsfield has always been fond of games and sports, and Cricket has been especially popular since the earliest days of the game. The first mention of our Cricket is to be found in the 'History of Kent County Cricket', where this notice appears "1731 In the weekly issue of the Grub Street Journal of May 24th appears the following - On Monday 31st will be

played on Kennington Common a great Cricket Match between London and Sevenoaks in Kent, and at the same place the next day following will be another between London and Chelsfield". We have been unable to find any further record of this match.

According to the Manorial Rolls there was as early as the year 1739, and probably earlier, an Inn in the Village named 'The Eleven Cricketers', and it remained as such up to 1814; but in 1828 it had ceased to be a public-house and was then occupied as a shop, the same as that now kept by Mrs. Neal opposite to the 'Five Bells', and next the Post Office.

There was a Cricket Club here in the year 1841, as is evidenced by subscriptions recorded in an old account-book, and probably the game has been played in the parish, on and off, right up to the present time. The writer has often heard his father, and other old inhabitants talk of the cricket played in Bridge-stile Field, the meadow on the east side of Mount Hall, and he has played in matches both in the Chelsfield House meadow adjoining the Village end of Skibbs Lane; and in front of Woodlands House. Now there are two cricket grounds in the parish; one the private ground of Alexander Miller Hallett at Goddington; and the other lent to the Chelsfield Club in Church Field.

A pack of Harriers the property of the late Thomas Waring hunted in this district for many years. The Kennels being at Hewetts; but they were given up in 1851 upon the death of the owner.

The earliest record concerning rabbits and game is to be found in a Court Roll of the Manor of Hewetts dated 1540, which will be hereafter referred to when describing that Manor. In a lease dated 1600 one William Wakelen the owner of Cox Croft, an old house opposite to Julian Brimstone Farm, now lately pulled down, reserved the game and covies in Wattsbroom, Lordsgrove, and Paynsland, with liberty to the landlord to hunt, ferret, catch, and carry away the same (see pp.149/150).

Chelsfield has loyally observed the various rejoicings connected with our Royal Family. The children of the parish having had special consideration, so as to mark the event in their minds.

The marriage of the Prince of Wales, afterwards King Edward VII, with Princess Alexandra of Denmark on the 10th March 1863 was observed in Chelsfield with great rejoicings. Some forty five old men and women of the parish above sixty years of age had a dinner at the 'Five Bells'. The school children to the number of eighty eight had a tea. The Church Bells were rung all day, and a firework display was given in the evening. The day being finished by the lighting of a huge bonfire in Homefield on the Courtlodge Farm, made with eight wagon loads of wood, several tar barrels, and a quantity of tar.

The celebration of Queen Victoria's first Jubilee upon the completion of the 50th year of her reign was loyally kept in Chelsfield. A cold dinner was given in the school-room to all those of sixty years of age and upwards. A tea in the then Rectory Meadow (now Chelsfield House) to all school children, and to those under sixteen years of age, and then followed fireworks. As a lasting memorial of this happy event, Mr. William Waring caused a water supply for the Village to be brought from Orpington to Chelsfield by a gift of £500.

In 1893 upon the marriage of the Prince of Wales, now King George V, with Princess Mary of Teck, the Church Bells were rung, a tea for all the children attending the Schools was given in Mr. E. Norman's meadow; games were played, and a band provided by Mr. A. Miller Hallett was present.

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee upon the completion of the 60th year of her reign was a great event in the parish. Mr. William Waring gave a dinner to about sixty old parishioners who were of 60 years or over. The School children had the usual tea in the Chelsfield House meadow, where the Shorham Band played while all kinds of games were going on. To fix the event in the memory of the rising generation Mr. William Waring gave a silver medal to each child on the Registers of the Schools at Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom.

The next event to be celebrated was the Coronation of King Edward VII which was marked by the usual dinner to the old people, tea to the children, and other inhabitants of the parish. Medals were again given to the School children; sports were held; and the St. Mary Cray Band provided music.

The Coronation of King George V was kept on June 24th 1911 in the cricket meadow (Churchfield). The celebration was very similar to that held in 1902, with the exception that Coronation Mugs were given to the school children in the place of medals.

Parish Councils having been brought into existence by the Local Government Act 1894; the first Parish Meeting for Chelsfield was held in the Parish Room on December 4th of that year, with Mr. William Waring in the Chair. There were twenty one nominations for the nine seats to be filled. After a show of hands, a poll was demanded, which was held on the 17th December when the following were elected.

Mr. A. Miller Hallett	71 votes	Mr. W. Hughes	52 votes
Mr. W. E. Bailey	59 "	Mr. E. Norman	49 "
Mr. J. Crafter	54 "	Mr. J. Dowler	48 "
Rev. H. B. Barnes	53 "	Mr. G. Staples	46 "
Mr. P. Bowen	52 "		

The first meeting of the Council was held at the School on December 31st, when Mr. A. Miller Hallett was elected Chairman.

The Manor of Chelsfield

The Manor of Chelsfield extends over the whole of the parish of Chelsfield, and into those of St. Mary Cray, Orpington, Farnborough, Downe, Cudham, Knockholt and Halstead, according to the Conditions of Sale when it was last sold in the year 1844, and this is confirmed by the Court Rolls still in existence.

This manor was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Baieux, the half brother of William the Conqueror and entered as his lands in Domesday Book as follows.

"Ernuf de Hesding holds of the bishop (of Baieux) Ciresfel. It was taxed at 2 sulings. The arable land is In desmesne there are two carucates, and 20 villeins, with 4 borderers having 8 carucates. There are 4 servants and 1 mill of 10 shillings and 10 acres of meadow and wood for the pannage of 10 hogs. In the time of King Edward the Confessor it was worth 16 pounds, and afterwards 12 pounds, and now 25 pounds, and yet he who holds it pays 35 pounds. Tocchi held it of King Edward".

A 'Suling' was so much lands as a plough could till in a year. A 'Desmesne' was the lords chief manor place, with the lands thereto belonging. A 'Carucate' was variously 100 acres, or as great a portion of land as might be tilled in a year and a day by one plough. 'Villeins and Borderers' were the ceorls or freemen of Anglo Saxon law, they were above the class of servitude; but inferior to the Thanes or Gentry. 'Pannage' was that food which the swine feed upon in the woods; also it was the money taken by the agistors or collectors for the food of hogs in the Kings forest.

Hasted from whose History of Kent the above is taken, considers the above Ernuf de Hesding to be the same person as Arnulf de Cilesfelda, who is also mentioned in Domesday in connection with the laths of Sutton and Ailesford.

This place afforded both seat and surname to his posterity, for the family of de Chelesfeld held the Manor for many generations. A Simon de Chelesfeld died about 1198, leaving three daughters and coheiresses; Alicia married to ...

Escollant; Lecia the wife of Philip de danmartin; and Sarah married to ...de Dine.

For the purpose of dividing Simon's estate the two following Fines were levied in the 9th year of King Richard I.

"Philip de Danmartin and Lecia his wife, grant to their nephew Thomas Escollant, son of Alicia, eldest daughter of Simon de Chelesfeld (and sister of the said Lecia) one hundred shillings rent in Chelesfeld, during the life of Juliana, the said Thomas, and his heirs shall hold as much of the land of Farningham as is within the parish of Horton, which Juliana holds in dower, as of the gift of her late husband Simon de Chelesfeld; and then the said hundred shillings rent in Chelesfeld shall revert to said Philip and Lecia and the heirs of the said Lecia. Moreover, the said Philip and Lecia grant to the said Thomas and his heirs one of the two Knight-fees which John de Godinton holds of the fee of the said Simon de Chelesfeld, viz half in Farnborough and half in Strood; and half a Knight-fee in Caldecote which the said Philip holds of the same fee; and the third part of a Knight-fee which Reginald Flemeng holds in Farnborough, to be received from the hands of the said Juliana during her life, being of her dower, and after her death, from the hands of the said Reginald and his heirs. For this the said Thomas and his heirs quitclaim to said Philip and Lecia, and the heirs of said Lecia, all the surplusage of his claim and Philip and Lecia give to said Thomas twelve marks". (Arch Cant. I.254).

"Philip de Danmartin and Lecia his wife grant to Philip de Dine, son of Sarah, daughter of Simon de Chelesfeld, six pounds rent in Chelesfeld, for the life of Juliana, mother of said Lecia de Chelesfeld, which after the death of said Juliana is to revert to said Philip de Danmartin and Lecia his wife, and the heirs of said Lecia. The said Philip de Dine and his heirs, to have all the land of Elme, which said Juliana has in dower. Moreover the said Philip de Danmartin and Lecia his wife grant to said Philip de Dine the service of one Knight, of the fee of John de Godinton, in Godinton; and the service of one Knight, of the fee of John de Berton, of the fee of said Simon. The marriage of Sarah the mother of the said Philip de Dine, in Hecham and Macstone; shall remain to said Philip. For this, the said Philip de Dine and his heirs quitclaim to Philip de Danmartin and Lecia his wife, and the heirs of said Lecia, all the surplusage of his claim; and the said Philip and Lecia give to Philip de Dine twenty marks". (Arch Cant I.258).

Simon de Chelesfeld m Juliana

^	^	^
Alicia de Chelesfeld	Lecia de Chelesfeld	Sarah de Chelesfeld
m	m	m
Escollant	Philip Danmartin	de Dine
^	^	^
Thomas Escollant		Philip de Dine

It is not clear how the Manor descended after the above partition, but we find that another Simon de Chilefeld, who was probably descended from Lecia, was assessed for his land at Chelsfield at the Knighting of the son of King Henry III in the year 1253 (Arch Cant X.157), and in 1278 had an allowance of a market to be held weekly in this Manor on a Monday. William de Chellesfeld in 1285 had a grant of a free warren for his lands here, and in Halstede, Shoreham, Nockholt, and East Hall in Orpington; he was Sheriff of Kent in the years 1287, 1288 & 1289, and in the list of Sheriffs is always described as being of Chelsfield, although he appears to have held land in several other parishes in the County.

Somewhere about the year 1290 the Manor passed from the family of de Chellesfeld to Otho de Grandison.

The de Chellesfelds continued to hold land in the parish, for in the 4th year of King Edward III (1311) a fine was levied "between William de Chelefeud and Agnes his wife. Plaintiffs; and Stephen de Chelefeud. Defendant of 1 messuage, 1 mill, 200 acres of land, 6 acres of mead, 20 acres of wood and 40s rent with appurts in Chelsfeud and Shoreham" (Arch Cant XI.340). This is the last reference to the family as landowners in Chelsfield, but they were owners of land in Canterbury in 1314; and one Richard de Chellesfeld a citizen of that City was a Member of the 11th Parliament of King Edward III. They also owned the Manor of Lullingstone up to 1368, when it was sold to John Peeche; but Margaret the widow of Stephen de Chellesfeld held it in dower until her death in 1375.

Otho de Grandison was a great favourite of King Edward I, having attended him to the Holy Land during the reign of his father Henry III. He obtained a license for a Market, and a fair on the feast of St. James the Apostle. Otho was succeeded by his brother William, married to Sibilla daughter of John

Tregoze, who was probably one of the Tregozes' of the Manor of Bewley in Boughton Malherb. William in turn was succeeded by his third son Otho. This Otho de Grandison was married to Beatrix daughter and coheir of Nicholas Malmain of the manor of Old Fawkeham alias Ashe Fawkeham (Hast-Fawkham). Otho was Knight of the Shire for Kent in 1332; and Conservator Pacis, or Justice of the Peace, and according to Hasted he was appointed Constable of Dover Castle in the 29th King Edward III. The Book of Aid states that he paid for this Manor at the Knighting of the Black Prince, and also for land in the parishes of Ash, Fawkham, and Kemsing; probably for these latter parishes by the right of his wife. He died in 1358, having been created Lord Grandison. By his Will he desired that if he should die in Chelsfield he should be buried in St. Johns Chapel, and some of the Histories of the County state that he was so buried. Otho was succeeded by his son Sir Thomas who died possessed of this Manor in 1377 leaving no issue.

Pierre de Granson m Agnes da of Ulhic ct of Newfehantil
d 31.8.1263 g.s. of Ebal IV Sq ch Granson

William de Grandeson
m. Siblilla d. of John Tregoze

Otho de Grandeson

Peter de Grandison
m Blanche d Roger
Mortimer 1st E. March
beheaded 1330

John de Grandison
Bishop of Exeter

Otho de Grandison Agnes de G
m Beatrix d. of
Nicholad Malmain

Thomas de Grandison
m Margaret died
without issue 1377

According to Hasted, although both Philipott, and Harris in their Histories of Kent give another account, the Manor in 1398 had become the property of Phillipa, granddaughter of Sir Guy Bryan the son and heir of Lord Bryan. She was the widow of John Devereux, but then the wife of Sir Henry Scroope of Masham. She died in 1406, leaving her sister Elizabeth, wife of Robert Lovel her heir to this and other manors.

This Manor, and the advowson of the Church of Chelsfield was afterwards possessed by James Boteler, Earl of Wiltshire, a staunch Lancastrian. He was taken prisoner by the Yorkists in the battle of Tontonfield fought in 1461, and was afterwards beheaded; all his estates having been forfeited to the Crown probably several years before his death.

The Crown then granted this Manor to Robert Poynings, son of Lord Poynings, who possibly was a descendant of Sir Guy Bryan mentioned above, and perhaps each holder of this Manor from Phillipa the granddaughter of Sir Guy to the Earl of Essex the next to succeed, were united by ties of blood (See Collins' Peerage II.370). Robert Poynings was killed at the battle of St.Albans(1455), upon which the Manor again returned to the Crown. An account of this forfeiture is given in the Paston Letters (Vol II.Letter 593-1900 Ed) where a letter from Elizabeth Poynings his widow, who was a Paston, to her nephew Sir John Paston states; "And for the Manors of Esthall, Fawkham, Asslie, and Chelsfield with th' appurtenaunts in the said shire of Kent whereof my hysband at his departur was seassed, and my sons sethens, until the time that the Earl of Kent, without any inquisition or title of right for the Kyng, by colour of the Kynges lettres patente entret unto thym, and hym thereof put owte, and now my Lord of Essex occupieth them in lyke maner and forme, yf eny remedy therein be hade. I pray yow attempt hit".

Mr.Cooper in an article entitled 'John Cade's followers in Kent' (Arch Cant VII.243) states that Robert Poynings uncle of the Countess of Northumberland, and Cades 'Carver and sword bearer' led a riot at Westerham in 1453. A note to the above informs us that there is a writ dated 1454 among the miscellanea of the Exchequer commanding the Sheriff of Kent to sieze the possessions of Robert Poynings Esq. It is quite evident from this and from facts given further on in these notes relating to Robert Colynson, Rector, that Robert Poynings was a man with a treasonable character.

It seems that Sir John Paston found no remedy, for in 1475 Henry, Lord Viscount Bouchier, and Earl of Essex was in possession. The Crown having granted him the Manor in consideration of his services, his wife Isabel being the Kings aunt. In the 25th year of King Henry VI he was advanced to the dignity of Viscount Bouchier. Notwithstanding his being a fast friend to the house of York, he was in the 33rd year of the above reign constituted Lord Treasurer of England, as he was again by King Edward IV on his 1st & 14th years; and by

letters patent advanced to the dignity of Earl of Essex. He died in 1482, and was succeeded by his grandson Henry Bouchier.

Henry Bouchier was of the Privy Council to King Henry VII, and was much esteemed by that King, and by Henry VIII. In 1540 he was killed by a fall from his horse at his Manor of Easse in Hertfordshire. He left an only daughter and heir Ann, married to Lord Parre of Kendal, afterwards Earl of Essex and Marquis of Northampton; but this marriage was afterwards annulled by Act of Parliament.

About the year 1542 it passed by sale to James Walsingham who was probably of Scadbury in the parish of Chislehurst. It was held by this family for only a short time, for Sir Edmund Walsingham son of the above James in 1549 sold it to Robert Gyles.

Robert Gyles was a member of the family of Giles of Shelwich in this County, in which place they had lived for many years, and they were also of Challock. The Manor continued in this family until the reign of James I, when it was passed away by sale to Captain Henry Lee of London.

The earliest Rental of this Manor, still in existence, dated 1612 gives Thomas Austen, by right of his wife, as Lord of the Manor. No description of the wife is given, but probably she was a Gyles, and the last of her family.

Captain Henry Lee according to recitals in a deed dated 1657 was in his lifetime not only seised of this Manor, but also of other lands in the parish, which upon his death descended to Henry Lee his son and heir. Henry the younger died without issue; whereupon the Manor and other property descended to his six sisters.

Rebecca Clerke wife of Sergeant Clerke (Sergeant-at-Law) in her own right, and by the purchase of four of her sisters shares, was entitled to five sixths of the estate; and Thomas Norton held the remaining sixth part by the purchase of the share of Sarah Worshop widow, also one of the six sisters. Upon an Arbitration between Sergeant Clerke and Thomas Norton as to the division of this and various other properties, it was awarded that the whole of the Chelsfield estate should be vested in Thomas Norton.

The Nortons were of Offley in Essex; one Luke Norton married Lettice the daughter and heir of George Graveley of that place (Clutterbucks Hist. of Essex). This accounts for the name of Graveley Norton who succeeded to the Manor upon the death of the above Thomas. Graveley Norton in 1666 married Anne the eldest daughter of one Nicholas Hughes of Bromley; and upon this marriage the Manor, the Court Lodge, and part of the present Hewetts farm were settled. She died in 1719, and Graveley Norton in 1728; both being buried at Chelsfield.

Their son Thomas Norton of Cliffords Inn then came into the estate under the above settlement; he having married in 1707 Elizabeth Nurse of Stepney. There is a monument in St. John's Chapel to their memory, which states that Thomas died on May 8th 1749 aged 80 years and 6 months, and that his wife Elizabeth died May 2nd 1746 aged 57 years. They were both buried in the Church. This Thomas Norton left no children; and by his Will devised "my body to be put into a Good Oake Coffin with a Good thick Lead therein and to be buried in the South Isle in the parish Church of Chelsfield amongst the rest of my Family and as near my Dear Wife as possible may be and that there be no escutchrons nor Pall Bearers nor the Pulpit Hung with Mourning and my Body to be carried to the Ground by Six poor men of the said parish to whom I direct Ten shillings apiece to be paid to them for their trouble and to be attended to the Ground by two or three of my servants". He left the Manor and the Court Lodge House with the farm attached to it, consisting of some 414 acres to his sister-in-law's son Henry Martin, who was therefore no relation to the testator. The remainder of his property was willed to his sister-in-law Mrs. Mayhew for life, with remainder to her daughter Mrs. Catherine Saunders, as described further on in these notes. The Advowsons of Chelsfield and Farnborough he directed to be sold, and thus the patronage to these livings were severed from the Manor.

Henry Martin was an Official in the Bank of England, and only held the Manor for a short time, for in 1759 he sold it to James Maud. He appears to have passed the remainder of his life at Hampton-Wick, for upon his death his body was brought from that place to be buried at Chelsfield on December 2nd 1779.

James Maud of Crutched Friars in London was a wealthy Wine Merchant, and was about sixty three years of age when he purchased this property, which he held for about ten years. He died at Gatton in Surrey, but was buried at Chelsfield on August the 4th 1769. He left an only daughter Mary who was

married here on August 2nd 1768 to the Rev^d John Tattersall of Gatton, and this probably accounts for her father dying at that place. The Rev^d John Tattersall died soon after, and his widow on February 5th 1772 married Alderman Brass Crosby, and they according to the Court Rolls were Lord and Lady of the Manor.

Mrs. Tattersall was Brass Crosby's third wife; the first was the widow of a Mr. Walraven; the second the widow of a Mr. Coombes; all being rich women. Upon the occasion of his last marriage, one of the morning papers announced this event as follows "This morning Mr. Brass Crosby, one of the Alderman of this City, was married to Mrs. Tatters---all. So he is come to rags at last". Mr. Crosby was much amused with this whimsical notice, and good humouredly remarked that it was true enough; adding "the rags I got however are a jointure of £1000 a year, £25,000 in the funds, and the Manor of Chelsfield (Memoir of Brass Crosby).

Brass Crosby was a remarkable man, born May 8th 1725 at Stockton on Tees, the son of Hercules Crosby who had married Mary Brass. He was brought up as an Attorney. Coming to London, he was in 1758 elected to the Common Council for the Tower Ward; he served the Office of Sheriff in 1764; and was elected Alderman for the Bread Street Ward in the year 1765; eventually becoming Lord Mayor in 1770. In 1772 he was chosen president of Bethlehem Hospital, and governor of the Irish Society in 1785. He represented Honiton in Parliament from 1768-1774, and it is in this connection that he became mostly famous.

In 1770 the year of Crosby's Mayoralty, one Colonel Onslow complained to the House of Commons of the breach of privilege committed by the printers of certain newspapers in printing the parliamentary debates. The printers were ordered to attend the House, but failing to do so; whereupon they were taken into custody by a messenger of the House. Being brought before the Lord Mayor Crosby the messenger was committed for assault and false imprisonment; but the printers were released. The Lord Mayor was ordered to the House of Commons to attend in his place; which he accordingly did. He defended the action he had taken by arguing that no Warrant, or attachment might be executed within the City of London, but by the ministers of the same City of London; and he was eventually committed to the Tower. The indignation of the people could hardly be restrained, and public addresses poured in from all parts of the Country thanking Crosby for his most courageous conduct. (Dic. Nat. Biog & Surtees Hist. of Durham).

Brass Crosby lived at the Court Lodge, and his signature appears in the Churchwardens books as signing the assessment for the Church rate in 1790; and in the year 1774 there is an entry in the same book as follows "To Mr. Crosby the third part for building ye first wall between the Churchyard and his Garden £11.8.0". He died on February the 14th 1793, and was buried in the Church in the same grave as James Maud, and on the gravestone it is stated that he was a Citizen, Goldsmith, and Alderman of Breadstreet Ward. There is also a Memorial to him on the North Wall of the Church which was erected to his memory by his surviving sisters; Susannah married to Cuthbert Sharpe Esq., of Sunderland; Elizabeth married to Wm. Brooks Esq of Kingsland; and Jane who married 1st Vinus Hodgkinson Esq, 2nd A. Logan Esq of Durham (Memoir of Brass Crosby Esq). His name also appears on the Maud tablet on the south wall.

His widow Mary Crosby died in 1800, and was buried with her father and second husband. By her Will she left the Manor of Chelsfield, with the Court Lodge House, and all her lands to her cousins George and Francis Morland, as Tenants in Common.

In 1806 George Morland bought his brother Francis' moiety for the sum of £4,000, and thus became seised of the whole. George as his monument tells us was a man who did much public work. In the year 1811 upon the marriage of his niece Elizabeth Elvy with Robert Cranford of Leatherhead he settled the Manor together with the house and farm upon the trusts that he should retain them for his life, then to his wife Frances if she should survive him; with remainder to Robert Cranford and Elizabeth Elvy. The latter was not only his neice and heiress, but probably lived with him; as she is described in the marriage settlement as of the Court Lodge, Chelsfield. The Elvy's came from Westwood near Faversham.

George Morland died in 1814 at the age of 81 years, and was buried at Chelsfield; and Frances his wife in 1817 aged 66, being buried here also.

Robert Cranford resided at the Court Lodge, and took some interest in local affairs, being Churchwarden in the years 1832, and 1833, and again from 1839 to 1843; Overseer in 1817, and the Guardian of the Poor in 1837.

In 1844 Robert Cranford sold the Manor and the rest of his Chelsfield estate to Thomas Waring of Hewetts who held it until his death in 1851, he being buried in the Family Vault close to the principal entrance gate of the Churchyard. He was succeeded by his only surviving son William Waring of Woodlands who held the Manor for fifty three years; dying in 1904, he was buried in his reserved burial ground on the north side of the Church. William Waring was followed by his eldest surviving son Arthur Thomas Waring.

Having traced the various owners of this Manor from Odo, Bishop of Baieux, the half brother of William the Conqueror down to the present time; it is proposed to give a short description of the Tenures and Customs of the Manor; of the formalities attending the holding of Courts Baron, and a list of the principal properties within the parish of Chelsfield owing Service to the Manor.

The present Lord of the Manor has the Court Rolls dating from 1612 to 1859; the earlier ones having been lost. These Rolls as their name suggests, were Rolls of parchment about ten inches wide, and extending to great length, to as much as thirty two and half feet in the year 1773. These Rolls were the Records of the Manor, and upon them were written the Presentments of the Homage, or Jury, on matters affecting the Manor, and the general business done at the Courts Baron; and one dated 1717 contains no less than ninety five such Presentments.

From these Rolls the Customs and Tenures of the Manor can be gathered. They were sometimes written in Latin, but more often in English during later years.

These Courts were conducted in a most formal manner, and in a very similar way to Courts of Justice; everything being done according to custom or precedent. They were always held within the boundaries of the Manor, and until quite recent years at the Court Lodge House, which in all the Early Court Rolls is called the Manor House. It would seem that these Courts were held at intervals, and not yearly; although the Quit Rents were collected every year. These Quit Rents were annual charges upon the owners of land within the Manor, payable in token of subjection, and varied much in amount; two or three pounds being paid for a farm, and only a penny or so for a cottage.

The Steward of the Manor, who was generally a lawyer, presided over the proceedings, and appears to have had the power of administering an oath.

The Court was opened by the Bailiff, who was an Officer of the Manor, making a Proclamation calling all persons who owed suit and service to the Lord to appear and give attendance. The next business was the 'essoigne' or 'Essoin' from the french word 'excuser' to excuse. This was the examining of the excuses of the Tenants, or Freeholders, of the Manor for not attending to perform suit at the Court Baron by reason of sickness, infirmity, or other just cause. The names of those who were thus excused were duly entered on the Roll, as can be seen in the photographs of the Rolls for the years 1652 and 1717.

The Homage, or Jury, consisting of Tenants of the Manor was then sworn, and up to the end of the 18th century always consisted of twelve men, but afterwards the number was less. Like a Grand Jury the Foreman first took the oath, and then the remainder.

The Homage being sworn the Steward charged them, and in doing so he had to call their attention to any possible advantages to the Lord by reason of any Reliefs payable on the death of a Tenant, or otherwise by the Custom of the Manor, or by reason of any Escheats occasioned by the death of any of the Freehold tenants without leaving heirs inheritable to their lands; or in consequence of the forfeiture of freehold lands by any felonious act; or any treasure trove, or other Manorial franchises. He had also to direct them to inquire whether any boundary stones, or other landmarks between this Manor and any other manor, or between the lands of any of the free tenants may have been removed; and whether any encroachments may have been made upon the Wastes of the Lord, or upon the commonable rights of such tenants; and of any breach of the Lords' pound; and whether the several persons who owed suit and service to the Court had duly attended to render and perform the same; and by whom any default might have been made, and to set a reasonable amercement, or fine, on any such defaulters; and generally to inquire of all rights, and of all offences both by commission and omission as between the Lord and the Freehold-tenants of the Manor; and as between Tenant and Tenant with reference particularly to any existing law established by the Custom of the Manor.

The Homage then proceeded to inquire into such of the above matters as were brought before them, and made their Presentments upon the same. Nearly all the Court Rolls show that their first Presentment related to defaulting tenants, that is to say, those that had been summoned to attend the Court, but had failed to do so, and were not on the 'Essoigne'. In almost every case these absentees were amerced, or fined, twelve pence. In the year 1739 the Rev. Michael Petty the then Rector of Chelsfield was thus amerced for non attendance, and his name appears in the Court Roll.

The great majority of Presentments related to Reliefs that had become payable to the Lord on the death of a tenant; or on the sale, or other alienation of a property by a tenant during his lifetime. A Relief was a certain sum of money; and was in this Manor the amount of one years quit rent; therefore by the Custom of the Manor an extra years rent by the name of a relief was paid upon every death or sale. The Custom was challenged at every Court Baron from the year 1739 to 1828; but upon every occasion the Homage presented that they could not on their oath say whether one years quite rent was, or was not, due to the Lord on every death or alienation; but as a fact the Reliefs were paid during the whole of this time, and it must be presumed that the Custom was good. From these Presentments at succeeding Courts we are enabled to follow the changes of ownership in the various farms and properties in the parish during the past three hundred years; and also to trace the names of places and houses no longer known by their old names.

Hewetts, Goddington, and Norstead, are small Manors in this parish; but from the court Rolls of Chelsfield Manor it appears that they in the whole, or in part, owed service to Chelsfield Manor, for they are constantly presented as liable for a Relief, and thus it would seem that Chelsfield was the Paramount Manor.

In 1814 the Homage presented that the then Lord had granted to one Edward Basset a piece of Waste on Green-Street-Green to build a Cottage; and also to one George Cope a piece of the waste at Pratts Bottom for a similar purpose. The Homage decided to enquire whether these grants were according to the Custom of the Manor. It is impossible to say what their decision was, as no further mention is made of the matter; but it is interesting to note that unauthorised enclosures of waste land was carefully watched even in those days.

The Homage also presented in 1814 an encroachment by a Mr. Taylor on the Waste at Greenstreet Green by building a cart-lodge; and again in 1828 that a man and his wife had made a trespass and encroachment on the same Waste by erecting a hut or tent, and fencing in a part of the Lords' Waste. In this latter case the Bailiff of the Manor was ordered to pull down and remove the same. These encroachments were commonly made in more ancient times without any notice being taken; and this will account for the small houses now found with only a few feet of land attached to them.

In the years 1814, 1821, and 1828 Presentments were made that it had been the Custom from time immemorial for the Bailiff to collect for the use of the Lord, on the holding of the Fair at Chelsfield one penny from the owner of each booth.

Presentments were made in 1821, 1828 and 1842 that a person or persons unknown had dug gravel and turf at Greenstreet Green on the Waste of the Lord, and they were fined by the Homage in the sum of six shillings and eight pence; but it does not appear that these fines were ever collected, or that the culprits were found. In the year 1773 a very similar Presentment was made as regards lopping a pollard oak, when the fine was also six shillings and eight pence, and probably the result was the same.

We have been only able to find one reference in the Court Rolls to 'Escheats', an escheat was the casual descent, in the nature of forfeiture, of lands and tenements within the Manor to the Lord; either on the failure of issue on the tenant dying, or on account of the felony of such tenant (Jacobs Law Dict.). The single case was in the year 1739, when it was presented that the 'George Inn' at Farnborough had escheated to the Lord. Probably the matter ended here, as this property paid a Relief on several occasions afterwards.

The 'Lords Pound' was the place where cattle were put when found trespassing; if the owner took away the cattle after they were impounded, he committed 'Pound breach', and was liable to pay treble damages. The only reference to the Pound in the Court Rolls is to be found in that for the year 1717, when the Homage presented that it was in need of repair. Probably many still living remember the Pound that stood at the end of the shrubbery on the west side of the Church Green, and opening into the public road.

On the Court being discharged at the end of the business, the Bailiff made a Proclamation stating that all persons who had appeared at the Court could then depart, but warning them that they would have "to keep their day and hour on a new summons", which meant that they would have to attend at the next Court Baron.

As already stated the Manor of Chelsfield was very extensive, and ran into several parishes, but as these Notes refer to Chelsfield alone, it is only proposed to give the principal properties in this parish that owed Service to the Lord; viz Lillies, Norsted, Goddington, The Glebe, Hewetts, Gilman Brimstone, Cacketts, Hempstalls, Pickets (at Greenstreet Green), Osbornes, Washners or Washneast, Simons Hawe, Fairtrough, Little Fairtrough, Bucks Cross, Fax (formerly a separate property), a part of Skidhill, and Greenstreet Green Farm (now called Chelsfield Hall). Besides these there were many smaller holdings and tenements within the Manor; practically the whole of the parish.

The Manor of Hewetts

The Manor of Hewetts is very small in extent, consisting chiefly of lands and tenements round the Manor House, with the addition of some at Well Hill, and some at Pratts Bottom near the 'Bull Head Inn', including that house.

In 1318 it was owned by one Jeffry de Hewat, and afterwards it passed into the family of the Petleys of Down, and was in their possession in the year 1409. (See Hasted Hist. Kent).

The earliest Court Roll in existence is dated the 8th year of King Henry VIII (1517), and relates not only to Hewetts, but also to the Manors of Halstedd and Hever. Sir Robert Shefflyd and Lady Ann his wife being the Lord and Lady of the Manors. A Sir Robert Sheffield was Speaker of the House of Commons from 1512 to 1515, and it is stated in the Dictionary of National Biography that his second wife was named Ann, but no surname is given. The second Roll dated 10th Henry VIII (1519) which also related to the above three Manors, commences "At the Court Baron held there for Thomas Howard Earl of Surrey, and the Admiral of England his joint feoffer to the use of Lady Anne Sheffield widow not long since the wife of Thomas Bourghchier Knt".

Thomas Bourghchier, Archbishop of Canterbury who died in 1486 left his Manor of Halstead to his nephew Thomas Bourghchier.

Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, afterwards became the 2nd Duke of Norfolk, and was the well known Earl during the various reigns from Edward IV to Henry VIII. He married as his second wife Elizabeth the widow of Humphrey Bouchier, who was the son of John Lord Berners. The Admiral of England was the son of the Earl of Surrey, and afterwards succeeded as the 3rd Duke of Norfolk (Collins' Peerage I.75-79). Thus it is evident that there were close family ties between Lady Ann Sheffield and the Earl of Surrey.

From a Deed in our possession, which is much worn and torn (see pp.136 & 139) it appears that about the year 1522 one Lord John Grey and Dame Anne his wife sold the Manors of Halstede, Hewet, and Hever to William Petley of (torn) Courte. We have been unable to trace with any certainty this Lord John

and Dame Anne. A Lord John Grey was the fifth son of the first Marquess of Dorset who died in the year 1501. The Greys were connected by marriage with the Bouchiers (See Burkes Dort & Ext Peerages & Haxt His. Kent I. LXXII). We have been unable to find any other evidence as to how these Manors passed from Lady Sheffield to the Greys. It would therefore seem that the account given by Hasted under the Manor of Halstead is incorrect; and that William Petley acquired them by purchase, and not through his marriage with Aloye Bouchier - as stated by Hasted. We much doubt whether this Manor was ever possessed by the Petleys before this date; possibly the William Petley of Chelsfield mentioned by Hasted as being in possession of this Manor in the year 1409, owned other lands in this parish, either Gilman Brimstone, or Bucks Cross, or both, and was 'Tenant of the Manor'.

William Petley was succeeded by his eldest son Stephen, who resided at Halstead in the year 1528. Stephen died about 1547 and was succeeded by his eldest son Thomas who died in 1553.

In 1590 another Thomas Petley was Lord of the Manor; but in 1612 one Edward Petley was in possession. Probably this was the Edward who passed away the Manor to Thomas Petley of Filston in the parish of Shoreham as described in Hasteds History, since the Chelsfield Court Roll states that Edward had alieneed the Manor of Hewetts to one Thomas Petley.

In 1664 the Manor and farm called Little Hewetts alias Hewetts Gosse were separated from the Manor House and so much of the land as laid on the west of the House. These latter being sold by Edward Petley's Trustees to Richard Jewell of Cudham. In 1732 John Jewell of Nutfield sold this portion of Hewetts to Robert Allen of Chelsfield, who by his Will dated 1742 left Hewetts to his sons Robert and Stephen. In 1753 Stephen Allen sold his moiety to Robert. Robert by Will dated 1761 left it to his daughter Grace, who in 1768 sold it to James Rondeau of London, a Cornfactor.

Little Hewetts consisted of Coneyearth Wood, and the land on the east of the House, amounting to some eighty acres of land. This with the Manor remained in the Petley family, and according to the Court Rolls was owned by various Ralph Petleys up to the year 1751. Ralph Petley of Riverhead was in possession in 1747, he being succeeded by Charles Petley, who was Lord of the Manor in 1762.

Ralph Robert Carter Petley and John Petley, both of Riverhead, jointly owned the Manor in 1775; but in 1783 a Deed of Partition of all their lands was executed, by which R R C Petley took this Manor, and the farm known as Hewetts Gosse as his share. He died in 1789, and his widow Elizabeth appears to have managed the estate, and to have acted as Lady of the Manor for some years, probably on behalf of her son Charles Carter Petley.

In 1826 C C Petley conveyed the Manor of Hewetts with Hewetts Gosse farm to the trustees of the late John Fuller, who by his Will had already settled the Hewetts Mansion House in which he lived, and the land belonging to it, and which he had purchased from John Rondeau in the year 1781, in trust for his daughter Sarah, the wife of Thomas Waring, and her issue. Thus the Manor, the Manor House, and all the land again became united in the same ownership.

Sarah Waring held the Manor until her death in 1842, when she was succeeded by her son William Waring, and upon his death in 1904 he was followed by his eldest surviving son Arthur Thomas Waring.

As already stated the earliest Court Roll of this Manor in existence, is dated 8th year of King Henry VIII (1517), and relates to the Manors of Halstead and Hewetts; and those between the years 1519 and 1545 to the Manors of Halstead, Hewetts, and Hever.

The Courts Baron appear to have been held in a similar manner to those for the Manor of Chelsfield, but there are differences in the Customs and Tenures. The Relief in Hewetts was only a third, or a fourth part of the yearly quit-rent, whereas in Chelsfield it was a whole year's rent. The quit-rent in Hewetts Manor was not only a monetary payment, but often was discharged in kind, or by work done. In the year 1517 one Henry Morecock had to pay two shillings, deliver six hens and fifty eggs, besides having to cut two acres of corn, and to find two men for the Lords hay harvest every year. One Henry Hybben paid yearly three shillings and four pence, eight hens, eighty eggs, and to cut three acres of corn, besides finding two plough shares or pay two shillings. This kind of quit-rent continued down to the year 1853 when the writers father, had he not been the Lord of the Manor, would have been liable for the yearly payment of one penny halfpenny, one hen and ten eggs for Mount Hall, and at the present time the parish of Chelsfield is liable for the yearly payment of nine pence and one hen for Osbornes.

In Chelsfield Manor there is no Heriot, but in Hewetts there is a Heriot due both on the death of a tenant, or on his selling the property during his lifetime. A 'Heriot' is a tribute or fine payable to the Lord of the Manor on the above occasions, and is the best beast, whether it be horse, ox, or cow that the tenant possesses (Jacobs Law Dic). When an animal had been seized it was frequently compounded for by a money payment. The writer has the original of the following receipt given to his great great grandmother "March 17th 1775 Rec^d then of Mrs. Mary Fuller executrix of John Fuller her late husband by the hands of Thomas Fuller his brother for a Horse seized and due to me for a Heriot on the death of Jn^o Fuller for a Tenement & Orchard called Wildhill House situated & laying in my Manor of Hewetts by Composition five guineas £5.5.0 R Petley".

If there was no living animal on the property then a dead Heriot was taken, which in this Manor was three shillings and six pence. There are many examples of these different payments to be found in the Rolls of the Manor. In 1666 there was paid "to the Lord for a Heriot twenty shillings by composition with the Lord and to him paid". Also there "happened to the Lord for a Heriot one black gelding value £4". In 1678 there "happened to the Lord a dead Heriot of 3/6d because there was no live beast". In 1731 "there happened to the Lord of this Manor for a Heriot a cow and that 10/6d was paid for a composition". These Heriots were seized continuously down to the year 1859.

As a rule the Presentments at the Courts Baron of this Manor related to the ordinary changes of ownership, but there are several both interesting and instructive; thus in 1517 "The Homage present that William Petley farmer (Tenant?) of this Manor destroyed divers walls with cowhouse for cows and pigs around the house of the Manor to the great injury to the Lord of the said Manor, therefore he is ordered to amend before the next Court under a penalty of a hundred shillings".

The same William Petley is also presented for cutting down some hundreds of oak and ash trees growing on the Manor, and making coal (charcoal) which he sold to his own use, and that he plundered the underwood to the injury of the Lord. The results of all these misdeeds are not recorded, for "the inquiry was adjourned until the next Court for the better inquiry". The next Roll dated two years later makes no mention of the matter, therefore probably these matters were settled out of Court.

In the year 1540 it is presented "that John Michell of Chelsfield hunted on the Land of the Lord and killed and carried away Rabbits of the Lord with snares and nets", and that Robert Lamb, William Fletcher, and Thomas Grygg committed the same offence; but no penalty is stated in either case.

It is presented in 1545 that a hedge between land belonging to one Henry Hibbens, and the Lord's land was defective through the default of one Edward Giblett farmer; by which the wood of the Lord called Hewett Gosse was destroyed. Therefore on account of this the offender was amerced.

The Rolls of this Manor never state where the Courts Baron were held; but in two Leases dated 1812 and 1814 respectively there are Covenants by which the Tenants of Hewett Gosse farm undertook to provide Mrs. Elizabeth Petley, the then Lady of the Manor, and those with her, with a good and sufficient Dinner of meat and drink; and also good and sufficient Horsemeat for the horses when and as often as a Court of the Manor of Hewetts should be holden.

The Manor of Goddington

This Manor was anciently one of the seats of a family of the same name, who had another Mansion at Great Chart in this County, also called Godington.

The earliest mention of this Manor that the writer has been able to find was in the year 1254, when Henr Alayn de Codintone of Chelesfelde as a holder of a fee in Kent had to contribute at the Knighting of the son of Henry III (Arch Cant XII.237).

Simon de Godynton held this place in the reign of Edward I, and his descendant William, son of John de Godynton paid aid for this Manor at the Knighting of the Black Prince in 1347. (Arch Cant X.157).

Alan de Godynton was in possession of it in 1401, and paid aid for it on the marriage of the Kings (Henry IV) eldest daughter.

When the above family became extinct it passed into the family of Poynings; and it would appear that at this time the Manors of Chelsfield and Goddington were in the same ownership. A Robert Poynings dying possessed of it in 1470, was succeeded by his son Edward, who became a distinguished soldier, being a Privy Councillor, Governor of Dover Castle, Knight of the Garter, and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. He died in 1522 without living issue, and his estates escheated to the Crown.

The Manor then passed to the family of Haddon, one of whom possessed it about the middle of the reign of King Henry VIII. This family was of some account, as may appear by their arms, which was registered in the old rolls and ordinances of Kent Armory, always with this addition, 'Haddon of Kent', and sometimes of 'Goddington' in Kent (Philipot III). They do not seem to have resided in the parish, as the name does not appear in the Church Register; but that is accounted for, as the Haddons of Goddington had a seat at St. Mary Cray, and probably lived there (Hist. Hist. Kent). The Chelsfield Manorial Roll for the year 1612 records that Thomas Haddon had died possessed of Goddington previous to that year, and that his widow was then in possession. The Roll for 1652 gives Alexander the son of the above Thomas as the owner; and that for 1674 also gives an Alexander Haddon as being in possession. Possibly the latter who died in 1711, was the son of the former.

It next came into the possession of the family of Styles. One James Styles being the owner in 1701, and who was buried at Chelsfield in 1708. He was succeeded by his son John, who also was buried here in 1726. John Styles appears to have died without leaving any issue, as he was followed by his great niece Mary Aynscomb, who was the great granddaughter of James Styles who died as stated above in 1708. These facts are set out in an old deed dated 1733, and which deed relates to another property in Chelsfield.

Mary Aynscomb was succeeded by her daughter Mary who was baptized here in 1770, being described in the Register as the daughter of James and Mary Aynscombe. Mary was married in 1787 to James Harris of this parish. This marriage also appears in the register which sets out that she being a minor the marriage was solemnized with the consent of Mary Aynscomb widow, natural and lawful mother of the said minor.

The Manor remained in the Harris family until the year 1871, when it was sold to Henry B Hohler of Fawkham Manor in this County, but he only held it for a short time, passing it by sale to George Hallett.

George Hallett died in 1873, and left the property by Will to his sister Miss Hallett. She entirely rebuilt the House, which has since been much improved and enlarged by Alexander Miller Hallett the present owner, to whom it was given by Miss Hallett during her lifetime.

According to Hasted a Court Baron was held for this Manor. The Relief being the fourth part of a years quit-rent, and a Heriot being the best beast belonging to the tenant.

We have in our possession a Summons to the Court Baron to be held "at the Manor House called Goddington", and a Receipt for a Quit-rent; both bearing the date 1782. In each of them the Manor is described as "Gouldington otherwise Goddington".

The Manor of Norsted

Norsted is another small manor of Chelsfield, and extends into the parishes of Cudham and Farnborough.

It originally belonged to Otho de Grandison who has already been mentioned as owning the Manor of Chelsfield. He sold it to Simon de Francis a wealthy citizen and mercer of London, who served in Parliament for that City in the 12th year of the reign of Edward III(1339), and was so wealthy that when the King borrowed 20,000 marcs off the citizens for his expedition into France, he lent him £800, a great sum in those days. He was Lord Mayor of London in the year 1341, and died in 1359 seised of this Manor, and other great estates in London and the County of Middlesex.

About the beginning of Henry IV reign this family was extinct here, and this Manor had come into the possession of Uvedall, or Udall, a family of note, and owners of much land in Surrey, Sussex, and Hampshire, in the former of which they chiefly resided. William Udall who was afterwards sheriff of Sussex and Surrey conveyed the Manor to John Shelly of Hall Place Bexley in 1428. John Shelly died in 1441, and was succeeded by his son William Shelly, who about the latter end of Henry VIII reign sold it to John Lennard of Chevening;

whose grandson Henry Lennard, Lord Dacre, conveyed it in the beginning of King James I reign to Lady Wolrich. The Chelsfield Manorial Roll for 1612 gives Mr. Woolridge as the tenant of Norsted, but probably this is a mistake for Lady Wolrich who was the true tenant.

Lady Wolriche upon her decease in the time of Charles I settled it on her kinsman Mr. Skeggs of Huntingdonshire, but according to the Chelsfield Roll for 1652 one Bridgett Doyley, wife of Robert Doyley, had this Manor for life; the reversioner being John Skeggs; and probably this John was the Mr. Skeggs of Huntingdonshire mentioned above.

In 1674 John Skeggs was dead, and had been succeeded by Thomas Skeggs who died in 1717 aged 85 years, and was buried inside Chelsfield Church. He was followed by his son also named Thomas who only held the Manor for a few years, and he also was buried inside the Church in 1722. A third Thomas Skeggs was succeeded by a fourth Thomas who held this Manor jointly with his brother John. Upon John Skegg's death his brother took the whole estate, and sold it to Geofrey Le Farrant of Widmore near Bromley in the year 1784.

Geofrey Le Farrant left an only daughter, Margaret, married to George Bensted, who in 1795 took the surname of Farrant. In 1842 Sir George Farrant Knt. was in possession, but he had been succeeded by George Brinestead Farrant in 1848, who sold the property and Manor to the Lord Derby in 1876 for about £26,000. The Lord Derby in again sold the estate to Schwier.

The Church

Mr. Leland Duncan in an article on our Church published in our Parish Magazine for the year 1895, expresses the opinion that there was no Church at Chelsfield in 1084, the year in which Domesday Book is supposed to have been made. One was very soon afterwards built, and the nave walls of the present building date from that time. Two little Norman windows yet remaining. According to Rickman in his book on architecture it is principally Early English in character. Glynne in his Churches of Kent states it to be essentially a First Pointed Church, he also says that the Tower is decidedly First Pointed style with lancets, and opens by a plain arch to the Nave. Mr. Leland Duncan also states that early in the 13th Century extensive works were carried out here, and the Church then took the form in which we now see it. To this period belongs the Tower, with its deeply splayed windows, and the Chancel. The east window is a very good example of the early English triple lancet, shafted and banded with good caps and bases. The little south chapel also appears to have been erected at the same time. In the 15th Century several new windows were introduced, the two light windows on the south side of the chancel, and the eastern window of the south aisle belong to this period (Leland Duncan).

I think we may take it that there was a Church here in the 11th century, which was very extensively altered in the 13th century, with a further addition of windows in the 15th century.

The Tower occupies a peculiar position being on the north side of the Nave, instead of over the crossing, or at the west end as is usual, but several other churches in Kent occupy the same peculiar position (Arch. Cant. XIV. 145).

St. John's Chapel is separated from the Nave by two low pointed arches dissimilar in character, that on the east springing from a circular shaft attached to the pier (Glynnes Churches of Kent. 130).

The Church is dedicated to St. Martin, although most of the Kentish Histories give St. Mary. There can be no doubt upon this point even in early days, as St. Martin is mentioned in several old Wills, including that of Alice Bray dated 1509.

One of the most attractive features of the Church is the 'Squint window' between the present Vestry and the Chancel, which was only discovered, and opened out, in the year 1893 when the Vestry was built. This Vestry turned out to be a rebuilding of an old building that had been removed and forgotten. In getting out the ground for the foundations, the foundations of an old structure running six feet deep were discovered. These foundations followed nearly the same lines as those of our new building (Parish Mag.1893). There is a diversity of opinion as to why these windows were built; and they are variously called Squints, Haqioscopes, and Leper windows. They are found in various positions in Churches, generally on one or both sides of the Chancel arch, but sometimes in porches, side chapels, and other places. One suggestion is that they were made for the purpose of enabling persons in the aisles, or transepts, to see the elevation of the Host at the High Altar. Another that where they occur in porches etc. that they were used by the Acolyte appointed to ring the Sanctus bell. A third that the Lepers, or other diseased persons, who knelt outside the Church witnessed the elevation of the Host at the Altar, and through them received the Holy Communion, or made outer Confession (Arch.Cant.V.18: VII.70; IX.236 & Notes & Queries 1850). It may be that the old building that stood on the site of the present Vestry was a Leper Chamber.

It is difficult to picture the appearance of the interior of the Church in olden days when Mrs.Alice Bray was buried with so much pomp & ceremony (see p.53), when the Rodeloft was still in existence, and tapers lit up the various Images. We only know with certainty what was the arrangement some eighty years ago, and before the Church was reseated.

The west end of the Church was dark for the want of sufficient windows, and two were added in 1836, one on the north side, and the other on the south. There is a record that a new window was put in the Church in 1845, at a cost of £30, towards which Dr.Tarleton(Rector) paid £10, and the parish the remainder; but probably this was only in substitution of an old one.

A large part of the floor of the Church was encumbered with the old fashioned high pews. There was a Gallery at the west-end, from which the Singers and Fiddlers provided the music for the services. The old fashioned high pulpit was opposite the south door, between the Memorials to George Morland and Brass Crosby. The floor of the Belfry was not

screened from the Church, and the Bellringers were in full view of the congregation, as they rung from the lower floor in those days. The present screen was erected during the latter part of the Rev.F.Baugh's incumbency. The screen according to the testimony of several old inhabitants of the parish, formerly stood in the Chancel arch, and was probably a part of the old Rodeloft. It was taken down when the chancel arch was enlarged at the restoration of the Church in 1857, and for many years was stowed in a barn at the old Rectory (now Chelsfield House) until re-erected in its present position.

The roof of the nave was ceiled, and continued so until 1896.

The three coloured lights in the East Window were put in during the incumbency of Mr.Baugh probably in the year 1857. We have found no record of this in the parish books, but those connected with the parish in former days state that they were painted by Mfs Henrietta Tower, who shared the expense with her sister. These ladies were cousins of Mr.Baugh.

Some of the old fashioned pews closely resembled small rooms; seats were fixed all round them, and some had a stove in the centre. They were so high that a child could see nothing of what was going on in the Church. The writer of these notes remembers when quite a small boy, upon the occasion of the christening of a sister standing on the seat, and getting into trouble for addressing a few kind words to the old family nurse as she walked up the aisle.

Every house of any importance had its pew, and it seems that this custom was carefully guarded, as the following extract from our old Register shows.

"July 10th 1675 - Memorandum that John Bodenham of Skeet Hill in the Parish of Orpington did by the consent of the Parish of Chelsfield build him a Seate or Pew in their Parish Church for the better convenience of himself and his Family usually resorting to attend upon the public ordinances of Gods worship there, and as a gratuity did bestow twenty shillings upon the poor of Chelsfield aforesaid. It is therefore generally agreed upon by the Rector, Churchwardens, and other of the Inhabitants of the said Parish that the said John and his posterity in all times hereafter shall have the sole and proper use of the said Pew without placing any others in the same.

Rob^t Milles - Rector".

The upkeep of these pews must have been considerable; for in the year 1839 a sum of £50 was paid for painting and graining the pews and the gallery. Both pews and gallery were demolished, together with the Pulpit in 1857; portions of the old pews can still be seen in the Church, as they were used for the lower portions of the present seats. It was at this time that the dry areas were made on the south side of the Church.

The Tower and the Spire have cost the parish large sums of money in the way of repairs; at least £600 have been expended on them since 1749. The Spire has been twice re-shingled since that date; once in 1789, and again in 1874; the cost on the last occasion being £105 which was raised by voluntary subscriptions.

The Spire was struck by lightning on June 4th 1908, and probably the whole structure would have been destroyed but for the copper cap that carries the weather-cock, which saved the apex of the building. One side of the Spire suffered from just below the cap to the flint work, and the cost of repairing the damage was about £100. During this storm, hailstones fell as large as guinea fowl eggs, and some measured by the writer were two and a half inches long, and two inches in breadth. Much damage was done to the fruit in this parish, over one hundred panes of glass were broken in the house and greenhouse at Woodlands, and others suffered in an equal degree.

In 1836 the chancel was new roofed, when All Souls College gave £250 towards the expense. In the following year the Rector gave a new west-door, and the body of the church was re-roofed as far as the first beam, and other repairs done at a cost of £259.10.0. Probably it was at this time that the cross beams were taken out, and which about the year 1896 had to be replaced. It was in this latter year that the ceiling of the roof was removed, and the rafters exposed to view with such a good effect, at a cost of £391.2.7.

The present heating apparatus was put in the church in 1880 at a cost of £110; before this the church was warmed by the old fashioned stoves.

In 1894 the choir stalls were presented by A Miller Hallett, and in 1903 the brass lecton was given by Mr. & Mrs. Edward Norman, and they added a new altar table in 1908.

The Bells

The first reference to our church bells is to be found in the Inventory of the Church Goods taken in the 6th year of the reign of Edward VI, where the following appears.

"Item iij bells in the Steple suted of brassse"(Arch. Cant.VIII.130). The term 'bells of brasse' which is generally used in these Inventories really means bells cast from ordinary bell metal; and a peel of three bells was the usual number in those days (Arch.Cant.VIII.90).

These three bells were probably superseded in the year 1672 when the present peel of five bells were cast by John Hodson; and which have the following inscription upon them.

"John Hodson made me in 1672 - John Allen -
William Chapman - Churchwardens -CH".

Stahlschmidt in his Church Bells of Kent gives the name of Charman, but evidently this is a printers error for Chapman. This William Chapman owned a House, and about six acres of land called Newfield in Chelsfield. John Allen was one of the feoffees of Osbornes, and according to the Court Rolls was possessed of a House, and about thirty acres of land in the parish, which property cannot be identified at the present time. The letters 'C.H' at the end of the inscription stand for Christopher Hodson, who at that time was foreman to John Hodson. In later years Christopher cast bells on his own account, having a foundry at St.Mary Cray. (Stahlschmidt Church Bells of Kent.97).

Mrs.Alice Bray, as described in another part of these notes gave about the year 1506 a field known as 'Bell Ropes', lying between Eastfield and Forberry, for an endowment for the providing of bell-ropes. This field was sold by the parish to the late Henry Thompson in the year 1886, and the purchase money was invested in Consols.

In 1880 the Bells were turned a quarter round, and rehung with new wheels by Messrs.Gillett and Bland, the expense being met by private subscription.

Like other parishes Chelsfield had ringing days until quite recently. The custom was that the Bells should be rung on certain days, and on occasions of great victories or rejoicing. Many parishes have these days set out in full in their books; but our books simply contain the entries of ringing days, and no mention is made of the cause for the ringing. Bills were run up at the various Inns for refreshments, which were settled by the Churchwardens out of the Church rate. As far back as 1743 there was paid to "Richard Bushell and Mary Creassey 12s for 4 ringing days". In the following year 12s was again paid for the same number of days; and these entries continue to appear until comparatively recent years. This custom led to abuses; and we have found in the records of a neighbouring parish a resolution of the Vestry in the year 1832 that these payments be discontinued, and that the Publicans have notice of it.

Chelsfield has had for many years a set of Rules, as to how the Bells are to be rung on various occasions, and it is believed that a copy is still in existence, although we have been unable to find it. We have heard them referred to in our boyhood, and this is impressed upon our memory from the fact that an old friend, a carpenter, once put us in our place, by informing us, that if he the carpenter died the big bell would be tolled, whereas if we departed the small one would be used. The late Robert Brooker, then a Churchwarden, sent a copy of these Rules to Mr. Stahlschmidt for his 'Church Bells of Kent', and the following has been taken from this book.

"Death knell rung as soon as convenient after death,
always within twelve hours if possible.
For a man tenor bell used; tolled for an hour then
tellers 3x3.
For a woman 4th bell for the same space of time
tellers 3x3
For a youth from seven to sixteen, same as for man
but with 3rd bell.
For a girl of same age, as for woman, on 2nd bell.
For children under seven, treble bell used letters IXIXI.
Bell tolled for one hour before funeral, the same one
being used as had been for the death knell.
Bells chimed for half an hour before service, ring in on
tenor for three minutes.
Peals on Church festivals. Ringing on New Years Eve
temporarily discontinued
That on 5th Nov(happily)obsolete for the last twenty years
For Vestry meetings 1st & 2nd bells chimed for five minutes.
Wedding peals used at end of Marriage service".

Church Music

Probably one of the greatest changes in the Church during the past sixty years or so, has been that of the music provided for Divine Service.

The earliest record that the writer of these notes has been able to find, is one in the year 1813, when the Churchwardens paid to "Baruck Wood for instructing singers for three quarters of a year £1.19.0".

This Baruck was possibly a man of many parts, since probably he is the same Baruck Wood as provided the eating and drinking upon the Perambulation of the parish in 1788 (see pp 12 & 130).

The writer has found in an old family account book that his grandfather in 1827 paid "£2 for the encouragement of the singers". In 1840 the Vestry resolved that '£3 per annum be given to the principal singers, provided they regularly attended, and instructed twelve of the school children; this money was raised by voluntary subscription, and not paid out of the church rate.

In the account book already alluded to, it is recorded that in the year 1820 there was paid to Mr. Williams, the Rector, £1 towards the organ, and at the same time 10/6d towards a new barrel for same. This clearly shows the kind of instrument then in use, which was the usual organ of the day. This instrument did not require great skill in the playing of it, as is evidenced by this entry in the Churchwardens accounts.

"1824 pd Master Whitehead 1 year playing organ £1".

In addition to the barrel organ, and the singers, there was a band of instruments which was located in the west gallery, which was demolished in 1858. There are several parishioners still living who remember these instrumentalists, the writer well recollects at least one of the performers. An old inhabitant states that William Morgan, who filled various parochial offices, played the violincello, Stephen Dunmall, of Well Hill, the clarionet, Bance, Dr. Tarleton's servant, the violin, and Philip Brooks, at one time parish clerk, the flute. When these instrumentalists were not available, the school children sat in the gallery and led the singing. The schoolmaster giving the note on a pitch pipe.

At the reseating of the Church, a harmonium was substituted for the old organ, which was placed close to the door leading from the Chancel into the Vestry. On one occasion this instrument refused to work, when upon inspection it was found that a mouse had parted the cords connecting the bellows with the treddles.

This harmonium gave place to the present organ, which was presented to the church by Mr. Alexander Miller Hallett of Goddington, in memory of his aunt Mifs Hallett in the year 1893. At this time the present vestry and organ chamber were built at a cost of £333.2.0, of which sum Mr. Miller Hallett gave £200; the balance being raised by subscription. The organ was first used on November 23rd 1893, upon the dedication of the vestry.

Church Plate

The first reference to the church plate of Chelsfield is to be found in 'Testamenta Cantiana' where it is recorded.

"I will yt Church of Chellefelde have a chalys
price XLs. Robert Mablott 1479".

In 1513 John Beverych left a maser cuppe as already described in these notes (p.5).

The next reference is contained in an inventory of church goods made in 1552, and is of sufficient interest to be given in full as set out in Archaeologia Cantiana VIII.130.

"Chelsfeld-XXIII November IV Ed VI.

Raff Dowell, Curate; John Canstone and Richard Brasier
Churchwardens.

First j chalice with the patent of silver waying
xj ounces.

Item.ii.j bells in the steple suted of brasse (see p.46).

Item on cope & a vestment of blue velvett with ij
tinnacles to the same withoute albes.

Item on hand bell of brasse.

Item on book of the Bible & on other booke of the
Paraphrases of Erasmus.

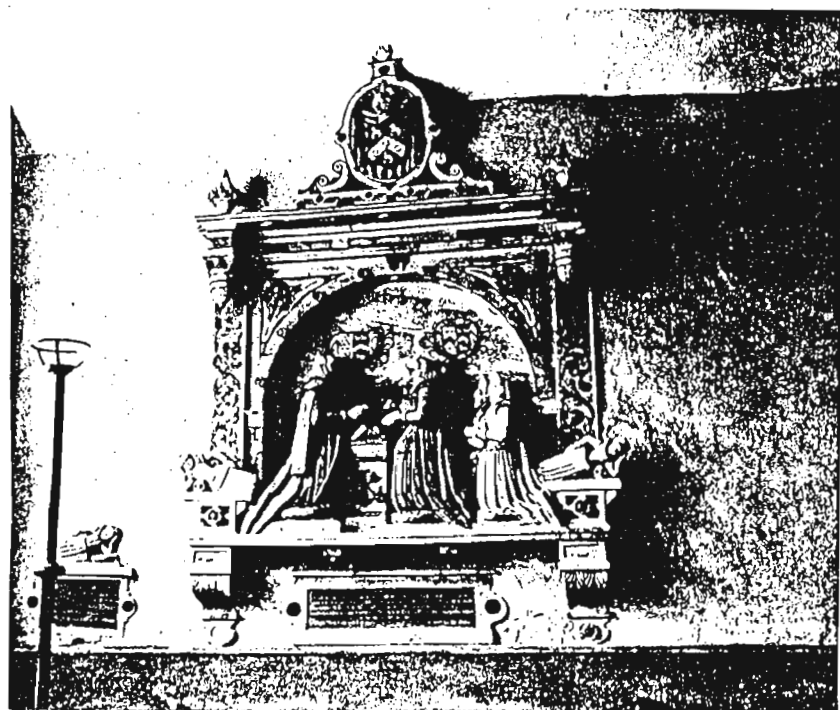
Mem. endorsed Dartford xiiird November VI Ed VI All goods in the inventory of iij Ed VI are in this & are now delivered to the churchwardens excepte one chalice with the patent of silver and gilt waying XI ounces one cope and one vestment of clothe of tyssue declared to be sold for reparacons of the Church".

The above points to the fact that in 1549 our Church possessed two chalices with patents, and it was no uncommon thing in those days for Church goods to be sold to find the necessary funds for the repair of the Church.

The next mention of our plate is to be found in a list of church plate made or manufactured during the reign of Charles I; published in the XVI Vol. of the Archæologia Cantiana, where this appears under the heading of Chelsfield. "Cup 6 1/8 inches high, depth of bowl 3, diameter 3 3/8, and paten cover. On both I.H.S en soleil, makers mark in shaped shield, seems to be I.B with objects beneath, like a circle with a horizontal line thrust through it (perhaps a buckle)".

In another list of church plate made during the reign of George I is given "1715 Chelsfield - paten 5 inches in diameter, 2 high, date letter illegible; but the hall marks, Britannia and a lions head erased, are still to be seen. Inscribed on the reverse "The gift of the Rev. J.E. Tarleton D.C.L. Rector To the Parish of Chelsfield 1835". In modern times the sacred monogram I.H.S. has also been added, with cross above and nails below in solar rays. (Arch. Cant. XVI. 414).

Evidently this was an old piece of plate when given to our Church, with the necessary engravings added to fit it for its new use.



Inscription on the Collet Monument

Petro Collet Armigero Aldermano London civi & viro bono pietatis
 Studioso sine furo sine dolo, amicis charo, pauperibus benivolio, nemini
 obnoxio, ex antiquæ Collettorum genere orto qui obiit 21 die mensis
 Decēbris An^o salutis humanæ 1607 ætatis suæ 64 reliquens duas filias &
 Heredes, Hesteram Anthonio Aucher & Saram Petro Heyman militibus

Connubio conjunctas

Johanna uxor ejus unica memorie sacrum et amoris suæ tesseram posuit maestissima

Inscription on the smaller Monument

Petrus Heyman Primus Genitus

Petri Heyman de Sellinge in

Com Kane Militis et Saræ

Uxor ejus Filia Petri Collet

Supra Tannilate

Ad avi Sui Pedes hic requiescit infans

Monuments etc in the Church

It is now proposed to give an account of those persons to whom monuments etc have been placed in the Church, and to show in what way they were connected with the parish of Chelsfield.

In the chancel several of the gravestones mentioned in the Histories of Kent have disappeared, probably covered over by recent tiling, and the choir stalls; possibly this also applies to the nave.

There is a gravestone in the chancel just outside the altar rails under which is buried **Roger Goodday** who died May 9th 1674. The Hewetts Court Rolls show that Roger owned lands called The Breach, Breachgate, and Childrens Croft containing about sixty acres, which upon his death descended to his daughter Anne. Breachgate and the rest of the land was on the west sides of Osbornes. The direct succession of owners can be traced from Anne Goodday down to the present time in the Hewetts and Chelsfield Rolls, but always under the description of Breachgate, Walnuttrees etc. The Title Deeds of Mount Hall give exactly the same succession, but the name of 'Mount Hall' appears in them for the first time in 1778, before this date no name is given. Probably when Mount Hall became the principal building on the property, the old names of Walnuttrees and Breachgate were dropped, except that it was still retained in Manorial records as was so often the case with other holdings. Another house called Walnuttrees was also close by, and this would have been another reason for an alteration of name. Therefore we think it may be said that Roger Goodday lived at Mount Hall (see pp 108 & 171).

Close adjoining is the gravestone with a brass to the memory of **William Robroke** which will be described later on among the Rectors.

Alice Bray was, as the brass on her gravestone in the chancel sets out, the daughter of John Bonaventure. She directed by her Will that she should be buried within the Church of St. Martin Chelsfield by the northside of the high Altar, where her father and mother (Joan) lied buried. Old deeds state that she was the sister of Richard Bonaventure who was Rector of Chelsfield from 1463 to 1493. During her

lifetime, probably by a deed dated the 21st year of the reign of Henry VII, she gave the field now known as 'Bell Ropes' as already described (p.46). Also she left by her Will several other benefactions which appear to have been lost to the parish.

Ancient deeds (see pp.130 & 133) show that Richard Bonaventure and his sister Alice Bray became jointly possessed of property in this parish called 'Wheatfields' in the year 1479. The name of Wheatfields is no longer known, but there can be but little doubt as to its location. In the deeds it is described as being a capital messuage or tenement with barns, stables, and several parcels of land called Wheatfields, and consisting of ten acres situate on the Kings highway leading from Chelsfield to Well-hill. An old map dated 1808 shows that the Wheatfields were three fields now forming part of the western end of Longlands, and immediately behind Maypole Cottage. In the conveyance of these fields and cottage called Wheatfields to Mrs. Mary Fuller in 1768 it is stated that this cottage was occupied by Ann Brooks, and the paper in which the deeds are wrapped up is endorsed 'Brook's farm'. The Brooks family occupied Maypole Cottage for many years, even down to recent times. Therefore 'Wheatfields' and 'Maypole Cottage' occupy the same site. The house was rebuilt many years ago.

In 1487 Alice Bray and her brother granted this property to John Jettour of Chelsfield and Agnes his wife, together with Sir John Percyvale Knt. Alderman of London, and John Bonaventure.

Since, as it will be presently shown, all the above parties were closely connected, it may be that the conveyance in 1487 was only a family arrangement, and that Alice Bray continued to live in the house, but we are inclined to think that this was not the house in which Alice Bray died, and from which she was carried to her grave some twenty three years later with so much ceremony as directed by her Will. Probably her last home was at Bucks Cross, possibly in the cottages on the westside of the road leading from Mount Hall to the village, and immediately opposite Bucks Cross farm. This tenement was formerly according to old deeds, a single dwelling house of some importance, but before 1739 it had been divided into three cottages, and later it had become two. This last theory is strengthened by an old parish terrier dated 1665 which states that one John Bray owned land at this spot.

Alice Bray died on April 6th 1510, and it would seem from the brass on her grave that she had four sons and a daughter, but no mention is made of them in her Will; it may be that they were provided for by the deed of 21st Henry VII already mentioned. Her Will is a most instructive document, showing the burial customs of those days; and also the quaint legacies left by persons of influence and position in life. It was as follows.

"In the name of God Amene the xxij day of Octobre in the yere of our Lord god MVIX and in the first yere of the Reigne of King Henrie the viij I Alis Bray widow of Chellisfield in the Countie of Kent being of whoole mynde make this my Testament and Last Will in manner and forme following. First I reccommende my Soule to Almighty God & to the blessed Virgin our Ladie and to all the Company in Heaven. My bodie to bee buried within the Church of St. Marten of Chellisfield by the North Side of the High Altar where my Father and Mother lieth buried if I happen to dye there or else in such place as God hath disposed for mee. Item I bequeath to the high Aulter of Chellisfield for my Tithes and offerings forgotton XX^d Item I bequeath to Mariery Denham a scarlett gowne lyned with tuks the coler and cuffs black velvett. Item I bequeath to Johan Walker my servant if shee bee in service with mee at the time of my decease being not married a brassen pann nexte the beste my beste feather bed and bolstar And if it fortune the same Johan to marry and take to husband any man in my lyfetime by the advise of mee and counsell of her friendes That then I will that shee shall have and injoye all these thinges afore to her lymyted and bequeathide. Also I bequeath to Johan a girdell with a greene corse harnesssed with silver and X barrs of silver on it and a round gound of violett furred with bever Item I bequeath to Clementh Dowgther a brasse pan. Also I will that my Executors heare under named shall order & provide at the time of my burying V priestes bysides the psone (parson) or his debitie to brynge my bodie to the said Church and to saye and synge theare Dyrge and Masse of Requiem in the parish Church of St. Marten aforesaid for my Soule and all xpen. And every of the said V Priestis to have for their Labour in that behalf viij^d And besides that I will that the pson or his deputie then being present and helping at my Dirige and Masse of Requiem on the morrow shall have for his Labour xij^d Also I will that my Executors shall provide for viij of the best torches belonging to the parishe of Saynt Marten beforesaid the which torcheis I Will shall bee light and burnn at the time of my going to Church al the waye between my house and the Church And also shall burnn about my house all the

Dirige Time and Mass of Requiem on the Morrow I Will that my Executors shall pay unto ye Churchwardens of the parishe Church of Saynt Marten aforesaid for the worth of the said torcheis accordng as Right and Conscience shall require. Also I Will that my Executors shall provide for viij poore men dwellers in the parishe aforesdaid for to beare the said viij torcheis at the times before specified and every of the said poore men to have for their labers in that behalf iiij^d and there dinner Also I will that in the Honor of God and his xij Apostles that my my Executors shall give to xiiij poore men and women of the saide parishe xiiij^d which xiiij^d I Will shall bee given the same daye that the Masse of Requiem is saide and doune Also I Will that my Executors shall bestowe at the time of my burying in the breade and drinckes and other vitells unto suche poore people as shall be at my Dirige and Masse vj^d viij^d Also I Will that at my monyth mynde my Executors shall order and provide for ii prestis besides the Parson or his Deputie to saye and synge their Diriges and Masses in the parishe beforesaide for my Soule and all xpen and prieste to have for his labour viij^d and the pson or his deputie to have for his labour xij^d Also I Will there bee bestowed in brede and drinke and other vitells to the reliefe of such poore people as shall bee at my monyth minde xiiij^d iiiij^d Also I Will that if any of the psonnes in this will named to whome I have giffen or bequethed any parte or portion of my goods die before mee that then the saide goods to bee disposed by mee at all times during the life or else after my decease by min Executors with the advise and counsell of my oversears in such uses as they shall thinke beste for the wealthe of my Soule Also whereas I the said Alis Bray by my dede bearing the date of the last of Mch xxj yeare of the Reigne of Kinge Henry the vij have infeoffed to my use John Snowe and John Cooke Citizens and Merchant Taylors of London of and in all my messuages lands and tents rents reversions and servie with the appurtenances in the parish of Chellsfield in the County of Kent To have and to hold to them their heirs and to their assings in fee ofr ever as by the same dede more plainly doth appeare I wille and dispose by this my present testament and Last Will that the said John Snow and John Cooke after due manner and forme as it maye be devysed by Counsaile Learnyed in the Law shall make a good and sufficiannt and Lawful Estate in the Law of and in all the Messuages Lands Tents Rents Reversions and Services beforesaid with the appurtenances unto Sr. John Pecchey Knight John Miller William Pettley of Halstede John Bevereg Richard Walesse Thomas Romnage William Grigg Richard Eaton William Fletcher Richard Colgate Robert Watts Thomas Grigg and William Whitehead

To Have and to Hold to them and to their heirs for ever to the entent that they and their Heirs of the issue and profits of the same shall keep a Direge and Masse of Requiem within the said parish Church of Chellisfield for the Soull of Thomas my late husband for my Soull for the Soulls of John and Johan my Father and Mother for the Soull of Mr. Richard Bonaventure and all pssons Soulls And that the same Dirige and Masse of Requiem within the said parishe Church of Chellisfield bee kept pepetually once in the yre that is to saie at such time and season of the yeare as it shall please God my Soule to departe out of the World, and the pson or his deputie for the time being for every dirige and mass of Requiem to have for his laber xij^d in money and the parishe clerke viij^d And yearly at my said Obit iij^{iiiij}^d in money to bee disposed and given amonge v poore men and women dwellers within the said pish of Chellisfield to praye for my Soull and for the Soulls aforesaid And also to the intent that they and their Heires with the issues and profits of the same shall keepe pepetually iij tapers of wax within the said Church of Chellisfield every taper containing ij^{lb} wax of the which iij tapers one to bee sett before the Image of our Ladie in the North part of the said Church The seconde to bee sett before the Image of Saynt Marten in the said Church And the third taper to bee sett before the Image of St. James And the said iij tapers to bee light and burn before the said iij images within the said Church every holy day in the yere during the high mass time And the said iij tapers to be renewed and made of the like weight as they war at the beginning againe ij feastes of the yere that is to say againe the Feast of Saynt Mark and againe the Feast of Saynt Marten the Bishop nexte before Christmasse And also to the Entent that they and their Heires with the issues and profitts of the same shall keepe yearely for ever a tap containing iij^{lb} waxen to burn before the Sepulchre of our Lorde within the said Church at the time of easter that is to saye from Goodfrydaye to Thursdaye in the Ester weeke to bee burning at tymes convenient according as other lights bee wanted and used And the residue of the said taper which is left unspent to bee sett before Saynt Marten within the Church before sayde and there to bee light every holdy daye and to burn all the high Masse Time as long as it will last Also I Will that the Parson of the said Church of Chellisfield or his Deputie for the time being and his Successors shall have yearly evermore viij^d in money to the entent that hee and his successors every Sunday in the yeare or at such times as hee useth to reade the bedd Roll shall pray for my soull the soull of Thomas Bray my said husband and other Soulles as is above

rehersted Also I will and desire the Churchwardens of the saide parishe Church of Chellisfield for the time being to have the oversight thereof and of the Dirge and Masse of Requiem and doe order and cause to be ordered the said tapers and to see them light and putt oute at all times conveniant and to order them in manner and forme as it is afore specified and they to have for their Labor between them of the issue and proffits of the Lands afore named xvj^d And the overpluse of all the issues and proffits recurring and growing of the saide Mess Lands and Tents Rents Reversions Service aforesaide above the charges afore specified I Will it shall goe to the Reparacons and Maintenance of the said Mess Lands and Tents most needful for ever Also I Will that whensoever it shall fortune the foresaid Sr. Jon Peechey and his co-ffees by death or othwise to mynishe and come to the number of iiij only than then those iiij shall make a State of the said Lands Tents & other the premises unto the Heires Apparent of those my feoffees that so happen to verlyve and to the Heires of all those feoffees that then shall happen to bee disseased if they be meet and conveniant therefore and to other discrete psons in a conveniant number to hold to them all and to there Heires in fee to the use of the tgrue performance of this my Will above declared And in this manner of wise the said feoffment to bee renewed at everytime and as often as the feoffees shall heereafter mynnish and com to the number of iiij only To the entent that my said Will shall now and allway surely to bee kepte executed & performed in the manner and forme as is before rehersted And to the executing of this my present Will I order and make my executours John Bevereg dwelling in the parishe of Chellisfield aforesaid and Stephen Swan dwelling in the parish of Brasted in the County of Kent and Dame Thomasine Percyvall of London widdowe and John Dynhm gent Oversears of this my present Testament and Last Will. Item I bequeath to John Williams now being pson of Chellisfield my great Caudron of L Gallones and my Lesser Maser of ij with a bonde silver and gilt And I Will that all such evidences concerning the premises and the one part of this my present Will shall allwaies remaine in the Custodye and Kepping of the Churchwardens of the Church of Chellisfield And I give to John Bevereg one of my Executors for his labor and busynese in the performance of my Will and executing of the same a best featherbed in the chamber within the plor and ye bolster Also I bequeath to Stephen Swan my other Executor for his labor and busynese in the true performance and executing of this my Testament and Last Will a featherbed & bolster in the mayden chamber And the Residue of all my goods my Detts paide my burying done my monyth mynde my Will and other charges borne

I gift and bequeath Executors aforesaid to the the entent that they by the good Counsell of my oversears shall cause a Trentall of Masse to bee said and doun within the Crooked Freres of London as shortly after my Departing as they [missing]... for my Soull and ye Soulls afore expressed And the overplus of my said goods if any remaine to be giffen and disposed to the pleasure of God and for the Wealth of my Soull Spcally to such poore people as I have most beholding unto In Witness whereof to this my present Testament & Last Will I have putt to my Seale the day & year abovewritten

Mr. John Williams prst

Robert Woolf Witness

John Miller

Colegate John Lercborne

James Warner

and others"

[The last part of this Will has been eaten by insects, or otherwise mutilated, and hence the blanks].

This Will and the old Deed of 1487, in which the names of Alice Bray, Sir John Percyvale, Richard and John Bonaventure appear, afford a clue to the family history of these people.

In the Dictionary of National Biography under the name of Bonaventura it is stated that Thomasine Bonaventura who died in 1510 was a Cornish benefactress, that she was a peasant girl born at Week St. Mary, five or six miles south of Bude, soon after the middle of the 15th century. She married successively three rich London Merchants, the last being Sir John Percivall who was a Merchant Taylor and probably a general merchant. He was born hard by the town of Macclesfield about the year 1437, where he afterwards founded a school for gentlemen's sons and others. He first held the Office of Carver to the Lord Mayor, which in those days was an honourable post. First Alderman for the Vintry Ward, he afterwards served the same office for the Langbourne Ward. He was Master of the Merchant Taylors Company in 1485. In 1486 he served the Office of Sheriff, and was Knighted at Hornsey Park where the Mayor and Corporation went to meet King Henry VII after the battle of Stoke; and in 1498 was elected Lord Mayor of London. He died about 1504; and had a Chantry in the Church of St. Mary Woolnoth. Dame Percyvale survived her third husband, and at his death retired to her native place, where she occupied herself in repairing highways, building of bridges, endowing of maidens, relieving of prisoners, feeding, and appareling the poor. She also built and endowed a Chantry and College there, where divers of the best gentlemen's sons of Devon and Cornwall were educated (See- Early History of the Merchant Taylors Company - Orridges Citizens of London & their Rulers - Sharpes London and the Kingdom).

Lyson in his History of Cornwall gives a further account of this remarkable woman. He states that her maiden name was Bonaventure, and that in her girlish age she kept sheep on St. Mary Wike moor, when it chanced that a London merchant passing by, saw her, heeded her, liked her, begged her of her poor parents, and carried her to his home. In process of time her mistress was summoned by death to appear in the other world; and her good thervess? no less than her seemely personage, so much contented her master, that he advanced her from a servant to a wife, and left her a wealthy widow. Her second marriage befell with one Henry Gall, who was also a Merchant Taylor; and her third and last with Sir John Percyval. Her Will also throws light upon some parts of her history, for she left £20 to her brother John Bonaventure, and made John Dinham, who had married her sisters daughter, residuary legatee.

We have already seen that Alice Bray's maiden name was Bonaventure; that Margery Dinham was mentioned in her Will, and that Dame Thomasine Percyval was appointed an Overseer of the same (p.56), and Richard Bonaventure the Rector of Chelsfield appointed Sir John Percival overseer of his Will, and left a legacy to Dame Thomasine Percival (p.67) - It is thus clear that Alice Bray and Dame Thomasine were very closely connected; and it may be that Alice Bray, Dame Percyval, The Revd Richard Bonaventure, and John Bonaventure were the children of John and Johan who were buried in Chelsfield Church. Possibly the parents were brought up from Cornwall by their more prosperous children.

In front of the Altar Rails is a Brass representing a woman and by her side an empty matrix, which probably originally held the brass of a man; below these is a brass containing six males and five females, without doubt the children of the above. No record can be found as to whom are buried under this memorial.

By the south chancel door there is a fragment of a Brass inscription to the memory of Jon Kynge, and within the Altar Rails the tomb of Rob de Brun, and the memorials to the three George Smiths, and Dr. Sandford all of which will be described in these notes when dealing with the Rectors of Chelsfield.

There are two gravestones in the Chancel close to the Vestry door, but they are so much worn that the inscriptions cannot be deciphered. The one furthest from the door evidently is the burial place of one of the Rectors, as this word can be read. The other probably marks the grave of the Skeggs family who were the owners of the Manor of Norstead.

The Collet Memorial in St. Johns Chapel set out that Peter Collet Esq was an Alderman of London, and descended from the ancient family of Collet, that he died December 21 1607; leaving two daughter coheirs, Hester married Anthony Aucher and Sara to Peter Heyman, both Knights. Possibly Peter was descended from the Colets of Wendover, in Buckinghamshire; since a Sir Henry Colet of that place was Lord Mayor of London in the years 1486 and 1495, and was Alderman for the Ward of Farringdon without (Dictionary National Biography) Peter Collet afterwards being elected for the same Ward.

Peter Collet is described in an old deed, as being a Merchant Taylor, and Mr. Nash the Clerk of that Company has kindly informed the writer that he was admitted to the Freedom of the Company by Servitude to Thomas Collet, who was probably Peters father, on 15th September 1570; but that there is no trace of Peter having been admitted to either the Court or Livery, which is rather remarkable in a person of his position.

In Beavens Aldermen of the City of London it is stated that Peter Collet was elected Alderman for the Ward of Farringdon Without on September 4th 1599, and that he was discharged from the office on October 9th in the same year, upon the payment of a fine of £500. It is thus clear that he served the office for about a month only. About this time there began a very mean, and unworthy practice; that namely of electing to various offices those who would rather pay the fine than serve. In the year 1614 nearly a dozen men were elected to Office of Sheriff, all of whom declined to serve (Besant's London 17 - Handbook of Ceremonial 1906). It seems that quite likely that Peter Collet suffered in this manner, for in Beavens Aldermen it is shown that his predecessor as Alderman of the same Ward, also only served for a month, and was discharged on paying a fine of £300. In fact there were three Aldermen elected for this ward in the year 1599. Probably Peter having paid his £500, kept his title of Alderman as some compensation for the outlay.

Sir Peter Heyman was of Somerfield in the parish of Sellinge, and was succeeded by his eldest son Sir Henry Heyman, the issue of his marriage with Sara Collet. Sir Henry was M.P. for Hythe, and was created a Baronet in 1641. The Chelsfield Court Rolls record that in 1652 he sold a moiety of Lillies farm to James Styles. The Roll for the same year states that Sir Anthony Aucher held by right of his wife one Tenement called Lillies with sundry lands in Chelsfield. It therefore seems clear that Peter Collet must have been the owner of

Lillies, and that it descended to his two daughters as co-heirs. Sara, Lady Heyman, with her infant child was buried here in 1611, and no further entry in the Register is to be found concerning this family.

It was Peter Collet's widow, Johanna Collet; that gave during her lifetime the property known as 'Osbornes' to the parish. By a deed dated 16th August 1608 (see p.156) she conveyed to George Smythe younger son of George Smythe the then Rector of Chelsfield; William Graysier, John Allyn, Robert Allen, William Wakelyn, and Thomas Wakelyn his brother, George Wakelyn son of Thomas Wakelyn, Robert Wright the elder, and Robert Wright the younger his son, and John Colegate; all yeomen of Chelsfield. All the messuage called Osbornes, one croft called Osbornes of about four acres, two other pieces of land in Chelsfield called Langcroft containing about two acres, and a piece of land in Shoreham called Fuzzy Croft containing about three acres. Upon the Trust that the rents of Longcroft were to be distributed "to the poorest aged impotent and most decayed persons" dwelling in Chelsfield. The rents of the other parcels of land, and of the House, were to be employed about the necessary repairs of the Chapel on the southside of the Church wherein Peter Collet lies buried in a Tomb, and in case the said Chapel and Tomb required no repairs, then the rents to be employed in the necessary repairs of the Church and Chancel, if these should not be in need of repairs then the rents to be distributed in the same way as those from Longcroft. In 1883 Fuzzy Croft was sold to the late H.B. Mildmay under the sanction of the Charity Commissioners, and the purchase money amounting to £205 was invested in Consols.

There is in St. John's Chapel a memorial to Thomas Norton and Elizabeth his wife, which are mentioned in these notes on the Manor of Chelsfield (p.26).

On the south wall of the Nave of the Church is a Mural Tablet to Thomas and Katherine Saunders, the former died on the 25th June 1772, and the latter on 1st June 1783, and also to Thomas Saunders their last surviving son who died in 1819. Mrs. Katherine Saunders was the niece-in-law of the last Thomas Norton, the Lord of the Manor of Chelsfield, she being the daughter of his sister-in-law Mrs. Ann Mayhew. Thomas Norton by his Will left a portion of his lands to Ann Mayhew for life, with the reversion to Katherine Saunders. These lands amounting to some 239 acres are easily identified from an old plan of the estate still in existence. The property laid on both sides of the road leading from Chelsfield Village to

Pratts Bottom, and included a large part of the present Gilman Brimstone farm which lies on the south of the Worlds-end lane; and a portion of the present Hewetts farm immediately opposite. Katherine Saunders sold this property to Mary Fuller in 1774. Thomas Saunders the elder was a Haberdasher; and was Executor to the Will of Thomas Norton; under which, as directed, he sold the Patronage of the Living of Chelsfield.

It is doubtful whether the Saunders resided permanently at Chelsfield; as there was only one dwelling house, called Cock or Cox Croft House, on the estate, and that only a small one, which stood with the farm buildings immediately opposite Gilman Brimstone farm house, and which was pulled down some thirty years ago. This suggestion is strengthened by the fact that although several of the Saunders were buried here, they are described in the Register as coming "from London".

On the same side of the Nave is the Memorial to the Crosbys and James Maud and this with the Monument to Alderman Crosby on the other side of the Nave are noticed in the notes relating to the Manor of Chelsfield.

On the north wall of the Church there is a Monument to the memories of James Burton who died in 1740, James Burton senior who died in 1748, and Susannah the latter's wife who died in 1756. This family was long resident in Chelsfield, and according to the Register they were all baptized here. James Burton was the son of Robert Burton who married Barbara Style at our Church in 1664; James married Susannah King who was also a Chelsfield girl. From the Hewetts Court Rolls it is found that James Burton, John Ebbut, and Mary Aynscombe were the heirs of one John Stile, all of whom were descended from the three daughters of James Style who owned Lillies in 1652. The Court Roll of Chelsfield for the year 1739 states that the above John Stile held Lilleys, and that upon his death this property descended to James Burton and others in Gavelkind as his heirs, and that James Burton then held the same by agreement with the other heirs, as his share of the estate. From James Burton Lilleys descended through Barbara Judd his daughter, and Ann Halsey who was related to Barbara to Mary Aynscombe, and the latter's daughter, also named Mary, married James Harris. Lilleys still remains in the possession of this family (see p.94).

The Memorial to George Morland is explained in the notes on the Manor of Chelsfield (see p.28).

At the west end of the Church on the north wall there is a tablet to **Captain John Browne** of Mile End in the parish of Stepney, who died in 1734, son of Captain Zachary Browne, and uncle of Thomas Browne of Mile End. The family of Browne held 'Pax', which was at that time a separate farm, for many years. It was a small and much scattered property, consisting of a house which stood on the same spot as the present cottages, and some twenty acres of land, which is now represented by Pax eight acres, Watts Broom by Chelsfield Hill Wood, about three acres in Windmill Hill, and a part of Panel Broom next the present cottages. In 1652 this property was held by William Brown, and descending from father to son, it came to Zackary Browne who possessed it in the year 1686, this is the Zackary mentioned on the Memorial. After his death his widow, who afterwards married Griffith Halley a Doctor of Physick living at Maidstone, held it for her life. In 1717 one Leonard Browne was the owner, and at the death of his widow Sara it came to Thomas Browne their only son. Thomas Browne who is also mentioned on the tablet left it to his nephew Richard Holden, the owner of Copfold Hall in the parish of Margaretting in Essex, and he in 1767 sold the property to Mary Fuller.

The Churchyard

There is but little to be found in the books concerning the churchyard. The wall between the yard and the Court Lodge garden was built in the year 1774, when one third of the cost was paid by Brass Crosby, and the remainder by the parish.

Before the first addition to the burial ground, the north side of the old churchyard was enclosed by a wooden fence; which was erected in 1850 in place of one worn out. In 1849 the Vestry resolved that sufficient timber should be cut down on the parish property to do this work; and it appears to have been, provided from the parish land at Pratts Bottom and from Fuzzey Croft, both of which properties have since been sold. There are items in the parish accounts for both sawing out the timber, and also for erecting the fence.

The first addition to the churchyard was added, on the north side of the old portion, in 1872. The land being given by William Waring, and the wall enclosing it being built by the parish, and the cost raised by voluntary contributions. It was consecrated by Dr. Farry, the Bishop of Dover, on November 6th 1872.

In the year 1911 another piece was added on the east side of the old churchyard, the land being given by Arthur J. Waring. This was consecrated by Dr. Harmer the Bishop of Rochester on November 3rd in the above year.

Rectors of Chelsfield

The patronage of Chelsfield was always an appendage to the Manor of Chelsfield, until Thomas Norton at some time previous to the year 1751 sold the next presentation after the death of the then incumbent, the Rev.M.Petty, to Addphus Meekirk of Rusden in Hertfordshire.

Thomas Norton by his Will, after reciting that he had sold the next presentation, left the patronage to the Churches of Chelsfield and Farnborough to his nephew Thomas Saunders. In trust that he should sell the same for the best price that could be obtained for it, and to apply such purchase money to the payments of his debts, legacies, and funeral expenses, as far as the same would extend; as he did not wish any part of his property to be sold for these purposes. Under this direction the patronage was sold to the Warden and Fellowes of All Souls College, Oxford, for the sum of .1200 Guineas; and they are the present patrons. Until quite recent times the Rectors of Chelsfield were instituted to the Rectory of Chelsfield with the Chapel of Farnborough annexed; and the parishes were only separated during the incumbency of the late Rev.F.Baugh.

Hugh de Mortuo Mari 1260. The following extract from the Calendar of Papal register is the authority for placing this name among the Rectors.

"6 Alexander IV (Pope).

4 Kal July Confirmation to Master Hugh de Mortuo Mari papal chaplain of the Churches of Clive Orpington and Chelsfield, in the diocese of Rochester; of Godmersham in that of Canterbury; of Falkenham in that of Chichester; and of Frakenham in that of Norwich; also of the Prebends in London, Lincoln, Salisbury; and of the Sukmalings in Chichester 'which he proposes to hold; without indult supplying any defect there may be in his acceptance and retention of the same."

Dr.Cox in his 'Rambles in Kent' states that "The first Rector of Orpington whose name is known was Hugh de Mortimer, who was also Archdeacon of Canterbury, and Provost of Oriel College Oxford. He was Rector of Orpington from 1254 to 1270. Hugh de Mortimer was evidently a man of considerable means, and the Chancel(Orpington) was probably rebuilt by him about the beginning of his incumbency."

Bartholomew de Ferentino 1295. The Papal Register is also the authority for this Rector.

"1 Boniface VIII

6 Jd Aug 1295 Provision at the request of Benedict, Cardinal of SS Cosmas and Damian, to his chamberlain Bartholomew de Ferentino of the Rectory of Blokeley in the diocese of Worcester, void by the death of Master Peter de Escotle on his resigning the Church of Wynepol in the diocese of Ely; and dispensation to hold Blokeley with other benefices, as well as the Church of Cheffeld in the diocese of Rochester.

Thomas De Grandison. About this time the elder Otho de Grandison was the Lord of the Manor of Chelsfield, and who had both a brother, and a son, named Thomas. Probably one of these was the Rector (See Arch.Cant II 34).

Richard de Wotton 1317. Probably this Rector was in some way connected with the last, as the Grandisons and Wottons were both mixed up with the family of Northwoods of Thurnham. He was instituted to the Rectory on 15 Kal Januarii 1317, being presented thereto by William Grandison. Milit, patron of the living (see Archbishops Register).

Rog de Clehungre 1322. The Records of Rochester give Richard as the Christian name of this Rector.

John de Rokesle 1334 was a member of a very old Kentish family; his grandfather Gregory de Rokesle was Lord Mayor of London from 1274 to 1280. Our Rector was a landed proprietor in the neighbourhood; he was the owner of the Manors of Seintlyng; and Okemore, alias St.Mary Cray, and paid aid for them at the Knighting of the Black Prince. He also possessed the Manor of Little Orpington alias Mayfield which he conveyed to Sir John Peche, Kent, in the 33rd year of the reign of King Edward III. He also held the Manor of Lullingstone and Cokerhurst according to Hasted. He died in 1361 and was buried at Lullingstone, in which Church there is a monument which states "Hic macet Johannes de Rokesle quondam dominus de Lullingstone qui obiit primo die mensis Septembris anno Domini millesimo trecentesimo LXI cujus anime propicietur Deus. Amen". (see Arch Cant X.155 - Hast.Hist.Kent I 136,139,150,311-Records of Rochester.517).

Alfred Wakyn 1348-1361. This name is not in the list of Rectors in the Church; but is given in the Records of Rochester. Possibly he was only a 'locum tenens' for John de Rokesle, as it will be observed that he ceased to hold the office in the same year as John de Rokesle died.

John de Bentley 1361.

Robert Briney This man is given as a Rector in the Rochester Records but his name does not appear in our Church list.

Robert de Brun 1400 seems to have been presented twice in the year 1400. It has been suggested in the Parish Magazine for the year 1895 that he exchanged with Willaim Wryght and then returned. (See below).

William Wryght 1400

Robert de Brun 1409 was Rural Dean of Dartford (Rochester Records). He is buried on the north side of the Chancel within the Altar Rails under an arch, with this inscription upon his tomb "Here lies Robtus de Brun formerly Rector of this Church who died the 25th day of April in the year of our Lord 1417". Mr. Leland Duncan in the Parish Magazine for 1895 states that he came from Stamford in Lincolnshire.

William Robroke 1417 was buried in the Chancel of the Church outside the Altar Rails. Over his grave is a brass representing the figure of a priest with a Latin inscription thus translated "Here lies Willm Robroke lately Rector of this Church who died the 17th day of September AD 1420".

John Kynge 1420 The Parish Magazine for 1895 states that Lord Lovell, the patron, presented John Kynge, but as Lord Lovell was an outlaw, Henry V intervened, and presented William Robroke, who however died in three years, and then Kynge came in. His being kept out of his own for three years is mentioned in the remains of the inscription which is now on the south wall of the Chancel. This inscription, and the brass of a priest now on the north wall were found by the late Robert Brooker at the bottom of a cupboard. They were placed in their present position by the Rev. H. B. Barnes.

This Rector brought his suit in the Consistory Court of the Bishop against one John Bertone, alias Botelere, of

Fearnborough possessor of Diceris Croft, for with-holding an annual spiritual pension of 12 pence, two hens, and one cock, due from the profits of it to the Rector of Chelsfield in right of his Church which had always been paid beyond the memory of man excepting by him, who neither appearing nor making any defence; the Official passed a definite sentence in favour of the Rector. After which the said John appeared at the Consistory Court at Dartford, and acknowledged the right of the Rector (Hasted I.116).

Martin Osborne 1432.

William Mortonne 1433. Rector of Eynsford from 1445 to 1465. (Rochester Records).

John Pennant 1442. The Rochester Records state that in 1445 he went to Wylingworth.

William Fynden 1445. The Rochester Records state that he was at Wylingworth up to 1445. Therefore it seems that he exchanged livings with the last Rector.

Henry Muddleham 1445.

Robert Colynson 1452. It is reasonable to believe that this Rector was the same man as is mentioned in the 'Paston Letters', and 'Nicholas Privy Council Proceedings' as having accused Robert Poynings, Lord of the Manor of Chelsfield, of treason. In the Letters there is one dated 1455 which states "that Poyngs ys gwynt and delyvered of all tresonsand that the Priest that accused Lord Cromwell, Grey, and my maister[Poynings] wolde confesse who caused to do it, so that he may have hys byve &c". In the Privy Council Proceedings (Vol VI.p.LXVI) the name of the Priest is given as Robert Colynson, and states that at that time he was in the Marshalsea for having falsely slandered Ralph Lord Cromwell. Another Paston Letter says that at this time Robert Poynings possessed the Manors of Esthall, Fawkham, Asslie, and Chelsfield (see p.24). Therefore we have the facts:

1. That Robert Colynson was Rector of Chelsfield in 1452.
2. That a Priest named Robert Colynson accused Poynings of treason.
3. That Poynings held the Manor of Chelsfield at this time.

We think that these facts lead to the presumption that this Rector of Chelsfield was the same person as the one that accused Poynings and others of treason. The patronage of Chelsfield was always an appendage of the Manor until the year

1751, and therefore it may be presumed that Robert Foynings exercised his right of presentation during the time he held the Manor, and that there was this connection between him and Rector Colynson. It seems hardly likely that Foynings would have been connected with two different men with the same christian and surname.

Richard Bonnaunto 1463, otherwise Bonaventure, Bonnivento, or Bounter. A description of this Rector is given in the account of his sister Alice Bray. The Parish magazine for the year 1896 gave his Will as follows "I de nomine Amen the XVIJ day of Marche and in the yer of oure lorde god M20000XXX IIJ I Master Richard Bounter late parsonne of Chellesfelde yn the Dioces of Rochester in Kente in goode and hoole mynde beying blissed be Almyghty God make my testament and laste will in this manner of wise. Fearste I bequethe my soule to Almyghty God to oure lady sayate Mary and to all the holy company of heven, and my body to be buried in the bodie of the Church of Chellisfelde before the Crucifix ther or ellis in any other place or church to lie before the crucifix where god fortuneth me to dye yn. Item y e quethe to the high autler vjs viiij Item y bequethe to Sir John Bounter a violet gowne furred with fichowes and a pair of beeds of jete and white aumber Item y bequethe to John Bonanter my brodre a salte of silver and a cover with a pair of grete white aumber beeds Item I bequethe to Margaret Wespynton xijs iiij or ellis the value thereof Item I bequethe to Dame Tomysen Percyuale my beste pair of shetis Item I bequeth to Johanne Mordin a violet gowne in grayne furred with menyver. Also y bequethe to Margery Dynham my beste longe towell of Draper worke Item I bequethe to John Jetour a basynne of warkis with a lauour Item y bequeth to my cosynne Agnes Getour a thick panne of laton Item I bequethe to Margaret Walus a playne basyn of laton Item I bequeth to Maregaret Jetour xxs or ellis the value therof forto helpe my sister Alice in her besynes. The residue of all my goods after my dettes paied and my bequestis fulfilled I bequeth and give to Alice my sister whome y make and ordeyn my executrice to bryng me to erthe with a part thereof and the overplus y give unto her to pray for my sowle And Y ordeyne and make overseer of this testament Sir John Percivale Knyghte Un witness whreof were presente William Petteley, Stephen Waleis, and John Alexander with D'yvers other Yeuen the daie and yere furte in this testament rehercid. Proved at Lambeth 24 January 1499 by John Dynham and Alice sister of the deceased, and the said Alice the executrix renouncing, administration was granted to the said John Dynham of the City of London gentleman" (PCC 40 Horne)

Peter Greves 1493. In the same year he was appointed Rector of Swanscombe, and remained there until 1514 (Rochester Records).

John Williams 1493. He died in 1532. This is the Rector mentioned in Alice Bray's Will. According to the Will of William Petley he combined farming with his ecclesiastical duties (see p.141).

Thomas Bacon 1532 was a Cambridge man having taken his B.A. degree in 1517 when he was at Gonville Hall in that University, he proceeded to M.A. in 1521, and was subsequently in 1536 granted the degree of DD. His first benefice was that of the rectory of Hockwold which he held from 1529 to 1539. Henry VIII made him one of his Chaplains and presented him to Chelsfield, and also to Barrow in Suffolk in 1539; to the Vicarage of Hoxne, and Rectory of Brandon both in that County in 1554. He was in 1544 appointed Canon of Ely. He was also Master of Gonville Hall, Cambridge. Although holding so many benefices, he was buried at Chelsfield on January 3rd 1558. (Mr. Leland Duncan in Parish Mag 1876 from facts communicated by Dr. J. Venn).

It was during the incumbency of this Rector that the old Register in the parish chest was commenced, and his burial is the fourth entry in it. He was assessed as a contributor to a loan to King Henry VIII in the year 1542. The entry being "Thomas Bacon Parson of Chellisfield XX marc". (Arch. Cant. XI.401)

His curate Thomas Glayue in 1534 signed the declaration of Renunciation of Papal Authority, which set out that "The Bishop of Rome hath no greater jurisdiction committed to him by God in this realm of England than any other foreign bishop" (Arch. Cant. XXII.295).

William Gybbyns 1558 was presented to the Rectory by Robert Gyles, the then Lord of the Manor, and was admitted to the benefice on January the 20th of that year. Our Register contains this entry "October 8 1561 Sr. Williams Gybbyns parson there & Jylia Copde maryed"; and also entries of the baptism and burial of several of their children. He was buried at Chelsfield on September 18th 1576.

George Smith 1576 was the first of three successive Rectors of this name, being father, son and grandson. Not only were they the Rectors of the parish; but from old deeds and other documents, they appear to have been landowners,

arbitrators in disputes, and the general advisers in all matters of business. At the end of the entry in the Register of the burial of the above William Gybbyns the following is written "cui in Rectoria sucessit Georgio Smith Artim Mr.Oxon Collegii Socia 30 cetatis a natis....". He took his BA degree at Oxford on February the 18th 1568-69, and was elected a Fellow of All Souls College in 1569, proceeding to the degree of M.A. on the 2 May 1573 (Foster Alumni Oxonienses). Our Register informs us that on December 17th 1577 "George Smith Ecclesix Rector duxit uxore Elizabetha Wrest Ancilla Dnoe Walsingham London in Parochia cum Sanctorum in muro". The word 'ancilla' means a maid-servant, or waiting-woman; but it might possibly be translated a companion. Whatever is the true meaning of the word; this kind of marriage was not uncommon in those days. The Walsinghams held the Manor of Chelsfield some years previous to this time. This Rector was buried in the Chancel on May 25th 1626. The tomb of the Smiths is on the south side, and the Rev.H.B. Barnes in the Parish Magazine for the year 1895 states that it is a bad copy of Robert de Brun's tomb on the other side. He at first thought that it was an old one, which the family had appropriated; but it must be post Reformation; as by inserting it they had destroyed the piscina in the south wall, of which he found some hopeless fragments past restoration.

In addition to the Glebe George Smith owned other property consisting of a house and orchard in Chelsfield Street; and land near Maypole which is now represented by Mount Hall.

George Smith 1626 was the son of the above, and was probably born at Chelsfield, as he was baptized here on October 12th 1578. He was one of the original, or first Trustees of Collets Charity being named in the deed of gift. It is stated in the Rochester Records that he held the living of Aylesford from the year 1608-9 to that of 1646; and Prebend of Rochester from 1615 to 1646. He died at Chelsfield in 1646, the following being the record of his burial in the Register.

"Mart 19 Georgius Smith Rector de Chelsfield una ne capella de Farnborow eide annexa obut decimo nono die Marty et sepultus est vicesimo tertio die ejus-dem Mensis, cui in rectoria sucessit Georgius Smith filius ejus Artium Mr.Cantab Auloe St.Catherinee triginti octo annos natus".

George Smith 1646 was the grandson, and son respectively of the two previous Rectors. As stated above he was a Master of Arts of St. Catherine Hall, Cambridge. He was only Rector for four years; his death and burial is thus recorded in the Register:

"1650 July 23 - Georgius Smith Fertius Rector de Chelsfeild et Farnborough obutt vicesimo July et sepultus vicesimo - tertio ejusdem mensis".

The inscription is very quaint, being written in Latin. The writer of these notes has had some trouble in getting a translation, since at this period (1651) the people writing these inscriptions tried to be epigrammatic and clever; with the result that their work is extremely difficult to construe; but the following has been done by a distinguished antiquary.

M M M Sacrum

Lo strangers a single Marble, but a triple monument nor shall you wonder at the persons thus united in this grave being

{ The same in name

Three { Equal in office

{ And most closely united in blood

If I shall say one, I have said all for here lie

George Smith the first, the second, the third.

and{ Priests of the Church of England

all{ Rectors without interruption of this[church]of Chelsfield

Oh that each[urn]may ever hold persons such as these(who are not only buried)nor may the threefold union of priestly names fall when these(walls)fall.

Here they have laid a sanctuary of life and death having here equally performed their duty and paid their last due; a conjunction of circumstances and fate so great as not to be met with elsewhere. As death is wont to sever the close connections of humanity. Here one urn has joined so many together whom (that is the son and grandson Georges) the grandfather George receives into his bosom, that which living he in his lifetime had given, being dead he himself receives in death. The ashes of the grandfather embrace those of his descendants, and his dust the dust of his own. Acknowledge also here the even hand of death, who joined together those who in death became again related, and did not associate them together in one manner only but also made them one, in this way made more closely related than through their mother, for where they were three separate members in the womb, now having come one ash, they rest peacefully together till the Right

Hand which brought three out of the breast of nature, and has hidden it again, shall before long call it forth again and gather together the ashes which have been mixed up, and translate them, having become more precious to Him, as having been made more joyful seeds of immortality, into the glorious bosom of the Eternal Trinity.

George Smith 1st}	{May 22nd }	{1626}	{80
George Smith 2nd} died	{March 19th}	AD {1646}	aged {69
George Smith 3rd}	{July 20th }	{1650}	{32
	{Daughter in Law of the 1st	Erected	
Maria Smith of George Smith	{Wife of the 2nd		
	{Mother of the 3rd		
and			[this Monument]
Dorcas Smith of George Smith,	Wife of the 3rd		
	{from a Daughter		June 1651
In {memory of the Dead {from a wife			
{Token of Affection {from a Mother			

Robert Milles 1650-1692 Mr. Fielding in his Rochester Records gives the name as Robert Miller, which must be a printers error, as there are entries in the Register signed "Robert Milles". Hasted states "that by virtue of the Commission of Enquiry into the value of Church livings", dated 1650, issuing out of the Court of Chancery, it was returned that Chelsfield "was a parsonage, having about 50 acres of glebe land, and was worth in all about £80 per annum; one Master Mills enjoying it by gift from the heirs of Master Lee". This Master Lee was the Lord of the Manor of Chelsfield. This Rector was in possession of Chelsfield during the troubled times of the Commonwealth; and according to the Register he appears to have accommodated himself to the times. This is substantiated by Mr. Fielding who says that he was put into the living by Parliament; and that he read the Declaration. Probably he was presented by Master Lee, and approved by the Parliament. After the Restoration an Act of Parliament was passed in 14 Charles II reign; entitled "An Act for the Uniformity of Public Prayers and Administration of Sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies, and for establishing the form of making, ordaining, and consecrating Bishops, Priests, and Deacons in the Church of England". By this Act it was directed that all ministers enjoying any ecclesiastical benefice should publicly declare their assent and approval of everything contained in it; by reading before their congregation a certain formula to that effect, on some Lords day before the

Feast of St. Bartholomew next ensuing (Knights Hist. Eng. III p823). Probably this was the Declaration read by Master Milles, notwithstanding the part he had played during this period, as already described under the heading of Chelsfield in these notes (see p.9). He died in the year 1692, and his wife Rebecca was buried here on August 16th 1687.

Michael Petty 1692. The Records of Rochester gives the name as Michael Pretty; but both the Register, Court Rolls, and deeds state it to be Petty. His burial took place at Chelsfield on June 28th 1751, and he was buried on the south side of the Chancel within the Altar rails. He was 84 years of age, and had held the living for the long period of fifty nine years.

Charles Meetkirke 1751 was the son of Adolphus Meetkirke who bought the next presentation to this living from Thomas Norton the Lord of the Manor of Chelsfield. Adolphus Meetkirke had married Penelope Stone, of Julians, Rushden in Hertfordshire; and the Meetkirkes lived there. Charles was born in September 1710; he matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford, in 1727, at the age of sixteen, taking his BCL degree in 1734. In 1735 he was instituted to the Vicarage of Firton in Hertfordshire by Bishop Reynolds of Lincoln, and resigned that living in 1748 (See Clutterbucks Hist. of Herts - Fosters Alumni Oxonienses). He died on the 10th February 1774.

John Sandford D.D. 1774 was the first Rector presented to Chelsfield by All Souls College. He was the son of Robert Sandford Esquire of Stratton in Gloucestershire. He matriculated at Oriel College, Oxford, on February 27th 1741-42 at the age of eighteen. He took his BA degree in 1745, and his MA from All Souls College in 1749. The degree of BD in 1756, and that of DD in 1764 (Fosters Alumni Oxonienses). He was a Fellow of All Souls. He died in 1781, and was buried here on July 23rd. There is a Monument to him, and to his wife Martha who died in 1798 on the north wall of the Chancel. Dr. Sandford was a Justice of the Peace for the County of Gloucestershire.

John Long DD 1781 was the son of Richard Long of Rood Ashton, Wiltshire Esquire. He matriculated at Magdalen College, Oxford, On October 11th 1748 at the age of seventeen. He took his BA degree in 1752, and was elected a Fellow of All Souls in the same year. In 1756 he proceeded to the MA degree, BD in 1764, DD in 1768, and was Proctor in 1763. He was Rector of Freshford in Somersetshire from 1756 to 1781; Vicar of Whaddon, Wiltshire from 1770-1781. He came here in 1781, and remained until his death on the 17th October 1793.

Peter Coryton DD 1797. This Rector was the second son of Peter Coryton of Fowey, and Crocaden St.Mellion, in Cornwall; he was born and baptized at Fowey in 1743. His father Peter Coryton was the son of John Goodall, and Mariorie the daughter and heiress of Peter Major; hence the name of Peter. John Goodall was the son of William Goodall and Edizabeh the eldest daughter of Sir John Coryton who died in 1680. Thus Peter Coryton was originally Peter Goodall, and he took the name of Coryton pursuant to the Will of Sir William Coryton, Bart, who died in 1711. Our Rector was never married, and was buried here on March 23rd 1817. He matriculated from University College, Oxford in 1761, and took the following degrees, BA in 1766, MA in 1770, BD in 1777, and DD in 1781. He was a Fellow of All Souls; Rector of St.Dunstan in the East, London, from 1798 to 1817; and Prebend of Peterborough from 1781 to 1817 (Fosters Alumni Oxonienses). His portrait by Kenman is in the Billiard-room at Pentillic Castle (communicated by his family).

Edward Williams 1817 was the son of Edward Williams of Eaton, Salop. He matriculated from Pembroke College, Oxford, in the year 1779 at the age of seventeen. He took the Degree of BA in 1783; and that of MA in 1787. He was a Fellow of All Souls until 1818; and was Perpetual Curate of Battlefield and Uffington in Shropshire in 1786 (Fosters Alumni Oxonienses).

Spencer Rodney 1833 was only Rector for a very short time. We believe that he was the 3rd son of George the second Lord Rodney, and eventually succeeded his brothers in the title as the 5th Baron. He matriculated from Christ Church, Oxford, in 1803 at the age of seventeen; taking his BA in 1807, and MA in 1811. He was a Fellow of All Souls from 1807 to 1844, and Lodges Peerage states that he was Vicar of Elmley in Kent in 1818. He died unmarried in 1846.

John Edward Tarleton D.C.L. 1834. The son of Thomas Tarleton of Bolesworth Castle in Cheshire. The Tarletons were an ancient family descended from Walter de Tarleton of Lancaster in the time of Henry III; and they were long connected with Liverpool (Omerods Hist.of Cheshire). Our Rector was born on August 16th 1783; he was educated at Eton, from whence he matriculated at Brasenose College in 1802; taking his BA degree in 1806, that of BCL in 1809, and DEL in 1814. He was a Fellow of All Souls from 1809 to 1835 (Fosters Alumni Oxonienses). He died at Chelsfield on January 16 1849, being found dead in his chair, with his spectacles on, and a newspaper in his hand. He was buried in our Churchyard.

Folliott Baugh 1849 was the last Rector of the combined parishes of Chelsfield and Farnborough, the latter parish being made a separate living during his incumbency. He was the son of the Rev. Walker Baugh of Clapham in Surrey, being educated at the Charterhouse, from whence he matriculated at Exeter College in 1826 at the age of seventeen. He was a 1st Class Classix, taking his BA degree in 1831, and MA from All Souls College in 1836 (Fosters Alumni Oxon). During the time he was Rector the Church was restored, and the Schools in the Village rebuilt. He married at Chelsfield in 1869 Anne Wall the eldest daughter of William Waring of Woodlands. Soon after the death of his wife in 1886 he resigned the living, and went to live in London, where he died in 1899, but was buried at Chelsfield. He was ordained Deacon in 1831, Priest in 1832, and elected a Fellow of All Souls in 1831, which fellowship he held until 1850. He was Preacher at the Charterhouse from 1844 to 1849, and at one time Vicar of Ilford.

John William Nutt 1888 was the third son of Charles Nutt of Tiverton, Somersetshire. He matriculated at Corpus Christi College in 1852 at the age of seventeen; he was a Scholar of the College from 1852-1858, taking his BA degree in 1856, and MA in 1858. He was a Fellow of All Souls from 1858 to 1875; an Inspector of Schools from 1860 to 1867; a Public examiner in 1875 (Fosters Alumni Oxonienses). He was sub-librarian of the Bodleian Library from 1867 to 1879; Rector of Harrietsham, Kent from 1879 to 1888. Upon leaving Chelsfield in 1892 he became Rector of Harpsden, near Henley on Thames. It was during his incumbency that the old Rectory, now known as Chelsfield House, was sold to Edward Norman, and the present one built on the glebe next the schools. All Souls Chapel at Pratts Bottom was also built during the time he was Rector.

Henry Broughton Barnes 1892. The son of Edgar Broughton Barnes of Portsmouth, a Chaplain in the Royal Navy. He matriculated at St. Edmund Hall in 1871 at the age of nineteen. He was a Bible Clerk at All Souls College in 1872, and took his BA degree in 1875. (Fosters Alumni Oxonienses). Being ordained Deacon in 1875, and Priest in 1876, he was Curate of Christ Church Albany Street from 1875 to 1877; and of All Souls, Leeds from 1877 to 1881; Vicar of Great Ilford, Essex from 1881 to 1892. In 1898 he exchanged livings with the Rev. J. J. Baddeley, (resigned Dec 31 1919), the latter coming to Chelsfield, and the former going to Toppersfield, near Halstead in Essex. The Rev. H. B. Barnes left Toppersfield in 1904 for the Vicarage of St. John Clapham.

Bertram Parsons appointed 1920 resigned 1938.

The Curates of Chelsfield

Thomas Glayue 1534 was curate to the Rector Thomas Bacon, he signed the Renunciation of Papal Authority as already stated in the description of that Rector (see p.68). He appears to have witnessed several Wills made by Chelsfield people during his tenure of Office. (Arch.Cant.XXII.295).

Raff Dowell 1553 was Curate of Chelsfield when the Inventory of Parish Goods was taken in VI Edward VI as already mentioned in these notes (see p.49).

William Green 1762 Signed the Marriage Register as Curate in this year; possibly he was the same William Green as was Vicar of Bexley from 1770 to 1808 (see Rochester Records).

Thomas Browne 1769 to 1772. He was also at one time Curate of Cudham, and probably Curate of Downe from 1778-1788.

Henry Pratt 1772 to 1778. He was the son of John Pratt of Tughill in the County of Stafford, gent. He matriculated from University College in 1747 at the age of seventeen. He took his BA degree in 1751, and MA in 1754 (Fosters Alumni Oxonienses). In 1778 he was appointed Vicar of Orpington and St.Mary Crav. He died in 1802 at the age of 72, and was buried at North Cray (Rochester Records).

Robert Jegon 1782-1797

John Pratt 1800-1803. Possibly the son of the above Henry Pratt, as he was the son of one Henry Pratt. He matriculated from University College in the year 1790 at the age of seventeen. He took his BA degree in 1794, and MA in 1797. He was Rector of Seldescombe, Sussex, in 1803, and remained there until his death in 1861 (Fosters Alumni Oxon).

John Bull 1800-1803
D Belfour 1809

Henry Booth Hibbert 1811 to 1817 was the son of Booth Hibbert of Bromley, Kent; he matriculated from Queens College, Oxford in 1801 at the age of eighteen, taking his BA degree in 1805, and MA in 1807 (Fosters Alumni Oxonienses).

James Williams 1817-1833 was afterwards Minister of St. Anne Limehouse.

Edward Covey appears from the Register to have been in charge of the parish from October 1833 to November 1834. Probably he was a 'locum tenens', since for many years he had done duty for the above Mr. Williams, and probably was a personal friend, from the fact that one of Mr. William's children was baptized with the name of Covey.

William Willox Peete 1834-1839 the son of William Peete of Dartford Esquire. He was at Wadham College, Oxford, going there in 1815 at the age of sixteen. He took his BA degree in 1819, and that of MA in 1823 (Fosters Alumni Oxonienses).

Charles William Holbeck 1841-1842 the second son of William Holbeck of Farnborough in the County of Warwick Esquire. He was educated at Eton, and matriculated from Balliol College in 1835 at the age of eighteen. Taking his BA degree in 1838, and MA in 1841. He was a Justice of the Peace for Warwickshire; an honorary Canon of Worcester; Archdeacon of Coventry; and Vicar of Farnborough from 1842. (Fosters Alumni Oxonienses).

H.B. Jones 1842-1843.

George F. Turner 1843-1846.

D.H. MacLachlan 1846-1847.

F. Tufnell 1848.

William Dowding 1848-1852.

James Kirkpatrick 1852-1855. In signing the Register during these years, he sometimes added the word 'curate'. He was a man with a private fortune, and did not reside in the parish, but lived at 'Holydale' in the parish of Keston.

Adam Stephenson Gordon 1855 to 1869 was the fourth son of Adam Gordon of Charlton near Blackheath; he matriculated from Oriel College, Oxford, in 1850 at the age of eighteen. Taking the following degrees, BA in 1854, and MA in 1856. In 1869 he married Miss Julia Baugh, a sister of his Rector. After his marriage he settled at Cannes, and was Assistant Priest of St. Pauls at that place from 1874 to 1904. He died at Blackheath in 1912.

Thomas Crossley 1869-1880.

George Brown 1880-1882 Curate of Shoreham before coming to Chelsfield.

William Eastwick Cotes 1882-1885. He was a MA of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Ordained Deacon in 1880, and Priest in 1881. After leaving Chelstfield he was Vicar of Wythall in Worcestershire from 1888 to 1890, and since then Vicar of St. John the Baptist, Great Marlborough Street.

Alfred Norris Cope 1886, an MA of St. John's College, Cambridge. Ordained Deacon 1878, and Priest 1879. In 1886 he was appointed Vicar of Dormington in Herefordshire.

William Henry Addison 1886-1887. MA of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Ordained Deacon 1884, and Priest in 1889.

Robert Reece Farrant 1885-1888, eldest son of Robert Farrant of Llandudno, Carnarvonshire. He matriculated from New College, Oxford, in 1879 at the age of nineteen. He took his BA degree in 1883, and MA in 1886 (Fosters Alu. Ox.) He was ordained Deacon in 1884, and Priest in 1886. In 1896 he was appointed Vicar of Welland in Worcestershire, where he died June 7th 1915 aged 54.

Harold Robert Powell Powell 1889-1891, an MA of Durham. Ordained Deacon 1885 and Priest 1886.

Arthur Octavius Scutt 1890-1892, an MA of St. John's College, Cambridge. Ordained Deacon 1890, and Priest 1891. In 1908 he was appointed Vicar of Appledore with Ebony in Kent.

George Herbert Webb 1898-1901, an MA of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Ordained Deacon in 1898, and Priest in 1899. He was ordained at Chelstfield.

E.J. Howell 1901.

Louis Nixon 1902-1904, of University College, Durham. Ordained Deacon in 1887, and Priest in 1889. He was Rector of Wennington in Essex from 1907 to 1908; and Chaplain of the London and Tower Hamlets Cemetery at Bow from 1909.

Daniel Davies 1904-1907 was a Clergyman in Canada and the United States from 1891 to 1904. He has been the Rector of Stanfield in Norfolk since 1909.

Arthur Reginald Parson 1907-1909. Ordained Deacon in 1904, and Priest in 1905.

Arthur Stoddart Bousfield 1909-1913. Ordained Deacon in 1897, and Priest in 1898.

Leofric Octavius Brandon Cutler 1913 - is a BA of the Royal University of Ireland. Ordained Deacon in 1898, and Priest in 1899.

The Churchwardens of Chelsfield

Before giving a list of the Churchwardens of Chelsfield so far as it is obtainable, we propose to give a short account of their duties in days gone by, so different to those of the present time.

Generally there are two Churchwardens in every parish and by custom, the one is nominated by the Minister, and the other elected by the parishioners. Formerly every Churchwarden was an Overseer of the Poor, although every Overseer was not a Churchwarden. When elected he was bound to serve; but Peers of the Realm, Clergymen, Members of Parliament, Lawyers, Doctors, Dissenting Teachers, Prosecutors of Felons, and Militiamen were exempt from the office; and no person living out of the parish, although he occupied land within the parish, could be chosen, because he could not take notice of absences from Church, nor disorders in it.

Their duties were many and various. They had to see that the Church ways were well kept and repaired. Most of the Church ornaments were in their custody and charge. They had to provide at the charge of the parish a large bible, a book of common prayer, a book of homilies, a font of stone, a decent communion table with proper coverings, the ten commandments set up at the east end, a reading desk and pulpit, a chest for alms; and they had certain official property in the organ, bells, parish books, chalice, and surplice as representing the parish. They had to provide a box wherein to keep the Register, with three locks and keys, two to be kept by themselves, and one by the Minister. They were ordered every Sunday to see that the Minister had entered in the Register all Christenings, Weddings and Burials that had taken place the week before. They had to observe whether the parson read the Thirty Nine Articles twice, and the Canons once in the year; whether he preached every Sunday good doctrine, read the Common Prayer once a month; celebrated the Sacraments, preached in his gown; visited the sick, catechized the children and married according to law. It was their duty to see that parishioners went to Church, and in cases of neglect had to levy a forfeiture of 12d a Sunday on the goods of the persons neglecting to do so. They had to collect charity money on Briefs (see p.10). It was their duty to keep the keys of the Belfry, and to take care that the bells were not rung without proper cause; and to prevent feasts, banquets, suppers

and other profane usages being kept in the Church or churchyard; and not to allow any idle persons to abide either in the Churchyard, or Church Porch during the time of Divine Service.

The consent of the Churchwardens was required for burying a person in a different parish from that in which he had died; and they had to see that persons who murdered themselves, or died excommunicated were denied Christian burial, and not buried in the Churchyard. It was their duty to levy penalties on persons exercising their worldly calling on the Lords day, and to keep excommunicated out of the Church.

Churchwardens with the consent of two Justices could bind out children of the poor to be apprentices, even to the sea service, or to chimney-sweepers, provided in the latter case that the child was at least eight years of age. They had to provide for the sustenance of certain bastards.

It was their duty to apprehend hawkers, and pedlars trading without a licence, and to provide chests wherein to lock up the arms, clothes and accoutrements of the Militia.

The Churchwardens had to levy, or receive, the penalties incurred by parishioners for attending any conventicle or private assembly for religion where there were five or more persons assembled; for selling corn, butter, and cheese by wrong measure, or fraudulently packed; for drunkenness and tippling; for eating flesh on fish or fast day: for tracing hares in the snow, and for other offences against the game laws: and for indulging in unlawful pastimes on the Lords day. Also for penalties against servants, labourers, apprentices, or journeymen gaming in public-houses. (See Jacobs Law Dictionary, Burns Justice).

It will be seen that the office of Churchwarden was no sinecure in olden days; but probably they were but seldom, if ever, called upon to perform many of the above duties. The Churchwardens of the present time perform but a few of them, and confine their attention to strictly ecclesiastical affairs, and not to many of them.

The following list of Churchwardens is very incomplete, owing to the loss of the old parish books.

1652	James Canston ¹	Richard Brasier ²
1612 & 1613	James Stile ³	William Barton ⁴
1614	William Smale ⁵	William Mace
1615	William Brasyer ⁶	Richard Fryth ⁷
1616	John Wakelen ⁸	Robert Allen ⁹
1617	John Derling ¹⁰	George Prat ¹¹
1618	John Allen ¹²	Nicholas Mace ¹²
1619	Thomas Brasyer	Richard Sexbies
1620	Abraham Dalton ¹³	Willmus Hanning
1621	Thomas Wakelen ¹⁴	Willmus Smale ⁵
1622	Richard Peak	Robert Wright ¹⁵
1623	John Brasyer ¹⁶	Francis Brasyer ¹⁷
1624	Jacob Stile	Michael Stevens
1625	William Brownest	Robert Allen ¹⁸
1666	William Lock	John Allen ¹⁹
1672	William Chapman ²⁰	John Allen ¹⁹
1675	James Style ²⁰	George Dalton
1712	John Waklin	
1742 to 1744	William Child ²¹	Andrew Bath ²²
1745 to 1747	Thomas Judd ²³	Thomas Skeggs ²⁴
1748 & 1749	Thomas Judd ²³	James Lawrance
1750 & 1751	Thomas Whiffen ²⁵	William Chapman ²⁶
1752	William Allen	James Aynscomb ²⁷
1753 & 1754	James Ebbutt ²⁸	James Aynscomb ²⁷
1755 & 1756	Thomas Judd ²³	Joseph Osborne ²⁹
1757 to 1760	Thomas Judd ²³	Thomas Skeggs ²⁴
1761	Thomas Judd ²³	
1762	William Chapman ²⁶	
1763 & 1764	William Chapman ²⁶	James Ebbutt ²⁸
1765	William Chapman ²⁶	Thomas Whiffen ²⁵
1766 to 1768	James Aynscomb ²⁷	Thomas Whiffen ²⁵
1769	Thomas Judd ²³	
1770 to 1777	Thomas Judd ²³	Edward Everest ³⁰
1778 & 1779	Thomas Judd ²³	James Hargraves ³⁰
1780	Thomas Judd ²³	Thomas Skeggs ²⁴
1781 to 1783	Thomas Judd ²³	
1784 & 1785	Thomas Judd ²³	Richard Jackson
1786	James Graves ³¹	Edward Everest ³⁰
1787 to 1793	John Fuller ³²	Edward Everest ³⁰
1794 & 1795	John Fuller ³²	John Eyles ³³
1796 to 1802	John Fuller ³²	Edward Everist ³⁰
1803 & 1804	John Fuller ³²	
1806 to 1810	John Fuller ³²	Thomas Phillips ³⁴
1811 to 1814	James Harris ³⁵	Thomas Phillips ³⁴

1815 & 1816	James Harris ³⁵	
1817 to 1823	James Harris ³⁵	William Stow ³⁶
1824 & 1825	James Harris ³⁵	George Phillips ³⁷
1826	James Harris ³⁵	
1827	James Harris ³⁵	William Stow ³⁶
1828	Richard Clark ³⁸	William Stow ³⁶
1829	Richard Clark ³⁸	
1830 & 1831	Richard Clark ³⁸	G.W.Phillips ³⁷
1832	Robert Crawford ⁴⁰	G.W.Phillips ³⁷
1833	Robert Crawford ⁴⁰	
1834	Henry Stiles	G.W.Phillips ³⁷
1835	Henry Stiles	William Wynn ⁴¹
1836	Thomas Waring ⁴²	
1837 & 1838	Thomas Waring ⁴²	G.W.Phillips ³⁷
1839 to 1843	Robert Crawford ⁴⁰	G.W.Phillips ³⁷
1844 to 1849	Samuel Brooker ⁴³	G.W.Phillips ³⁷
1850 to 1853	William Waring ⁴⁴	G.W.Phillips ³⁷
1854 to 1857	William Morgan ⁴⁵	G.W.Phillips ³⁷
1858 to 1863	William Morgan ⁴⁵	George Phillips Jnr ⁴⁶
1864 to 1870	Henry G.M.Harris ⁴⁷	George Phillips Jnr ⁴⁶
1871		George Phillips Jnr ⁴⁶
1872 to 1878	Thomas Morgan ⁴⁸	George Phillips Jnr ⁴⁶
1879 to 1880	Thomas Morgan ⁴⁸	F.W.Brind ⁴⁷
1881 to 1889	Robert Brooker ⁵⁰	F.W.Brind ⁴⁷
1890	Thomas Springett Jnr ⁵¹	F.W.Brind ⁴⁷
1891	Thomas Springett Jnr ⁵¹	
	Edward Norman ⁵²	F.W.Brind ⁴⁷
1892	Edward Norman ⁵²	F.W.Brind ⁴⁷
1893 to 1897	Edward Norman ⁵²	Alexander Miller Hallett ⁵³
1898	Edward Norman ⁵²	William Hughes ⁵⁴
1899	Edward Norman ⁵²	J.L.Knight Bruce ⁵⁵
1900 to 1903	Edward Norman ⁵²	George E.Asprey ⁵⁶
1904 to 1906	Edward Norman ⁵²	W.J.Brown ⁵⁷
1907	Edward Norman ⁵²	W.J.Brown ⁵⁷
		George Osgood ⁵⁸
1908 to	Edward Norman ⁵²	George Osgood ⁵⁸

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1. Churchwarden when Inventory of Church Goods made in 1552.
 2. Richard Brasier was the owner of Pax,Bucks Cross Cottages, and what is now the Woodlands Laundry, also of Rough gardens by the wells on Wellhill; He was buried at Chelsfield on Sept 23rd 1571.
 3. James Stile owned Leach-croft,a house and property which stood on south part of Bucks Cross Orchard, and Carters Field.

4. William Barton lived at Fairtrough, being the owner.
5. William Smale lived in the parish all his life being both baptized and buried here. The Register gives his age as 70 years.
6. William Brasyer, son of above Richard Brasier - he succeeded to Rough Gardens - buried at Chelsfield 1619.
7. Richard Fryth was the tenant of Cackets - buried here 1620.
8. John Wakelen, son of William Wakelen of Coxcroft. He sold his share of this property to his brother Thomas.
9. Robert Allen lived at, and owned, Washneys.
10. John Derling married twice at Chelsfield
(1) Anne Brasier (2) Alice French
11. George Pratt was baptised and buried at Chelsfield. He and his family for many generations held land close to the 'Bulls Head' at Pratts Bottom, probably this is the origin of the name of this hamlet.
12. John Allen and Nicholas Mace were both landowners, but the names of their properties are not given in the Court Rolls. Nicholas Mace was the tenant of 'Walnuttrees' at the foot of Wellhill, and he afterwards owned part of it.
13. Abraham Dalton was the owner, in right of his wife, of a moiety of two houses and an Orchard at Greenstreet Green.
14. Thomas Wakelen was the owner of 'Cox Croft'.
15. Robert Wright was the tenant of Hewetts.
16. John Brasyer was the owner of Pax Farm.
17. Francis Brasyer succeeded the above William Brasyer (1615) in Rough Gardens.
18. Robert Allen owned, and lived at Washneys.
19. John Allen was probably of Washneys.
20. James Style was the owner of Lillies.
21. William Child was the tenant of the Court Lodge farm, and he was also the part owner of a house at Greenstreet Green.
22. Andrew Bath was the owner of Simons Hawe.
23. Thomas Judd was the owner of Lillies.
24. Thomas Skeggs of Norstead (see p.40).
25. Thomas Whiffen was the owner of Walnuttrees; the house is now pulled down (see p.102).
26. William Chapman possessed and lived at Mount Hall.
27. James Aynscomb's wife Mary after this date owned Goddington & Lillies.
28. James Ebbutt was a landowner near Goddington, and at Greenstreet Green, his house was named 'Andrews'.
29. Joseph Osborne lived at Rishmore Hill.
30. Edward Everest was tenant of Chelsfield Hall farm; and owned a House at Grenstreet Green; and also was the owner of the Shop in the Village, formerly an Inn called 'The Eleven Cricketers'.
31. James Graves was the teneant of Gilman Brimstone Farm.

32. John Fuller of Hewetts, he owned much property in the parish. His daughter Sarah married Thomas Waring.
33. John Eyles was tenant of 'The Porcupine' Inn, and land near it, at Richmore Hill.
34. Thomas Phillips was tenant of Norstead, and owner of 'Shots farm'.
35. James Harris was the owner of Goddington and Lillies.
36. William Stow was the tenant of Chelsfield Hall Farm.
37. George Phillips was the tenant of Norstead, and owner of 'Shots' farm.
38. Richard Clark kept the Village Shop, formerly 'The Eleven Cricketers'.
39. George Waker Phillips was tenant of Norstead, and owner of 'Shots farm'.
40. Robert Crawford of the Court Lodge. Lord of the Manor of Chelsfield.
42. Thomas Waring of Hewetts - afterwards Lord of the Manor of Chelsfield; died at 'Woodlands' in 1851.
43. Samuel Brooker was tenant of Lillies.
44. William Waring son of Thomas Waring - he lived at 'Woodlands', and was Lord of the Manors of Chelsfield and Hewetts.
45. William Morgan lived in the House opposite Ferberry field, and was tenant of land near 'Black Bush'.
46. George Phillips Jnr was the son of George Waker Phillips, (39) and was the tenant of Hewetts.
47. Henry B.M.Harris of Goddington.
48. Thomas Morgan was the tenant of Osbornes; and for many years was a messenger in the Probate and Divorce Court.
49. Frederick William Brind was the tenant of the Court Lodge House.
50. Robert Brooker at one time the Village Schoolmaster, and afterwards Postmaster and Parish Clerk. He died in 1894.
51. Thomas Springett Jnr. was a Baker in the Village.
52. Edward Norman the youngest son of George Warde Norman of 'The Rookery', Bromley Common. He bought the old Rectory House and renamed it 'Chelsfield House'.
53. Alexander Miller Hallett the owner of Goddington.
54. William Hughes was the Agent to Lord Derby and lived at Norstead.
55. J.L.Knight Bruce was the tenant of the 'Red Lodge' at Goddington.
56. George E.Asprey was the tenant of the Court Lodge House.
57. W.J.Brown a clerk in Fox's Brewery, lived at Greenstreet Green.
58. George Osgood, a coach-builder at Pratts Bottom.
59. William Chapman. Tenant to R.Gooday & of Leach Croft(1672).
60. James Hargraves kept the Porcupine Inn on Richmore Hill(1778).

Parish Clerks of Chelsfield

Parish clerks in olden days were Clerks in Orders, and they had to officiate at the Altar, in return for which they received offerings. In later times they were laymen, and had fees on Christenings, Marriages, Burials etc, besides wages. If a Clerk is read in during Service, his office is a freehold. They had to be twenty years of age at least, and known to be of honest conversation, sufficient for their reading, singing etc. Their business consisted chiefly in making responses to the Minister, reading lessons, singing psalms, and in some Churches they gave out notices during the Service (Jacobs Law Dict.).

It is impossible to give a complete list of the Parish Clerks of Chelsfield; but in the old Registers and the few remaining parish books, the names given below are to be found. The salary of the office in 1743 was £2.10.0 per annum, and in 1822 it had risen to £7.

Thomas Wakelen was buried here on October 16 1562. The Register recording that he was "ye parish Clerke". The Wakelens were a very old Chelsfield family, and probably Thomas was the owner of Cox Croft, and lived there.

John Sadler the parish Clerk was buried here on 20 June 1655. He married at Chelsfield in 1610 Alice the daughter of Robert Chapman, belonging to a family that were resident in this parish for at least two hundred years.

Thomas Know was appointed Clerk in 1743, and held the office for over sixty years. He was a tenant farmer, cultivating a part of the Court Lodge estate, which now forms a portion of Hewetts farm. Among other occupations of the Know family was that of Collectors of Quit-rents for the Manor of Chelsfield. Thomas was buried at Chelsfield on April 26 1812, at the age of 90 years.

Charles Rawlings appears from our marriage register to have acted as Clerk during the latter years of the life of Thomas Know, and up to the time when he, Charles, died in 1807, and is buried here.

John Brooks was appointed in 1807, and was probably the third son of Thomas Brooks of Riddenshaw; the old house lately pulled down, close to the 'White Hart' Inn at Bo-peep. He was buried at Chelsfield in 1844, aged 69.

Philip Brooks was appointed in 1843, being the son of the above John Brooks. In 1844 he was the tenant of 'Osbornes', the Trustees letting it to him at a rent of £15 per annum upon the condition that he maintained his mother.

Edward Oliver appointed Clerk in 1855, held the post for a very short time. He was also Village Schoolmaster.

George Brooks was the son of the above John Brooks and was the last of the old-world Parish Clerks. The inscription on his grave stone states that he was "For 30 years Clerk of this Parish. He died Nov 18 1884. Aged 83 Years". He lived at Sluts Hole, and appears to have resided in Chelsfield the whole of his life, having been baptised in our Church on Jan 25 1801.

Robert Brooker was the son of Thomas Brooker, the Landlord of the 'Five Bells' Inn. At various times he was the Schoolmaster at our Village School, Postmaster, and a Churchwarden. He died on June 21 1894 at the age of 68 years.

Arthur Thomas Verrells the son of Thomas Verrells the Harness maker in the Village; he was appointed Clerk upon the resignation of Robert Brooker. He held the office exactly twenty years, resigning upon leaving the parish to take up a business as Harness-maker at Fembury.

Bertha Verrells

Education & Schools

The first mention of a School at Chelsfield is to be found in Cox's Magna Britannia published in the year 1720, which contains the following. "Chelsfield where there is a small School for poor children". Possibly this school was held in the House formerly known as Kidders, and which is now the 'Woodlands' laundry. The upper room in this house runs the whole length of the building, and has been known as the school-room. Old inhabitants in years gone by have stated that they went to school in this room in their youth.

We have been unable to find any other reference to a School before 1823, in which year this entry appears in an old family account book "Pd Mr. Williams towards building Chelsfield School £5". Mr. Williams was the then Rector of the parish. This school was carried on by one Edward Brooks, who appears to have been paid by fees; for in the same account book are to be found the following items, and several others of a similar kind.

"Pd Edward Brooks for G. Dunmall 8 weeks to this day	2s 0d
pd do for Ricd & Philip Whitehead 10 weeks to this day	5s 0d
do for a writing book George Dunmall	7d"

In 1829 Edward Brooks was succeeded at the School by Thomas Colebourn, who is still remembered by a few in the parish. In 1835 and following years, and probably even earlier the school was supported by subscription in addition to the fees.

The School built about the year 1823 became unsuitable for the requirements of the times, and was demolished in 1864, when the present one was built upon the old site, the cost being met by voluntary contributions.

In 1884 the bulk of the cost of keeping up the Voluntary School had fallen upon the pockets of some two or three people, and they declining to continue this liability, a meeting of ratepayers was held to consider the position of affairs. It was decided that the formation of a School Board was the only way out of the difficulty. Accordingly a Board was formed, which met for the first time on July 31st of the above year.

Soon after the advent of a School Board, the School at Pratts Bottom was built. It was opened with a 'tea' on April 17 1886, and the regular work of the School commenced on the 19th of the same month.

School Boards were abolished in the year 1902, their duties being transferred to the Kent Education Committee. Local Managers were retained, nominally to supervise the Schools in their parish, but as all power was taken from them; they are of but little use.

Green Street Green, or New Chelsfield, with its increasing population, necessitated further school accommodation on that side of the parish. A new School was built there in 1908. This School was opened by Lord Avebury on January 29 in the following year. A tea was given to the parents and children. The actual work of the school commenced on February the 1st.