

Religious History

Income and Property

The tithes of the 'rectory' of Basing were valued at £8 in 1535, and were received by the impropiators of the parish, Magdalen College, Oxford.¹ In 1728, the glebe of the rectory amounted to 32 a. of arable land dispersed throughout the common fields and another 1 a. of arable land lying next to the churchyard.² Magdalen College was allocated an extra 28 a. of land when the parish was inclosed in 1796, when the vicar was allocated an extra 2 a. of glebe.³ At the time of the tithe award in 1841 the glebe of the rectory amounted to c. 72 a.⁴ In 1851 the tithes of Basing were worth £233 and the glebe was valued at £4.⁵

There was no fixed stipend for the curate of Basing in 1535.⁶ The curate had a stipend of £90 in 1832, but there was no residence within the parish.⁷

Religious Life

Dedicated to St Mary by the middle of the 19th century,⁸ the church was consecrated to St Peter and St Paul in the 16th century.⁹ For much of its modern history, Basing was a dependent chapelry of the parish of Basingstoke, served by a curate appointed by the vicar of Basingstoke. Besides the curate, there were also two chaplains and a chantry priest serving the church in 1517,¹⁰ and still in 1520.¹¹ Sir John Paulet left provision in his will for the foundation of a chantry, possibly in connection with the construction of the north chapel, which was to be endowed with the rectory of Abbotstone.¹² Although there was a chantry priest present in the parish in 1543,¹³ none were recorded in 1548,¹⁴ and the Hampshire visitors recorded no evidence of chantries in the parish in the reign of Edward VI.¹⁵ The curate was presented in 1618

¹ *Valor Eccles.*, III, 284.

² HRO, 35M48/16/21.

³ HRO, Q23/2/105.

⁴ HRO, 21M65/F7/179/1; TNA, IR 29/31/15.

⁵ *The Religious Census of Hampshire 1851*, ed. John A Vickers, Hampshire Record Series, 12 (1993), p. 180.

⁶ *Valor Eccles.*, III, 13.

⁷ HRO, 3M70/25.

⁸ *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, VIII (1843), 369.

⁹ HRO, 1542B/33, 1513B/1.

¹⁰ Baigent, *Basingstoke*, 19; HRO, 21M65/B1/1.

¹¹ HRO, 21M65/B1/2, f.23r.

¹² HRO, 21M65/B1/2, f.43r. *VCH Hants. IV*, pp. 123.

¹³ Baigent, *Basingstoke*, 19; [HRO, 21M65/B1/5?].

¹⁴ HRO, 21M65/B1/6.

¹⁵ TNA, E 301/51–52.

for having baptised children in the parish without using the sign of the cross.¹⁶ Six men were presented for playing bowls in the church yard in 1618.¹⁷

Although the royal arms in the church are dated 1660, the church was alleged to have been 'demolished and pulled downe almost to the ground' during the siege of Basing House, and was still in a ruinous state in 1664.¹⁸ It was reported that the seats and pulpit had been burned, and the bells and ornaments taken away, leaving the parishioners with 'no place to assemble together, for divine worship'.¹⁹ However, burial and marriage registers survive from from 1655 and baptismal registers from 1671.²⁰ The total costs of the repairs were reported to be £1,500, of which the parishioners were only able to raise £300. A brief was issued throughout England for the collection of money to repair the church,²¹ but it was still ruined and shut up in 1666,²² and the churchwardens complained again in 1673 that the church was out of repair.²³ The restoration of the church presumably dates from soon after this, perhaps as a consequence of the succession of the Protestant 6th marquess in 1674. The date of 1676 on one of the parish bells perhaps marks the completion of this process.²⁴

A new pewter plate was purchased for use in the church in 1685.²⁵ This was added to in 1688 with the gift of a silver chalice and a silver paten, donated by vicar of Basingstoke from the Easter oblations of the marquess of Winchester.²⁶ The parish retained these ornaments in the 18th century, when it also owned a flagon marked 'B. P.', but otherwise had few ornaments.²⁷ In the early 18th century there were services twice every Sunday during the summer and once a week in the winter.²⁸ The tenant of the parsonage provided new communion rails in 1714.²⁹ In 1725 the curate, John Hoyle, who also served the cure at Basingstoke and Up Nately, had no residence in the parish.³⁰ In 1732 the parishioners complained of the 'most deplorable and most unhappy condition' of 'a people once remarkable for their zeal and duty to God' because of the frequent lack of services at Basing. It was uncertain whether

¹⁶ HRO, 21M65/B1/28.

¹⁷ HRO, 21M65/B1/28.

¹⁸ HRO, 202M85/3/896.

¹⁹ G.N. Godwin, *The Civil War in Hampshire and the Story of Basing House* (Southampton, 1904), 363.

²⁰ HRO, 3M70/PR1.

²¹ North Devon Record Office, Littleham (Bideford) Parish Registers, 1539–1895, 1176a/PR/1, f. 22v.

²² HRO, 202M85/3/897.

²³ HRO, 202M85/3/898.

²⁴ *VCH Hants. IV*, pp. 126. The churchwardens did not present any disrepair of the church in 1680: HRO, 202M85/3/899.

²⁵ HRO, 3M70/44.

²⁶ HRO, 35M48/16/22; P.R.P. Braithwaite, *The Church Plate of Hampshire* (London, 1909), 96.

²⁷ HRO, 35M48/16/22.

²⁸ HRO, 21M65/1/2/A/181.

²⁹ *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, VIII (1843), 372; TNA, PROB 11/641/187.

³⁰ *Parson and Parish in Eighteenth-Century Hampshire: Replies to Bishops' Visitations*, ed. W. R. Ward, Hampshire Record Series, XIII (1995), p. 15.

services would be held in the morning and the afternoon, and parishioners were forced to wait in the church for hours with no minister arriving. As well as the weekly services, many of the great feasts and fasts of the church were often neglected, including Easter, although fittingly the fast for Charles I on 30 January was always observed in the parish which had suffered so much in his name. The parishioners implored the bishop to rectify the situation, complaining that it had already been presented to the archdeacon to no effect, and offered to provide a residence for the curate at the cost of the parish.³¹ It is not clear whether the bishop intervened, but Hoyle continued to serve as curate at Basing until 1738.³² A new pewter bowl inscribed with the names of the churchwardens was provided in 1740.³³

Basing was served by a curate who also served the cure at Up Nately in 1788, when the whole village was said to be conformable to the Church of England.³⁴ At that time, the Eucharist was celebrated at Basing three times a year. The services were supplemented by singers accompanied by musicians playing clarinets, and the singers were provided with a dinner at Christmas and Easter.³⁵ In 1810 the curate officiated at both Basing and Up Nately, and lived between the two parishes, but he did not also officiate at Basingstoke.³⁶ The church at that time was said to hold 400 people,³⁷ but extra accommodation was required within the church, and a new gallery was erected at the west end in 1819.³⁸ A supplementary afternoon sermon was provided during the summer months from 1817, for which the parish paid an extra £5 a year to the curate.³⁹ The payments were briefly stopped in 1832, but reinstated later in that year,⁴⁰ and continued until 1841.⁴¹ Lord Bolton and the vicar presented new cloths and cushions for the communion table and pulpit in 1829, and the vicar donated a new silver flagon to the parish in 1830.⁴² The vicar extended the gallery in 1833, apparently for use by the singers, and provided a new organ, which was also placed in the gallery.⁴³ The vicar provided a new clock in 1835,⁴⁴ and a new bell was hung in 1838.⁴⁵

³¹ HRO, 21M65/1/2/A/181.

³² CCED, No. 93719.

³³ P.R.P. Braithwaite, *The Church Plate of Hampshire* (London, 1909), 97.

³⁴ *Parson and Parish in Eighteenth-Century Hampshire: Replies to Bishops' Visitations*, ed. W. R. Ward, Hampshire Record Series, XIII (1995), p. 309.

³⁵ HRO, 3M70/36.

³⁶ *Doing the Duty of the Parish: Surveys of the Church in Hampshire 1810*, ed. Mark Smith, Hampshire Record Series, 17 (2004), p. 12.

³⁷ *Doing the Duty of the Parish: Surveys of the Church in Hampshire 1810*, ed. Mark Smith, Hampshire Record Series, 17 (2004), p. 12.

³⁸ HRO, 3M70/36, 41, 126.

³⁹ HRO, 3M70/36.

⁴⁰ HRO, 3M70/126.

⁴¹ HRO, 3M70/36.

⁴² HRO, 3M70/126; P.R.P. Braithwaite, *The Church Plate of Hampshire* (London, 1909), 96–97.

⁴³ HRO, 3M70/126; *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, VIII (1843), 373–74.

⁴⁴ *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, VIII (1843), 376.

⁴⁵ VCH Hants. IV, pp.126

The church was restored and 'beautified' in 1839, at a cost of £493, including a grant of £50 from the Society for Promoting and Repairing Churches and £30 from the Diocesan Society for Increasing Church Accommodation. The chancel was reordered, with the construction of a new arch and the removal of the old communion rails to the north chapel, and 40 seats were added to the existing total of 352, of which 200 were free.⁴⁶ The vicar purchased the Jacobean pulpit that had stood in Basingstoke church, and installed it in the church at Basing.⁴⁷ At the time of the 1851 religious census, there was accommodation for 400 within the church, and the attendance was estimated at 220 in the morning and 130 in the afternoon.⁴⁸ The church was closed for restoration again in 1874, when the south porch was removed, and the western door made the main entrance to the church, and new seats were placed within the church.⁴⁹ The total cost of the work was more than £2,800,⁵⁰ aided in part with a grant of £200 from the diocese.⁵¹ Services were performed in the mornings and the evenings in the later 1870s, supplemented by music from a new organ installed in 1878 and singing by a choir.⁵² In 1864, the medieval union between Basing and Basingstoke was broken, and Basing with Up Natley became an independent vicarage. In 1866, it acquired a new vicarage house to cater for this new role.⁵³

Nonconformity

There were no nonconformists reported in the parish in 1603 or in 1676.⁵⁴ There were said to be four families of Presbyterians in Basing in 1725, and two families of Quakers, but no Baptists.⁵⁵ However, the vicar reported there were no dissenters of any denomination within the parish in 1788.⁵⁶ In 1851, a cottage in the village was used for meetings of independents. The meetings attracted an attendance of 50, and the services were led by the minister of the chapel in London St, Basingstoke.⁵⁷

⁴⁶ *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, VIII (1843), 372–76.

⁴⁷ Baigent and Millard, *Basingstoke*, 510.

⁴⁸ *The Religious Census of Hampshire 1851*, ed. John A Vickers, Hampshire Record Series, 12 (1993), p. 180.

⁴⁹ HRO, 3M70/37, 42; 10M57/Z46.

⁵⁰ HRO, 3M70/42.

⁵¹ *The Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 Apr. 1874, p. 3.

⁵² HRO, 3M70/42.

⁵³ Baigent & Millard, *Basingstoke*, xxii; *P.O. Directory*, 1875, 27

⁵⁴ *The Compton Census of 1676*, ed. Anne Whiteman (Oxford, 1987), 83.

⁵⁵ *Parson and Parish in Eighteenth-Century Hampshire: Replies to Bishops' Visitations*, ed. W. R. Ward, Hampshire Record Series, XIII (1995), 15.

⁵⁶ *Parson and Parish in Eighteenth-Century Hampshire: Replies to Bishops' Visitations*, ed. W. R. Ward, Hampshire Record Series, XIII (1995), 309.

⁵⁷ *The Religious Census of Hampshire 1851*, ed. John A Vickers, Hampshire Record Series, 12 (1993), 180.

Roman Catholicism, They acquired their own chapel in 1868. The Primitive Methodists had a chapel from in 1867.⁵⁸

There was a long history of recusancy within the village after the Reformation, inspired in no small part by the Catholicism of the lords of three of the manors within the village. Although the conservative religious view of 1st marquis of Winchester and his successors can be suspected, the 4th marquis was the first not to openly conform to the established church. The Byfleets, who were not resident within the parish, were repeatedly fined for their recusancy during the late 16th century.⁵⁹ The Cuffaud family, descended from the niece of Cardinal Pole, were also noted recusants. Simeon Cuffaud was amongst those imprisoned at Winchester for his faith in 1583.⁶⁰ He was listed as being at liberty on bond in 1592,⁶¹ but as this was after his death it may be a mistake for his successor Alexander, who was listed on the recusant roll of 1592–3.⁶² An order was issued for the arrest of Alexander Cuffaud in the aftermath of the Gunpowder Plot,⁶³ and his house was searched again in 1609.⁶⁴ His grandson Matthew was fined for recusancy during the Commonwealth,⁶⁵ and he was amongst those presented as a Papist by the churchwardens in 1666.⁶⁶ Henry Cuffaud's estates were registered after the accession of George I for his refusal to swear allegiance to the Church of England.⁶⁷ Another member of the family, John Cuffaud *alias* Maynard, was a Jesuit priest whose attendance upon catholic prisoners at Chester gaol in 1716 caused his death.⁶⁸

With such strength of Catholicism within the manor houses of the parish, it is unsurprising that recusancy persisted in Basing during the 17th century. There were 13 recusants reported in Basing in 1603.⁶⁹ The churchwardens presented a total of eleven papists in two presentments in 1664,⁷⁰ and 13 two years later.⁷¹ The

⁵⁸ VCH Hants. IV, 115

⁵⁹ VCH. Som. VII, pp. 164–70; *Somerset & Dorset Notes & Queries*, V (1896–7), 112.

⁶⁰ F.A. Gasquet, *Hampshire Recusants: A story of their troubles in the time of Queen Elizabeth* (London, n.d.), 37; TNA, SP 12/160/26; CSPD, 1581–90, pp. 104–8.

⁶¹ HMC Cecil, IV: 1590–94, ed. R.A. Roberts (London, 1892), pp. 249–77.

⁶² *Recusant Rolls No. 1, 1592–3*, ed. M.M.C. Calthrop, Catholic Record Society, XVIII (1916), 289.

⁶³ HMC Cecil, XVII: 1605, ed. M.S. Giuseppi (London, 1938), pp. 492–531.

⁶⁴ *Newsletters from the Archpresbyterate of George Birkhead*, ed. Michael C. Questier, Camden Society, 5th ser., XII (1998), 43.

⁶⁵ *Cal. Comm. Com.*, II, p. 1487–88.

⁶⁶ HRO, 202M85/3/897.

⁶⁷ *The English Catholic Nonjurors of 1715*, ed. E.E. Estcourt and J.O. Payne, (London, [1885]), 235; HRO, Q25/3/1, pp. 7–8.

⁶⁸ Henry Foley, *Records of the English Province of the Society of Jesus*, VII (1883), pp. 900, 1405.

⁶⁹ *The Compton Census of 1676*, ed. Anne Whiteman (Oxford, 1987), 83.

⁷⁰ HRO, 21M65/B1/37; 202M85/3/896.

⁷¹ HRO, 202M85/3/897.

churchwardens only presented five papists in 1673, but 27 recusants were recorded in Basing in Bishop Compton's census in 1676.⁷² The succession of the Protestant 6th marquess in 1674 and the transfer of the manors of Byfleet and Cuffauds to Protestant lords no doubt contributed to the decline of Catholicism in the parish. In 1725 the vicar noted only two farmers in Basing who were Papists, besides the non-resident Henry Cuffaud.⁷³ By 1788 there were said to be no Papists within the parish.⁷⁴

⁷² *The Compton Census of 1676*, ed. Anne Whiteman (Oxford, 1987), 83.

⁷³ *Parson and Parish in Eighteenth-Century Hampshire: Replies to Bishops' Visitations*, ed. W. R. Ward, Hampshire Record Series, XIII (1995), 15.

⁷⁴ *Parson and Parish in Eighteenth-Century Hampshire: Replies to Bishops' Visitations*, ed. W. R. Ward, Hampshire Record Series, XIII (1995), p. 309.