

The original volume was small quarto in format, and here the format is A4 . The footnote numbers were not continuous, but began anew on each page, so here they have been re-numbered continuously and placed at the end.

This version was digitised from the editor's personal copy. The table of contents at the beginning has been added anew.

Tony & Jane Woolrich, 14/08/2019

The figures enclosed in round brackets (...) refer to the order of the documents in this volume; those in square brackets [...] to the order in Dr. Birch's catalogue in the Town Clerk's office.

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This, the third volume of *Bridgwater Archives* published by the Society, covers nearly the first half of the fifteenth century, the reigns of Henry IV and Henry V and rather more than half that of Henry VI. The contents of the strong-room are varied, full of interest and useful to the student of the Middle Ages.

Two new classes of documents hitherto unrepresented among our treasures make a welcome appearance. The earliest of our apprenticeship indentures are here and the first of the nine letters of confraternity which the Corporation is fortunate enough to possess is included in this volume.

Happily there are further examples of the last will and testament most useful supplying lists of articles of dress, furniture and other personal belongings illustrating the modes and customs of the late medieval period. In one of these we are admitted to the intimacy of a brewer's household; in others we witness the efforts of pious ladies to leave house property to a chantry in spite of the obstacle of the 'dead han' which the royal power raises as a barrier against the dangerous extension of ecclesiastical possessions in real estate.

Accounts of Our Lady's chantry no longer appear, but those of the churchwardens are rich in information concerning the administration and furniture of St. Mary's. We add also to our knowledge of town affairs by an increased number of borough accounts. These balance sheets, both ecclesiastical and lay, are now sometimes presented to us no longer in Latin

but in the English tongue. Indeed there is now an increasing of English in these archives and two manuscripts only in this volume are in French. Translations of some of the more important of those in Latin are added.

As in the previous volumes there is abundance of conveyances and leases be defeasances and powers of attorney which one cannot but suppose to be the title-deeds of properties destined to come into the possession of the borough, mostly through the intermediate channel of the chantries: One document (524) is catalogued which would have been most interesting for the information which it purports to give respecting the vicarage, but unfortunately it bears marks of forgery and the text has therefore been omitted.

The method which I have hitherto adopted in presenting the Latin text is now changed, I hope for the better. Instead of cutting down the spelling of the word order to save space, I have given it in full, even extending the original where the scribe has condensed it. To balance this I have omitted much text where it is for the most repetitional, for it will not be difficult for the reader to refer to a standard lease or power of attorney or other familiar form which will be found in the earlier part of the volume

#### EXTERNAL FEATURES

Chirographs now become less frequent and the clerk who prepares the legal agreements is content to divide the two sections by an indented or curvilinear cut of penknife without

any written characters across the incision to help proof of the identity of the two texts so divided:

We have noted in the last volume that the first purchase of paper is recorded in the Community Account for 1396-7 and that it was used for the 'parce' of the December quarter of the latter year. There is, however, no watermark on it which would indicate the country of origin. In that respect we are more fortunate in the paper used for the bailiffs account in 1400 (502). Here the mark of the manufacturer is to be found — a drawn bow with arrow surrounded by a circle. This points to Piedmont as the distant land from which it had been brought to Bridgwater, possibly by sea direct from Genoa. In this country, so far as we know, paper was not manufactured till much later in the century.

#### SEALS

An *inspeximus* of the borough charter from the chancery of Henry IV (504) is accompanied by an impression of the great seal in green wax attached by a green cord; a large fragment of yellow wax exhibiting the middle portion of the same seal is appended to. Henry V's pardon, to the gild merchant (583).

We have here our earliest surviving example of the seal of the Grey Friars of Bridgwater. It is vesica-shaped and shows St. Francis of Assisi standing with a suppliant kneeling beside him; beneath is a bridge athwart a river, similar to the lower part of the seal of the community and of that of the hospital of St. John the Baptist. The legend reads *Sigillum Gardiani Fratrum Minorum Burgwat* — 'seal of the warden of the friars minor of Bridgwater' (546).

It was an occasional custom to surround the wax on which the seal was impressed with a plait of rush to add a degree of strength. An example of this is to be found on the counterpart of a lease (710) granted by the vicar, John Colswayn, to a Wembdon family. On the lease itself (709) is the seal, of the vicar, *sigillum vicarii de Bruggewater*, on which appears the figure of an ecclesiastic kneeling between two-crowned and flaming stars.

On a grant-of property (658) dated 1433, is an impression of some interest. It represents a girl playing with a kid, apparently a classic gem, with the legend *F R A N G E L E G E T E G E*, Break, read and conceal.

#### THE MESNE LORDS OF THE BOROUGH

We have recorded in a previous volume the premature death of Roger, earl of March, who was recognized as heir to the throne by the party supporting King Richard. His two sons were now in the hands of the Lancastrian occupant of

the throne, who consigned them to the shelter of the court and brought them up with the royal children. This course was dictated not only by humane considerations but as a measure of precaution against their being made the centre of plots against the new dynasty. Even so conspirators succeeded in kidnapping them and carrying them off in the direction of the Welsh border. Happily they were safely recovered and spent the rest of their youth in the peace and quiet which fitted the temperament of both. Edmund, the elder of the two, came of age in the year of King Henry's death, and entered into his ancestral estates. Prince Hal, on coming to the throne, knighted the brothers and they were much in the public eye during the ceremonies that accompanied the coronation. Roger, the younger of the two, had a weak constitution and did not live long.

Edmund, earl of March, was a thoughtful and studious man, with the religious side of his character strongly developed. It was he who re-established the decayed priory of Stoke-by-Clare — he was lord of the honour of Clare — as a college, an effort to save the monastic system by a change of form more in accord with the trend of contemporary opinion. Yet in the king's service his life was by no means inactive. He took part in the French campaigns; was at one time admiral of the fleet; at another, warden of Normandy; and finally lieutenant of Ireland, where he died of the plague when he was thirty-two years old. He was married but left no children, and thus the line of the house of Mortimer, which had for the best part of two centuries been intimately connected with Bridgwater, came to an end. The possessions included the castle and a third of the borough passed to the elder sister, Ann, who had been married to Richard, earl of Cambridge, and whose grandson in due time came to the throne as Edward IV.

The other lordship of the borough was at this time represented by William la Zouche of Harringworth, near Uppingham. He also saw service abroad and was lieutenant to the Duke of Clarence, acting as captain of Calais and Guines. He undertook a diplomatic mission to the court of Burgundy. When he died in 1415, his son and heir, also William, was a boy of 13 years, and the baron la Zouche was no longer summoned to parliament.

#### THE BOROUGH

The development of the burghal government within the framework and through the personnel of the gild merchant has been already sketched in the volume which concluded our

story in the fourteenth century. The community is now thoroughly established and in a very short time our constitution will easily slip into the form prescribed by the charter of 1468 which in the main is still the shape of the fabric of our local government.

The stewards are at times still called gild stewards, the burgesses gild brethren and there are glimpses of the thirteenth-century gild ordinance. But more generally we read of the 'common' stewards, and their bailiff is the 'common' bailiff, clerk is the 'common' clerk; the 'common' mace is carried before them; they use and lease the 'common' seal; they have a purse for the 'common' silver. The Hall of pleas, already the gild hall, is now at times called the 'common' hall.

The stewards and bailiff are honorary officials serving for a year. The common clerk receives an annual fee of *6s. 8d.*, the bailiff's clerk, *3s. 4d.* Alexander Hody brother of the lord chief justice, receives what may have been a retaining fee of *6s. 8d.* a year as counsellor — *consiliaris* — of the community. On one occasion Edward Hulle 'and others' are grouped with him in this capacity. Such counsellors were of position and learned in the law beyond the ordinary clerks.

At one time the gild seems to have offended against the statute of liveries, for it received a pardon from the King Henry V, bearing the great seal. A third is mentioned in it, but this may be presumed to be an error. Although Richard Dynt held the office some for some years later he was at this time town clerk in succession to John Kedwelly. The gild is here styled 'Gild Merchant of the Holy Trinity' a title which we have not previously met. It is in the early years of the fifteenth century that we first read of the fraternity of the Holy Trinity and its chapel in the parish church. More will be said of it in the section of this introduction devoted to the chantries.

At the beginning of Henry IV's reign the borough obtained from the king a confirmation of its foundation charter. It was a wise custom and worth the expense to obtain from time to time these royal assurances of the burghal liberties.

The amount of burgage rent paid by the community, as a body, to the reeves does not argue a large extent of property in lands and houses. The number of the tenants indicates that the tenancies were small. One or two houses 'on the bridge' naturally belonged to the town because the upkeep of the bridge itself rested on

the community. These houses; were probably at the ends of the bridge, for the arches were not wide enough to carry buildings.

It is in the course of these years that the Dorset lands, which to-day contribute to the revenue of the town, begin to find a place in the story of Bridgwater. They are transferred by the owner to the vicar of the parish and for the present their interest belongs rather to the section on the parish than to this which is concerned with the affairs of the borough. It is not until the next century that the transfer from the spiritual to the lay authorities will take place.

In the community accounts there are some amercements which have been inflicted for 'weapons drawn' against the peace. Offences of this kind, as we have seen in previous court-rolls, more generally appear before the borough court, where the wardens of the borough wards reported either that all was well or else that the hue and cry had been raised or that blood had been shed. In those days there were no regular guardians of the peace, and 'watch and ward' was everyman's duty. Two lists of fines of the watch — *finis vigilia* — remain to us, one dated 1417, the other twenty years later. Each bears the names of the two constables of the year, burgesses of standing, who employ two collectors of the fines. The second is more informing than the first; it contains 279 names, and the clerk has drawn his pen through 32 of them, leaving us 247 intact. Sixteen of these appear to be exempt from both watch and fine. Fines are paid by a considerable majority — *4d.* each by 167, while one pays *3d.*; three, *2d.*; and only, a penny. Fifty-five pay no fine, but against their names is written the abbreviation 'vig.' signifying presumably that they have kept watch. Four names have a fine as well as the word 'vig.' erased and this may be a scribe's error, for there are a few whose names are followed by a fine and the word 'vig.' has been erased. So much we seem to learn — that the irksome duty was avoidable if you cared to pay for evading it, and this would point to its tending to fall on the poorer members of the community. The earlier list teaches us less. There are no exceptions to payment — nine at *3d.* and 114 at *4d.* The names of those who watched are not given, perhaps, because the collectors were not interested in them.

The harvest-work clause — unusual in an urban lease — which appears in connection with a tenement in St. Mary St. (539) should perhaps be noticed.

## REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT

'Item delyvered to Johm Pitte to parliament ward, xxs' This entry bring the rear of the bailiffs account for the year ending Michaelmas, 1428, is the earliest record for us of payment towards the expenses of a representative to parliament from Bridgwater. A standard of 2s. a day had been fixed by the government from earliest times to cover not only the days of the duration of the session but this also occupied in journeying to and fro. Cities and boroughs did not consistently adhere to the standard rate; some exceeded it consider-ably, others were more parsimonious. Sometimes a member paid his own expenses, and as the bailiff makes no mention of Pitte's colleague, William Gascoigne, it is possible that he preferred to be no burden the community. Alexander Hody and Edward Coleford, who were chosen for the Westminster parliament of January, 1431, received 13s. 4d. each for their expenses. It does not look as though our members were paid at any fixed rate; a pound mark look more like round sums, perhaps in the nature of an honorarium.

The question, of re-election of members is one of interest. In the period review only 19 members occupied 44 possible seats. Pitte was elected to serve in seven parliaments, but his record was exceeded by that of William Gascoigne who sat in thirteen. Wylie, in his *History of England under Henry the Fifth*, names Gascoigne as one of the most frequently re-elected members of the reign, one only in the country surpassing him. Re-election was becoming more common with us in later years of Edward III, but during the reigns of the three Edwards 89 members been elected for 127 seats, that is, a proportion of three members for four seats number of re-elections advanced greatly in Richard II's time, the proportion from three out of four to one out of three approximately, the actual numbers 13 members for 38 seats.

- 1402. Wm. Thomere, John Kedwelly.
- 1406. Wm. Thomere, Wm. Gascoign.
- 1407. Wm. Gascoign, Richard Warde.
- 1410. Wm. Gascoign, John Kedwelly.
- 1413. Wm. Gascoign, Wm. Gosse.
- 1414. Wm. Gascoign, Thomas Cave.
- 1414 (Nov.). Wm. Gascoign, John Kedwelly.
- 1417. Win. Gascoign, John Kedwelly.
- 1419. Wm. Gascoign, Richard Mayn [Mayd?].
- 1420. Wm. Gascoign, Martin Jacob.
- 1421 (May). James Fitz-James, Wm. Gascoign.
- 1421. (Dec.). Wm. Gascoign, John Pyt.

- 1422. Wm, Gascoign, John Gorine.
- 1423. John Pyt, Martin Jacob.
- 1425. Wm. Gascoign, John Gonne or John Pytte.
- 1426. John Pytte, Thomas Cave.
- 1427. Wm. Gascoign, John Pytte. (641).
- 1429. Wm. Gascoign, John Pytte.
- 1431. Alexander Hody, Edward Coleford. (653)
- 1432. John Pytte, Thomas Cave.
- 1433. Alexander Hody, Robert Hulsewell  
[Halsewell].
- 1435. John Pytte, David Baker.
- 1437. John Gonne, Geoffrey Mone.
- 1442. Wm. Dodesham, Wm. Andrewe.

No representation of the borough in the parliament of 1443 is recorded.

## TRADE AND COMMERCE

The relative position of Bridgwater among Somerset towns in respect of wealth in the early years of the 14th century is evidenced by the returns of Exchequer Lay Subsidies. If we accept these figures at their face value our borough stood highest in the list (*S.R.S. vol. III. Introduction, p. xxxi*). And now a century later we may get some idea of her position in the country as a whole. from a list of loans made for the fitting out of the expedition to France: Again we turn to Wylie who tells us that 'Bristol figures for £582, Norwich for £333. 6s. 8d., Lynn for £216. 13s. 4d, Newcastle for £216.13s. 4d., York £200), Boston (£80), Beverley, Canterbury, Exeter, Northampton and Nottingham (£66. 13s. 4d. each), Bridgwater (£50), Gloucester, Maidstone and Sudbury (£40 each), Bury St. Edmunds and Faversham (£33. 6s. 8d. each), Plymouth (£20) and Dartmouth (£13. 6s. 8d.)'

We have in this period the name of one ship only, — the *Marie* of Bridgwater (519). There is a charge for moorage of picards (711), light coasting vessels carrying a single sail.

Besides the usual words for crafts and trades some are used which are now more or less obsolete. 'Corveser' for shoemaker 'hellie' for a roofer; 'hooper' who hooped casks, a cooper; 'lockier'; for locksmith; 'millward,' the keeper of a mill; 'scrivener'; 'tapener' a weaver, a narrower, one who regulates the width of the cloth; 'tucker' or 'touker' a fuller; 'clouter,' a cobbler; and 'bereman' a bearer at the quay.

Others are to be found among the occupational surnames that appear here. Aylward, Bedeman, Blower (either in tin-smelting or glass-making), Bocher or Boucher (butcher), Bowyer, Capmaker, Cardemaker

(cards for wool-combing), Cowherd, Hayward, Hukker (pedlar ?), Latener (latten), Palfrayman, Panter (a keeper of the pantry), Pardener (one licensed to sell papal indulgences or pardons), Sumpner (summoner), Spencere; Spenser (steward or butler), Stipilman (steepleman), Tavener (taverner), Woder (woad).

#### THE PARISH AND THE PARISH CHURCH

During the first half of the 15th century three vicars successively enjoyed the living of Bridgwater. The first of these, William Hurst, who had entered on his incumbency during the late reign, survived two or three years at least into the new century. After his death his memory was preserved year after year in the celebration of an obit, the charge for which is recorded in the accounts of the Church-wardens. His successor was John Gors (Coors or Corps) who exchanged the living in 1423 with John Colswayn for that of Davidstowe in Cornwall, the advowson of which as well as that of Bridgwater belonged to the master and brethren of the hospital. It would seem to have been not long before old age and weakness compelled his retirement, in 1431 bishop Stafford assigned to him a yearly pension of 10 marks out of the revenue of Bridgwater parish.

The incumbency of his successor, John Golswayn, is one of the longest in the history of the parish. For us it is specially important, for this vicar was the channel whereby the Hayme properties in Dorset came eventually into the possession of the borough. We have recorded from time to time from the 13th century onwards the title-deeds of these properties in Stour Eastover or Stour Wake, and so far without any apparent connection with Bridgwater, but now the story finds a beginning. William Hayme married a sister of John Colswayne named Alice. He seems to have been in financial difficulties or at least needed ready money, and sold the family property in Stour to his brother in law. This is recorded in a conveyance (659) dated 1433. He seems to have migrated; from Stour where he was a husbandman and set up as a butcher in Bridgwater where he lived for the rest of his life. The story develops further in the second half of the century.

The churchwardens' accounts which survive from this period tell their own story and will provide the casual reader as well as the student of medieval ecclesiology with many details of interest. A translation has been added where the original is not in English. We have not many years from which to generalize, about one in four only but one cannot fail to be struck with

the irregularity which attends the sources from which the wardens derive the church income. Sometimes one source, sometimes another, which we may suppose to have been constant from year to year, fails to appear. The halfpenny collection at Easter for the wax for the great candle; and the renewal of the rele is fairly regular. Property rents are not always recorded. At one time there appears an unusual number of bequests or of burial fees, but at another none at all. Seat rents appear only occasionally. The only receipt in 1415 is of a prescribed church rate of £20, two-thirds of which were levied on parishioners dwelling within the borough, and one-third on those without. The collection stands alone; not even the Easter tribute of candle halfpence bears it company. Elsewhere in these years we find fragments of such, a compulsory rate, but only fragment.

It has been usual to accept the word *pulpittum* as referring to the carved oak pulpit of 15th-century workmanship which is still an ornament of the church. But an examination of these accounts shows that we have here recorded the construction of the pulpit which belongs to the Tudor part of the century, but of the great rood-screen of which a part at least remains.

In 1367, when the spire was added to the tower, a master-builder had been called in from Bristol. And now, three-quarters of a century later, when the campanile was in need of repair an expert, Thomas Stipilman, who was presumably a steeple-jack by profession, was brought to the town and was lodged here for ten weeks (712).

In 1415, the year in which the £20 rate was laid on the parishioners (576), work of various kinds was done on the building, and another specialist, John Glayser, was fetched from Wells to work on the church windows including those of the new chapel of Holy Trinity. It is interesting to note in this connection the intervention of the Stewards.

There were trees in the churchyard (576) and, as might be expected, among them were yews. These were enclosed with stakes, probably to prevent pilfering of the wood for making long-bows. Another specified tree is the nut beam (601), a name which also occurs as 'notbentre' in the accounts of the churchwardens of St. Michael's, Bath, for the year 1400. (*Som. Arch. Pro.* for 1877).

#### CHANTRIES

In the course of the 15th century there was considerable development in the provision of chantries within the walls of the parish church,

and the addition of chapels on north and south, gave the building that breadth which to-day is so impressive. In the records of the 13th century we have met with the chantries of Our Lady and the Holy Cross, both of which were associated with the Gild Merchant — with 'the burgesses.' In the course of the 14th century we find chapels of All Saints and St. Katherine.

And now we reach a new foundation — new to us at least — which seems to displace Our Lady's in priority, and when dissolution comes, we shall find it to have become the wealthiest of the three surviving chantries. This new chapel belongs to the fraternity of the Holy Trinity, and it is instructive to find that in the royal pardon granted to the Gild Merchant, 1416, the Gild is described as of the Holy Trinity (583). The stewards show their special interest in the new chapel (576) when payment was made by them for work on it. The wardens of the chantry lease its property with the assent of the stewards (608) and the stewards themselves lease a tenement in Friarn St. belonging to it (646). The chantry appears prominently in the wills of pious ladies of the borough. Joan Hert, the widow of David Crouille, leaves a tenement to Joan Fote with remainder to the fraternity (544), and Joan Fote, the widow of Adam Best, confirms the legacy by leaving the same tenement to the chantry of Holy Trinity besides other gifts — linen thread to make a cloth — *mappa* — for the super-altar of the chapel, and a best brass pot which had belonged to her former husband (544). Iseult, the wealthy wife of Thomas Cave, bequeathed much property in the borough to the maintenance of a chaplain at the altar of the Holy Trinity, and the new chantry entered on the final century of such institutions in this country well established and well endowed. Yet wide patronage and much wealth could not in the end save it when the hour of dissolution came, and it fell with the rest.

Other shrines which we now find in our records are the chapel of St. Anne and the chapel of the Holy Cross over the Charnel-house, which must be distinguished from the chantry of the Holy Cross which had its altar on the rood-screen.

#### THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.

During the years 1400-43 only one change in the mastership of the hospital is recorded in the bishop's registers. This was, in 1423, about half-way through the years now under review. Brother Thomas Pulton takes the place of John Pathull who had died. Our records show William Pathull presiding over the convent in the later years of the preceding century and it

may be that John is not an error for William, but the name belonged to a later master. On folio 233d of bishop Bubwith's register is written *Electionis confirmacio magistris hospitalis Sancti Johannis de Bruggewater* but the entry proceeds no further. It lies between records belonging to the years 1414 and 1418. (*S.R.S.*, xxx. p. 480.)

When we turn from the episcopal registers to another source (*Cat. Pat. Rolls*, 1413-16, p. 397), we find that on the 13th February, 1416, licence was issued to John Wemedon, acting as president of the chapter, and the brethren to elect a master in place of William Patell, who was dead. This gives us the date of William's death approximately, but not the name of his immediate successor.

We shall probably not be wrong in assuming that in 1416 John Wemedon was elected master, for he held the position when he died, as we learn from the licence issued January 20, 1423, to elect his successor. Walter Eston presided over the chapter but we have no reason to suppose that he received the mastership. The next holder of the office whose name has come down to us is John Pathull, not to be confused with William. Pathull, his predecessor. The new master must have died almost immediately after his election, for in February 1423, the appointment of Thomas Pulton or Pilton was confirmed by the bishop's commissaries (*S.R.S.*, xxx, p. 483) and during the remaining years, of our period the new master continued to rule over the Hospital.

There has been hitherto some confusion in the lists of the masters for this century which have been submitted in various treatises. From the above data I would suggest the following. Wm. Pathull.<sup>1</sup> Died 1416 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1413-16, p. 397).

1416 John Wemedon.<sup>2</sup> Died before 20 January, 1423.<sup>3</sup>

1423 John Pathull.

1423 Thomas Pulton. Elected on the death of John Pathull. (*S.R.S.*, p. 483)

1449 Roger Cory.

#### THE GREY FRIARS

The first of the nine Franciscan letters of confraternity which are to be found among the Bridgwater archives belongs to this period (546). The late Prebendary Clark-Maxwell, in a paper on *Some further Letters of Confraternity* which he read to the Society of Antiquaries on 11 April, 1929, stated that this was the earliest Franciscan letter of local origin he had so far met with. It is issued by the warden, on the authority

of the Minister and provincial chapter and with the assent of the convent to William Dyst and Joan his wife. By such a letter a man or woman of the laity was admitted to the benefits of the order in so far as they were to be included in the prayers of the brethren during the present life and after death.

When William Dyst made his will eleven years later, he did not forget the friars but left them a gift of 4 bushels of green peas. Among bequests to the order during these years are found wheat and beans, a 12-gallon vat, and — by a lady who was to be buried in Muchelney abbey — ‘my best gown furred with grey fur and my best girdle harnessed with silver and gilt.’ Gifts in kind were traditional since the early days of the friars whom the founder did not allow to accept gifts of money. But the rule was soon relaxed and money is generally the form in which bequests come to them. The amount varies from 1s. 8d. upwards, but, not usually above 20s. There are, however, some more considerable sums. Sir Leonard Hakeluyt, in 1413, left £20 to the fabric of their church in which he desired that he might be buried, and he asked in return that the friars should pray for his soul and that of his wife Margaret. This was in August, and in the following October, Margaret, now a widow, came to the church and there before the bishop of the diocese took a vow of chastity. She seems also to have taken one to fast every Saturday, but the state of her health did not allow her to persevere in the undertaking and she was released from it by the warden, William Dugon, in the following January. Six months later she made her will, directing that she should be buried beside her husband, and leaving £5 and a maser to the warden and a like sum to Geoffrey Pollard of the same order. (*S.R.S.*, xvi, pp. 61, 66, and xxix, pp. 148, 167.)

Another substantial bequest was that of Edward Greville (*S.R.S.*, xvi. p. 140) who left 10 marks to the Bridgwater friars ‘to celebrate for my soul for two whole years, to wit, every Sunday a mass of the Trinity; on the second day, of the Angels; on the third day, of the Holy Spirit; on the fourth day, of requiem; on the fifth day, of the Body of Christ; on the sixth day, of the Holy Cross; and on Saturday, of St. Mary.’ There was a widespread belief in the efficacy of the prayers of the friars to help poor souls in purgatory. Not only so, but it was thought that to be buried within the consecrated precincts of a friary added to the security of the soul. It is therefore not surprising to find William, lord of Botreaux, seeking and obtaining a licence from bishop Stafford to transfer the bodies of his son William, his daughter Anne, late relict of Sir John Stafford, and another, buried at the church of North Cadbury, to the conventual church of the Grey Friars in Bridgwater with due canonical solemnity; This was in 1435. (*S.R.S.*, xxxii, 170.)

Some time in the years under review it would seem that the friars re-built their church. The remains found — the bases of the pillars and the paving tiles of the smaller kind — point to this period. On 19 January, 1445, the bishop issued a commission to his deputy, James, bishop of Achonry, to dedicate, consecrate and bless the church and the ground which the friars had set apart for the churchyard.

#### TOPOGRAPHY

There are no new names in the town itself to be recorded, but we may note ‘Rome’ as the name of a garden near North Gate, and ‘Castelward’ is possibly an alternative for Castle Ditch.

The spelling of the name of the river, which was ‘Perred’ a century previous is now ‘Peret,’ approximating to our modern usage.

#### END NOTES

- 1) See *S.R.S.*, vol. liii, Introduction.
- 2) President of chapter for electing new master, 13 February, 1416.
- 3) ‘Jan. 20, Westminster. Licence for Walter Eston, president of the Augustinian Hospital of St. John Baptist, Briggewater, in the diocese of Bath and Wells, and the brethren of the same being of the foundation of the earl of March and of the Lord de la Zouche, the son and heir of latter is the King’s ward, to elect a master in the room of John Wemedon, deceased.’ (*Cal. Pat* 1422-9, p. 22)