

succession.¹ Longford then seems to have followed the descent of Sir John's half of Newport manor (and thus his third of Edgmond manor and, from 1565, the manor of Church Aston) until 1789,² when Ralph Leeke bought Longford and Church Aston from the earl of Shrewsbury.³ Longford and Church Aston manors descended together until 1900⁴ or later. In 1936 Ralph Leeke sold the remnant of the Longford Hall estate, about 1,500 a., to Thomas Pace, who sold most of it in separate lots the following year.⁵

The medieval chief house seems to have been rebuilt by 1471, when the stone curtilage walls (*parietes*) of the 'old' house had ceased to be repaired.⁶ In 1592 the house contained a hall, parlour, kitchen, several chambers, a gallery, and a study.⁷ In 1645 it was a 'large brick house'⁸ and therefore rebuilt or much altered in the recent past. In or after 1682 it consisted of four wings, probably of two storeys, surrounding a square courtyard.⁹ The house was transformed 1789–94 to an individualistic, rather Italianate, design by Joseph Bonomi for Ralph Leeke.¹⁰ The north and west wings were demolished and the south wing was doubled in depth on its south face to create a new house faced in stone and completely redecorated within. The new south front of seven bays creates bold effects of light and shade with its strongly modelled pilasters, architraves, stringcourse, and cornice, and especially with its huge pedimented portecochère on four Tuscan columns, which also imparts a disproportionate grandeur to the whole. The main doorway is flanked by Tuscan demi-columns and surmounted by a large Diocletian window that lights the small entrance hall, which has a plaster frieze modelled on that

of the Parthenon and a pedimented wooden screen with Tuscan columns, an echo of the main portico. The screen opens into the staircase hall, which is lit from above by an oval lantern in a deep, plastered cove resting on elegantly fluted spandrels at the corners of the hall. The chastely decorated drawing room and dining room, which flank the entrance hall, have small white marble fireplaces. Domestic offices are in the old east wing, which Bonomi retained.

In the late 17th century there was a parterre on the west side of the house and another garden on the south; west of the parterre lay a bowling green. Long avenues of trees extended from the house towards Newport and Church Aston.¹¹ Adam of Brimpton's attempt to create a park c. 1275 may have been thwarted by his tenants¹² but a 'warren and groves' (56 a.) were mentioned in 1691. A chain of three fishponds then lay in the Bottoms east of the house.¹³ By 1817 the grounds had been altered, probably by Ralph Leeke, to make what was then called Longford park, in which the upper fishpond had been enlarged to create an ornamental lake.¹⁴ In 1851 the park comprised about 150 a.¹⁵ By 1936, however, its western and southern parts had been put to neighbouring farms, leaving about 88 a.¹⁶

Longford Hall failed to find a purchaser in 1937,¹⁷ was requisitioned during the Second World War, and fell into disrepair. Mrs. J. I. Hall bought the house c. 1950 and restored it, and was succeeded by her son Patrick.¹⁸ He retired in 1966¹⁹ and sold the hall and grounds in 1967 to Adams' Grammar School, Newport, as a boarding house with playing fields,²⁰ which it remained in 2001.

BROCKTON is believed to be the manor of that name that lay in Wrockwardine hundred and belonged to 'Aisil' (perhaps Æthelsige) before 1086, when an unidentified Richard held it of Roger of Montgomery, earl of Shrewsbury, possibly through Ralph de Mortimer.²¹ By 1287

¹ P.R.O., C 142/66, no. 99; *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, iii (1), p. 120. For the Talbots' dates and connexions see Burke, *Peerage* (1999), ii. 2605–6.

² T.S.A.S. i. 9; P.R.O., CP 43/224, rot. 68; S.R.R. 81/200. Cf. above, Edgmond, manors (Edgmond; Church Aston); below, Newport, manor.

³ S.R.R. 81/203–5.

⁴ S.R.R. 81/503; *P.O. Dir. Salop.* (1870), 77; *Kelly's Dir. Salop.* (1900), 123. Cf. above, Edgmond, manors (Church Aston).

⁵ S.R.R. 1848/SP 44 (in box 189); 3216/11; *Wellington Jnl.* 6 Mar. 1937, p. 6.

⁶ S.R.R. 52/49.

⁷ S.R.R. 2309/1.

⁸ R. Symonds, *Diary* (Camd. Soc. [1st ser.] lxxiv), 171.

⁹ S.R.R. 81/599, p. 41.

¹⁰ Following description based on: Pevsner, *Salop.* 172–3; *Country Life*, lxxiv. 354–8; *Soc. of Archit. Historians of Gt. Brit. Ann. Conference, 1988* (copy in S.R.R., C71.4 v.f.), 2–3.

¹¹ S.R.R. 81/599, pp. 41, 43.

¹² *S.H.C.* vi (10, 67).

¹³ S.R.R. 81/599, p. 43.

¹⁴ B.L., O.S.D. 208.

¹⁵ S. Bagshaw, *Dir. Salop.* (1851), 400.

¹⁶ S.R.R. 1848/SP 44 (in box 189).

¹⁷ *Wellington Jnl.* 6 Mar. 1937, p. 6.

¹⁸ *Country Life*, cxxxii. 358 (16 Aug. 1962).

¹⁹ C. Dakin, *The Story of St. Mary's church, Longford* (1998; copy in S.R.R., KR97 v.f.), 4.

²⁰ *V.C.H. Salop.* ii. 151.

²¹ *Ibid.* i. 31, 343; *Domesday Bk.: Salop.* ed. F. and C. Thorn (1986), n. 4.12.1; *Salop. Domesday* [introduction and translation], ed. A. Williams and R. W. H. Erskine (1990), 8.

A HISTORY OF SHROPSHIRE

Brockton was accounted a member of Longford manor.¹ It was acquired around the end of the 15th century by John, son of Peter Peryns of Charnock hall (Derbs.).² John died in 1513³ and was succeeded at Brockton by his son, Roger⁴ (d. 1565).⁵ Roger's son, Gilbert (fl. 1584), also of Brockton, probably died c. 1607,⁶ and his eldest son, John, was living in 1623. By 1682, however, Brockton had been absorbed into the Longford manorial estate.⁷ The Peryns family had perhaps occupied the moated house at Brockton that became Longford rectory some time before 1636.⁸

STOCKTON was a member of Chetwynd manor in 1284⁹ but was called a manor by 1535.¹⁰ It descended with Chetwynd manor until Robert Pigott sold Stockton in 1772 to Charles Baldwyn of Aqualate¹¹. Baldwyn, having sold Aqualate, died in 1801,¹² and Stockton belonged by 1820 to John Cotes,¹³ lord of the adjoining manor of Woodcote.¹⁴ The manor presumably descended with that of Woodcote until 1920 when the Woodcote estate (including Stockton) was sold; its further descent has not been traced. When Sir John Leigh sold off the Woodcote estate in 1925 Stockton was offered in separate lots but failed to find a buyer at auction¹⁵ and is said to have remained Leigh's property in 1941.¹⁶

CHURCHES. There was a church at Longford by 1155, when Henry II confirmed that Robert of Brimpton had given the advowson to Shrewsbury abbey.¹⁷ In 1185, however, the abbey relinquished its claim to his relict, Eve of Longford, lady of the manor.¹⁸ The advowson seems to have descended thereafter with the

manor¹⁹ until the benefice was united with that of Newport in 1923, when Ralph Leeke became joint patron of the united living (with the bishop of Lichfield).²⁰ The Talbots, as papists, were usually prevented by law from exercising their patronage between 1605 and 1789²¹ (when the earl of Shrewsbury sold the advowson with the manor)²² and had to assign turns to protestants.²³ In 1626 Cambridge university presented by default.²⁴ Nevertheless Thomas Talbot presented in 1670, 1674, and 1677 (though not in 1671)²⁵ and his son, John, in 1710.²⁶ Ralph Leeke's executors remained joint patrons of Newport with Longford until c. 1962 when their share of the advowson passed to the bishop.²⁷

The rectory was valued at £2 in 1291²⁸ and £6 13s. 4d. in 1535.²⁹ In 1683 the glebe land was c. 64 a. and the tithes were payable in kind except that there were moduses for all the tithes of the Longford demesne (c. 400 a., which excluded Cheswell and Brockton) and for the hay tithes of Stockton township. In Cheswell and Brockton in 1698 there were also moduses for pigs, geese, lambs, calves, colts, milk, and bees.³⁰ The rector's annual income in 1799 was put at £170.³¹ The tithes (except those of Stockton) were commuted to a rentcharge of £159 16s. 6d. in 1839 and Stockton's tithes were commuted to £116 11s. 4d. in 1849.³² In 1884 the glebe was at lease for £152 5s.³³

Longford's original parsonage house may have been near the church. By 1636, however, it stood more than 1.5 km. away within a square moat at Brockton;³⁴ the site was perhaps that

¹ Tenants in capite and sub-tenants in Shropshire circ. temp. Edw. I', *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, i (1834), 114.

² For the fam. to 1623 see *Visit. Salop. 1623*, ii (Harl. Soc. xxix), 395–6.

³ S.R.R. 6000/6820, f. 56.

⁴ S.R.S. iii. 71.

⁵ S.R.R., P171/A/1/1, bur. 30 Sept. 1565.

⁶ P.R.O., C 142/298, no. 35.

⁷ S.R.R. 81/599, p. 37.

⁸ Below, this section, churches.

⁹ *Feud. Aids*, iv. 220.

¹⁰ P.R.O., C 142/58, no. 40.

¹¹ S.R.R. 1045/668.

¹² T.S.A.S. 4th ser. xii. 17.

¹³ P.R.O., CP 43/950, rot. 240.

¹⁴ Below, Sheriffhales, manors (Woodcote).

¹⁵ S.R.R., SC/27/41, p. 6; *Wellington Jnl.* 14 Mar. 1925, p. 5. Cf. below, Sheriffhales, manors (Woodcote).

¹⁶ *Kelly's Dir. Salop.* (1941), 313.

¹⁷ *Cart. Shrews.* i, p. 43.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* ii, p. 268. Cf. above, manors (Longford).

¹⁹ Eyton, viii. 113–14; S.R.R. 52/72; *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, iii (1), p. 120; P.R.O., C 1/1476, nos. 2–4; S.R.R. 81/203–5, 503; *Clergy List* (1846), List of Benefices, p. 135; *P.O. Dir. Salop.* (1879), 344; *Crockford* (1891), 1689; (1920), 1336.

²⁰ *Lond. Gaz.* 2 Feb. 1923, pp 784–5.

²¹ Presentation of Benefices Acts, 1605, 3 Jas. I, c. 5; 1688, 1 Wm. & Mary, c. 26; 1713, 13 Anne, c. 13; Church Patronage Act, 1737, 11 Geo. II, c. 17.

²² S.R.R. 80/203–5.

²³ T.S.A.S. 3rd ser. v. 354, 371; 4th ser. v. 201, 208.

²⁴ *Ibid.* 3rd ser. v. 352.

²⁵ *Ibid.* 3rd ser. v. 371.

²⁶ *Ibid.* 4th ser. v. 188.

²⁷ *Lich. Dioc. Dir.* (1962), 113; (1963), 113. For subsequent changes to the composition of the united living see below, Newport, churches.

²⁸ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 245.

²⁹ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii. 186.

³⁰ S.R.S. vi. [?]; P.R.O., IR 29/29/205.

³¹ S.R.R., AO3916/1/1, f. 68.

³² P.R.O., IR 29/29/205, 301.

³³ S.R.S. vi. [?].

³⁴ Moat shown on S.R.R. 81/599, p. 37.

formerly occupied by the Peryns family and vacated by them in the late 16th or early 17th century.¹ The house, of five bays, had a 'little gatehouse', a small garden, and a kitchen of two bays (used by 1683 as a stable). A brewhouse was added by 1730, to which a small dairy was added c. 1781, during alterations in which the gatehouse was removed and the house extended. In 1782 the rector added a chaise house and stables at his own expense. In 1841 there were a dining room, a drawing room, and a 'pleasure ground'; by then the moat was dry or filled in. The house was rebuilt in 1868 on the old foundations, to a design by J. L. Randal. It had four bedrooms and a servants' hall.² It was sold as a result of the union of Longford and Newport benefices³ (in 1923) and renamed Longford Grange.

The ancient parish church, of which only the south chancel chapel remains, stood c. 300 metres north-west of Longford Hall.⁴ It consisted of a chancel with south chapel and a broad nave with low side walls, a south porch, and a west bellcot. The nave may have dated from the 12th century: there was a blocked round-headed north doorway (blocked by 1790). The font had a bulbous octagonal bowl, probably of the 14th or 15th century. There seem to have been no north or south windows in the nave; there was a large lancet, apparently round-headed, in the west wall and only small lancets elsewhere, two in the west wall and one at the north end of the east wall. There was no other natural light in the nave until timber-framed north and south dormers were inserted in the roof, probably in the 17th century. From the same period dated the south porch and the bellcot, both also timber-framed.

The chancel and its flanking south chapel (which was separately roofed) seem to have been contemporary with each other or nearly so, and to have been built in the 13th century. Each had a similar group of five lancets for its east window, and paired lancets in its outer side wall. The priest's doorway, with pointed arch (blocked by 1790), was on the north side of the chancel, presumably because the chapel occupied the south side. A wide archway opened from the chapel to the chancel and a narrower one from the chapel to the nave.

¹ Above, manors (Brockton).

² S.R.S. vi. [?]; S.R.R., P171/A/1/4, parish memoranda.

³ Dakin, *Story of St. Mary's church*, 2.

⁴ Architectural history and description based on Cranage, vii. 604–5; A. Pike, *The Talbot chapel, Longford, Shropshire* (Churches Conservation Trust, 1998); drawings of 1790 in S.R.R. 6001/372/2, ff. 1–2.

The chancel chapel was probably built by the Brimpton lords of the manor for family burials. An incised slab in the floor commemorates Thomas of Brimpton (fl. 1327, d. by 1335), rector of Church Eaton (Staffs.), who was a son of Sir Adam of Brimpton, lord of Longford;⁵ the upper end of the slab is carved in sunken relief to represent Thomas's tonsured head as if seen through an opening in the stone. In the south wall is a piscina supported by a bracket carved with a male head. There was an ogee-headed tomb-recess in the south wall,⁶ presumably of the 14th or 15th century.

The church also had incised slabs to Humphrey Pigott (d. 1508),⁷ probably the son of Robert Pigott (d. 1535), lord of Chetwynd and Stockton,⁸ and, in the chancel, to John Peryns (d. 1513), lord of Brockton, and his wife.⁹

After the Reformation the chancel chapel continued to be used by the Talbot family, lords of the manor, and post-Reformation wall paintings included the Talbot arms and, on a painted scroll, 'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints' (Ps. 116: 15).¹⁰ Floor slabs mark the graves of Thomas Talbot (d. 1686), lord of the manor, and Thomas Higgins (d. 1681), steward to Talbot and previously to Talbot's father. Talbot and his wife (d. 1706) are also commemorated by a fine baroque monument against the south wall, built in front of the medieval tomb recess, whose carved decoration was hacked off flush with the wall to make room. The monument, with its original rails, rises from floor to wall plate and dominates the chapel visually. It consists of a plinth with a large inscription plate above it, which is flanked by twisted columns with Corinthian capitals and surmounted by a segmental pediment containing a cartouche of arms. Two standing putti at the bases of the columns hold a skull and an hour glass. The whole is topped by a carved pair of curtains hanging from a central canopy and tied back to clear the upper half of the monument.

⁵ *Cal. Papal Regs.* ii. 271; *S.H.C.* iv (2), 28, 32. The inscription, now difficult to read, was recorded in the 18th cent.: S.R.R. 6001/6820, f. 59.

⁶ Notes and sketch lent by Mr. C. A. Jobson, who examined the remains during their temporary exposure in 1987.

⁷ S.R.R. 6001/6820, f. 57.

⁸ Above, Chetwynd, manors (Chetwynd); this article, manors (Stockton).

⁹ S.R.R. 6001/6820, f. 57; B.L. Add. MS. 21236, f. 44; above, this article, manors (Brockton).

¹⁰ Text identified by Mr. Jobson and others from incomplete remains exposed in 1987.

A HISTORY OF SHROPSHIRE

The ancient church, except for the chancel chapel, was demolished when a small new church was begun nearby on the south in 1803. The chapel, then called 'Lord Shrewsbury's chancel',¹ was allowed to stand, presumably in accordance with the wishes of the Roman Catholic earl of Shrewsbury, whose property it was alleged to be.² The arch that had joined it to the old chancel was bricked up and the archway into the former nave became the west doorway. The key to the west door was then lodged with the Roman Catholic priest in Newport but he relinquished it to the rector in 1881 in return for loan of the key and reasonable access to the chapel, ostensibly to care for the monuments.³ Inevitably there were rumours of secret masses for the souls of the Talbots, and a Newport Roman Catholic priest was buried in the churchyard in 1979, reputedly near the site of the high altar of the ancient church.⁴ In 1983 the chapel was vested in the Redundant Churches Fund (from 1994 the Churches Conservation Trust).⁵

The new church, begun in 1803 and dedicated to *ST. MARY*, seems to have been built, and possibly designed, by John Cobb of Newport.⁶ It consists of a shallow chancel with canted corners and a nave of three bays with an attached west tower of three stages with porch beneath, off which is a north vestry. The whole is of brick, faced with smooth sandstone and crenellated. The pointed windows have hood moulds and simple tracery but the exterior is otherwise plain. The interior was also plain, with a flat plastered ceiling. The church was originally box-pewed with a west gallery, and the royal arms of 1806 were displayed. The gallery was taken down in 1883 and the church reseated with benches. The old materials were re-used for the benches and, in the chancel, for a dado. The font may have been a classical one.⁷ The bowl of the ancient font was found in 1887 in the grounds of Longford Hall and, with a new stem, was placed in the new church; in 1980 the font stood in the south-west corner of the nave and the oak pulpit (of 1905) in the north-east. There

were a number of plain wall monuments to members of the Leeke family who died between 1829 and 1924, and the family vault lay beneath the church. One south window had 19th-century stained glass and in 1923⁸ the east window received glass by Christopher Whall in memory of Ralph Leeke's two sons, who died in the First World War. A new altar and frontals were given in 1962.

Services ceased, however, in 1979 after some years of dwindling congregations and the church was formally closed in 1981.⁹ Some of the furnishings and fittings were removed for safe keeping, including the royal arms and the east window glass, which were placed in Newport parish church. Other items were sold to pay for the work of their removal and reinstallation or were given to other churches. The font and the wall monuments of Ralph Leeke (d. 1829) and Thomas Leeke (d. 1836) were placed in the surviving south chancel chapel of the ancient church, and the empty 19th-century building was sold for conversion as a private house.

In 1804 there were two medieval bells, one of them by Nicholas of Rugeley (15th century); a third bell dated 1737 was by Abraham Rudhall. The medieval bells were then removed, and were replaced in 1812 by a new bell by T. Mears.¹⁰ When the 19th-century church closed the bells were sold and the Rudhall bell was later given to one of the Serbian Orthodox churches at Donnington (in Lilleshall).¹¹

In 1962 the plate, all of silver, consisted of a chalice of 1601 (in style an important local link between the Elizabethan and later patterns), a flagon of 1765 and paten of 1766, a paten of 1804, and a chalice, paten, wafer box, and pyx of 1957.¹²

In 1844 there was said to have been formerly an ancient chapel at *STOCKTON*.¹³ Chapel furlong, which was not part of the glebe, then lay on the opposite side of the lane from the only cottage on the glebe at Stockton,¹⁴ a cottage that had belonged to the glebe since 1636 or earlier.¹⁵ It is therefore possible that the cottage was on

¹ Cranage, vii. 605.

² S.R.R., AO3916/1/1, f. 68 and v.

³ Bp. of Lichfield to rector, 13 Sept. 1880; receipts for key 25 Mar. 1881 (copies lent by Mr. Jobson).

⁴ Local information.

⁵ Pike, *Talbot chapel*, [5].

⁶ Architectural history and description based on: TS. report (1980) kindly supplied by Council for Places of Worship; Dakin, *Story of St. Mary's church, Longford*.

⁷ A marble urn that rested on a ledge in the Talbot chapel in 1980 (Council for Places of Worship report) was later stolen (local information).

⁸ *Newport Advertiser*, 20 Aug. 1982, p. 4 (ref. supplied by Mr. Jobson).

⁹ Pike, *Talbot chapel*, [5].

¹⁰ H. B. Walters, *Ch. Bells of Salop*. (Oswestry, 1915), 277–8.

¹¹ Local information. Cf. *V.C.H. Salop*. xi. 174.

¹² S. A. Jeavons, *Ch. Plate Archd. Salop* (Shrews. 1964), pp. 12, 34, 65–6, 73, 124–5.

¹³ T. F. Dukes, *Antiquities of Shropshire* (1844), app. p. xiii.

¹⁴ P.R.O., IR 29/29/301; IR 30/29/301 (parcel no. 15).

¹⁵ *S.R.S.* vi. [?].

the site of the chapel. It was sold in 1912 and the proceeds were used to augment the benefice.¹

In 1887 the rector started to hold Sunday evening services at Stockton in a room at James Hindley's farm² but they had ceased by 1900.³

PROTESTANT NONCONFORMITY. This small parish, which had Roman Catholic lords of the manor in the 17th and 18th centuries,⁴ had only one protestant dissenter in 1676,⁵ and in 1799 the archdeacon of Salop reported that there were none.⁶ No record has been found of any nonconformist group during the 19th or 20th centuries; if there were any nonconformists they presumably worshipped elsewhere.

¹ S.R.R., P171/A/1/4, parish memoranda.

² Ibid.

³ S.R.R., P171/A/7/1.

⁴ Above, churches.

⁵ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 442.

⁶ S.R.R., AO3916/1/1, Longford.

NEWPORT

MANOR AND IMPROPRIATE RECTORY. The town of *NEWPORT* was accounted part of Edgmond manor until 1358, when James, Lord Audley, settled Edgmond, but not Newport, on his son Nicholas.¹ Lord Audley held Newport in chief until his death in 1386,² when it passed by settlement to Nicholas (d. 1391) and his wife (d. 1400) and then to Nicholas's coheirs, Margaret Hillary and John Tuchet.³ Thereafter until 1565 Margaret's half of Newport descended with her third of Edgmond⁴ and John's half with his.⁵

In 1565 John Talbot and his mother gave up the third of Edgmond that had descended to them from Margaret Hillary,⁶ but kept the corresponding half of Newport manor. When John died in 1611 his half of Newport passed by settlement to his grandson, John Talbot, who succeeded to the earldom of Shrewsbury in 1630 and died in 1654.⁷ The share of Newport passed to his son Thomas Talbot (d. 1686),⁸ under whose will it went first to his son, John (d. 1743), and then to George Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury. When the earl died in 1787 it passed to his nephew and successor in the earldom, Charles Talbot,⁹ who lived until 1827¹⁰ and left his half of Newport manor to his nephew John Talbot, the next earl.¹¹

In 1565 Robert Barnfield, to whom John Tuchet's half of Newport had descended, became sole owner of Edgmond manor¹² and in 1568 left both estates to his son Richard,¹³ who sold the half of Newport manor to Walter Leveson in 1575.¹⁴ It descended thereafter with Sheriffhales

until 1920.¹⁵ In 1829 the then lord of that half, George Granville Leveson-Gower, Earl Gower, had reunited the manor by buying the other half from the earl of Shrewsbury.¹⁶ In 1920 George Granville Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, duke of Sutherland, sold Newport manor to C. W. S. Dixon,¹⁷ who died in 1938;¹⁸ it passed to his daughter Dorothy Dixon (d. 1971) and she left it to Lt.-Col. N. C. Faithfull¹⁹ but the subsequent descent of the manor has not been traced.

The Newport house of Thomas Holes, owner of half the manor in 1420, was said to be ruinous and worth nothing. In 1880 a dry moat, square in plan, which surrounded a vacant plot at the southern end of the town, adjoining the west side of the main street,²⁰ was said to be the traditional site of the manor house. The moat was filled in when houses were built on the site c. 1895.²¹

In 1448 Thomas Draper conveyed the advowson of *NEWPORT RECTORY* to his new foundation, the college of St. Mary, Newport,²² which appropriated the rectory and kept it until the Crown dissolved the college in 1547.²³ Sir John Peryent and Thomas Reeve bought the rectory from the Crown in 1549 and immediately conveyed it to Richard Cupper.²⁴ Richard and John Cupper sold it in 1551 to Fulk Crompton,²⁵ who died in 1566. His heir was his son Henry,²⁶ and William Crompton had the rectory by 1584 when he sold it to Richard Prynne and Nicholas Gybbons.²⁷ Gybbons relinquished his interest to

¹ Above, Edgmond, manors (Edgmond).

² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xvi, p. 73.

³ *Ibid.* xvi, pp. 435–6; xviii, pp. 156–7.

⁴ *Ibid.* xix, pp. 310–11; xx, p. 109; P.R.O., C 138/50, no. 91; C 139/163, no. 8; C 139/172, no. 21; C 139/177, no. 47; C 142/26, no. 90; *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, iii (2), p. 675; *Cal. Pat.* 1578–80, p. 170.

⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, xix, p. 214; *Cal. Close*, 1454–61, 53; *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen VII*, iii, pp. 244–5; P.R.O., C 142/30, no. 76; C 142/45, no. 14; *Cal. Pat.* 1550–3, 215; 1557–8, 338; *T.S.A.S.* iii. 82.

⁶ Above, Edgmond, manors (Edgmond).

⁷ P.R.O., C 142/345, no. 146; CP 43/224, rot. 68; *Complete Peerage*, xi. 717–18.

⁸ *T.S.A.S.* vii. 372.

⁹ *Ibid.* 4th ser. iii. 76; S.R.R. 81/200.

¹⁰ *Complete Peerage*, xi. 725.

¹¹ S.R.R. 972, box 156, abstr. of title.

¹² Above, Edgmond, manors (Edgmond).

¹³ P.R.O., C 142/48, no. 38.

¹⁴ S.R.R. 6000/19401.

¹⁵ P.R.O., C 142/283, no. 90; C 142/312, no. 158; CP 43/451, rot. 188; Staffs. R.O., D. 593/C/10/1, will of Sir John Leveson; D. 593/C/10/3, deeds of 1617, 1623; S.R.R. 1378/18; *T.S.A.S.* vii. 377–9; S.R.R. 972, box 152, draft deed of 1823; box 208, abstr. of title. Cf. below, Sheriffhales, manors (Sheriffhales).

¹⁶ S.R.R. 972, box 156, draft deed of 4 June 1829.

¹⁷ S.R.R. 6000/19372; *Kelly's Dir. Salop.* (1937), 175.

¹⁸ G.R.O. gen. index, deaths Jan.–Feb. 1938, p. 228.

¹⁹ *Kelly's Dir. Salop.* (1941), 171; S.R.R. deposit file 'Dixon Collection'; information from the late Col. Faithfull.

²⁰ O.S. Map 1/2,500, Salop. XXXI. 9 (1881 edn.).

²¹ *Ibid.* (1901 edn.); *T.S.A.S.* vii. 382; *Salop. N. & Q.* v. 121.

²² *V.C.H. Salop.* ii. 133. For the history of the college see *ibid.* 133–4.

²³ *T.S.A.S.* 3rd ser. x. 366.

²⁴ *V.C.H. Salop.* ii. 133.

²⁵ S.R.R., P207 (1910/19).

²⁶ P.R.O., C 142/183, no. 53.

²⁷ S.R.R., P207 (1910/1548–9).

Prynce in 1586,¹ and when the latter died in 1598 Newport rectory passed to his son, Francis² (later Sir Francis). He sold it in 1612 to William Nowell of Newport,³ from whom Jonas Hollingworth bought it in 1658.⁴ It passed before 1698 to the latter's son and heir, John,⁵ and in 1700 a body of subscribers enabled the rectory to be bought from him⁶ for the use of the successive incumbents.⁷

CHURCHES. The abbot and convent of Shrewsbury claimed that Roger of Montgomery, earl of Shrewsbury (d. 1094), the lord of Edgmond manor, had given them the patronage of Newport church,⁸ but that was evidently untrue, for it was not among the abbey's possessions in 1121.⁹ Richard the priest of Newport was mentioned between 1135 and c. 1139,¹⁰ and the abbey certainly had the advowson by 1148.¹¹ The abbey conveyed the advowson in 1442 to Thomas Draper,¹² who gave it in 1448 to the warden and chaplains of his newly founded college of St. Mary.¹³ The warden of the college was thereafter to have the cure of souls in Newport, which he could exercise in person or through one of the chaplains.¹⁴ When the college was dissolved in 1547¹⁵ the advowson and rectory passed to the Crown. The Crown kept the advowson but sold the rectory in 1549. No vicarage had been ordained when the college appropriated the rectory, and in 1548 the parishioners were reported to have the 'sore necessity of the endowment of a vicar'.¹⁶ After 1547, however, they were served by perpetual curates appointed by the Crown.¹⁷ From 1864 they were styled rectors.¹⁸ In 1873 patronage of the living passed from the Lord Chancellor (on

behalf of the Crown) to the bishop of Lichfield¹⁹ and in 1923 the rectory was united to that of Longford to form the benefice of Newport with Longford, with joint patrons.²⁰ The living of Chetwynd was added to the united benefice in 1981²¹ and that of Forton (Staffs.) in 1996 to create the rectory of Newport with Longford, Chetwynd and Forton.²²

The rector's annual income was £2 13s. 4d. (4 mk.) in 1291,²³ and in 1313 Nicholas of Audley gave an acre in Newport to the rector to build a house for himself and his successors.²⁴ After the dissolution of the college in 1547 the curates received a stipend of £10 from the Crown. That was augmented in 1633 when William Robson endowed the Salters' Company of London with a sum of money to provide, among other things, £5 a year to the curate of Newport. In 1656 William Adams endowed the Haberdashers' Company of London with an estate in Staffordshire to provide, among other things, a further £20 a year for the curate; that amount was increased to £40 in 1797, to £60 in 1808,²⁵ and later that century to £100.²⁶ Meanwhile, in 1700, subscribers bought the rectorial tithes and a house for the use of the successive incumbents.²⁷ The tithes were commuted to £180 in 1841.²⁸ Also, under the will of the curate, Thomas Perkes, dated 1734, the incumbent received £1 a year after the death of the testator's wife out of the interest on £200;²⁹ she died in 1766.³⁰ By 1891 the rector's annual income, including fees, was £297 gross, £241 net.³¹

The only glebe was the parsonage house and the churchyard. After 1547 no house was provided until the College House (later No. 22, St. Mary's Street) was purchased in 1700. It was an earlier 17th-century house of two bays³² and described in 1799 as 'mean' though in good repair.³³ By 1866, when it was sold, the

¹ *Ibid.* (1910/1550).

² P.R.O., C 142/252, no. 41.

³ S.R.R., P207 (1910/1553-4).

⁴ *Ibid.* (1910/1567-9).

⁵ *Ibid.* (1910/1576).

⁶ *Ibid.* (1910/851-4); S.R.R. 6000/19436.

⁷ P.R.O., IR 29/29/237.

⁸ *Cartulary of Shrews. Abbey*, ed. U. Rees (1975), i, p. 41; ii, p. 298.

⁹ *Ibid.* i, pp. 31-6.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* i, p. 22.

¹¹ *Ibid.* ii, p. 298.

¹² *Cal. Pat.* 1441-6, 64, 112.

¹³ *V.C.H. Salop.* ii. 133.

¹⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1441-6, 64; *T.S.A.S.* 3rd ser. x. 316.

¹⁵ *V.C.H. Salop.* ii. 133.

¹⁶ *T.S.A.S.* 3rd ser. x. 366.

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1580-2, p. 5; *T.S.A.S.* 2nd ser. v. 259; *T.S.A.S.* xlviii. 12; *S.R.S.* vi. [?]; S.R.R., AO3916/1/1, f. 71; T. Slater, *Dir. Salop.* (1856), 30.

¹⁸ S.R.R., P207/A/4/2, p. 123.

¹⁹ S.R.R., P253/F/2/1.

²⁰ *Lond. Gaz.* 2 Feb. 1923, pp. 784-5.

²¹ *Lich. Dioc. Dir.* (1990-1), 93.

²² *Ibid.* 113; local information.

²³ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 245.

²⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1313-17, 10.

²⁵ *3rd Rep. Com. Char.* H.C. 5, pp. 410, 416, 423 (1820), iv.

²⁶ *S.R.S.* vi. [?].

²⁷ Above, manors (Newport rectory); *V.C.H. Salop.* ii. 134.

²⁸ P.R.O., IR 29/29/237.

²⁹ *3rd Rep. Com. Char.* H.C. 5, p. 426 (1820), iv.

³⁰ S.R.R., P207/A/1/4, bur. 24 Jan. 1766.

³¹ *Crockford* (1891), 192.

³² *S.R.S.* vi. [?]; *V.C.H. Salop.* ii. 134.

³³ S.R.R., AO3916/1/1, f. 71.

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incumbents had long ceased to live there.¹ From the sale proceeds and from subscriptions Beaumaris House, in the High Street, was purchased in 1874 as the rectory.² It is a large red brick Georgian house of 1724.³ That was later sold and in 1933 the 19th-century house called Hurlstone, also in the High Street, was bought instead.⁴ By 1998 a new rectory had recently been bought at No. 10, Forton Glade, Forton Road.⁵

A chapel of *ST. CATHERINE* in the High Street was mentioned in 1371 and 1388.⁶ It is not clear whether it was part of the parish church or free standing. Next to it, and possibly attached, stood a hermitage. The hermit was mentioned in 1355, and in 1371 was a Brother William, who was then licensed to celebrate mass in the chapel.⁷

The free chapel of *ST MARY MAGDALENE* stood at the 'town's end' and was dissolved in 1547. Nothing was then known of its foundation and it had no clergy. Its endowment consisted of 5 a. of land in crofts adjoining the chapel, and two cottages; the gross income was 20s. 8d. a year, out of which 16d. rent was payable to the Talbots, lords of one half of the manor. The chapel had a shingled roof and at least one bell. There were goods to the value of 3s. 4d., and 8 oz. of plate. In 1550 the Crown sold the site and endowments to Thomas Reve, John Johnson, and Henry Herdson.⁸ It is probable that the chapel and cottages were the buildings of a defunct leper hospital; their location at the 'town's end', the dedication to St. Mary Magdalene, and the cottage-like accommodation were typical of such establishments.⁹

PROTESTANT NONCONFORMITY. The Revd. John Malden, incumbent of Newport, was ejected from his living for nonconformity in 1662. He later left the town, probably as a result of the Five Mile Act, and in 1672 was licensed as a preacher and teacher in Whitchurch.¹⁰ Katherine

Ashenhurst's house in Newport was licensed as a Presbyterian meeting place in 1672¹¹ and it was probably there that Philip Henry preached in April 1673.¹² There were reported to be 30 nonconformists in the town in 1676.¹³ In 1715 65 hearers, including 4 yeomen and 8 tradesmen, attended the Presbyterian meeting served by Peter Seddon, who also lectured at Wellington, Braggington, and Leighton.¹⁴ He was succeeded by John King.¹⁵ The further history of the congregation is uncertain, but in 1741 a 'Christian House' in Beaumaris Lane, at the end of the burgage plot of a house in High Street (later No. 95), may have been their meeting house.¹⁶

In 1708 John Parker's house was licensed for Quaker meetings¹⁷ and in 1751 the market house was licensed for their use.¹⁸

In 1765 Capt. Jonathan Scott was given a piece of land by John Jones, a native of Newport, and a small Independent chapel was built on it. Due to lack of supply it soon closed, and it remained so for 20 years. The cause was revived in 1792 when Moses Silvester settled in the town and undertook to keep the pulpit supplied with preachers.¹⁹ He later bought the original chapel, which in the meantime had been used as a day school,²⁰ and licensed it in 1797.²¹ In 1803 a new chapel was built in Beaumaris Lane.²² Measuring 34 ft. long by 24 ft. wide, it continued in use until 1832 when a larger and more stylish building was erected in Wellington Road to accommodate the increasing congregation.²³ The

¹¹ Ibid. 736.

¹² *Diaries and letters of Philip Henry*, ed. M. H. Lee (1882), 263.

¹³ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 443.

¹⁴ Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 34.4 (John Evans MS.), f. 97; MS. 63 (Wilson MSS.), f. 1, p. 241.

¹⁵ Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 63 (Wilson MSS.), f. 1, p. 241.

¹⁶ *Newport and District History Society Newsletter*, Jan. 2002, pp. [1–2].

¹⁷ S.R.R., QS/2/9, Jan. 1707/8.

¹⁸ S.R.R., QS/6/2/394.

¹⁹ D. MacFadyen, 'The apostolic labours of Captain Jonathan Scott', *Transactions of the Congregational History Society*, iii. 55; G. T. Malthouse, *A short history of the Congregational church in Newport, Shropshire* (Newport, 1907), 35.

²⁰ Malthouse, *op. cit.* 7.

²¹ S.R.R. 2929/6, photocopy of original petition in L.R.O.

²² S.R.R., QS/6/5/139. The building was at the end of the burgage plot of No. 121, High Street: information from Mr. Raymond Elkes and Mr. John Bentley, both of Newport.

²³ Malthouse, *Short history*, 37.

¹ S.R.S. vi. [?].

² [C. C. Barrow] 'A Short history of St Nicholas church, Newport, Salop.' (TS. 1921; copy in S.R.R., qK64), 100–1.

³ Pevsner, *Salop*. 218.

⁴ S.R.R., P207 (1910/1648).

⁵ P. Watson Jones, *Chetwynd and the parish church* ([1998]; copy in S.R.R., KE97 v.f.), 27.

⁶ *S.H.C. N.S.* viii. 60; P.R.O., JUST 3/180, m. 49.

⁷ *S.H.C. N.S.* viii. 60, 154.

⁸ *T.S.A.S.* 3rd ser. x. 366–7; *Cal. Pat.* 1549–51, 374–5, 384–5.

⁹ R. M. Clay, *The Mediaeval hospitals of England* (1909), 252; R. Gilchrist, *Contemplation and action: the other monasticism* (1995), 40–5.

¹⁰ *Orig. Rec. of Early Nonconf.* ed. G. Lyon Turner, ii. 735.

new chapel cost £1,200 and could seated 400.¹ The Beaumaris Lane chapel was converted into two cottages, which have since been demolished.² A room and classrooms were added to the Wellington Road chapel in 1841.³ During the 1840s members resolved to preach in the neighbouring countryside, and in 1847 the church joined the Congregational Union.⁴ On Census Sunday 1851 there were 170 and 270 adults at the two services, with 100 and 20 children respectively; the congregations were said to be smaller than usual 'because of the unfavourable state of the weather'.⁵ Nevertheless it was the most well-attended nonconformist chapel in the town. The 1870s was a period of co-operation between the various churches in the town, including the Established Church and the Mission Room, and a series of united services was held. In 1875 services were begun at Outwoods, a village just over the border in Staffordshire, and ten years later a mission room was built there; the project was undertaken by the Congregationalists in conjunction with other denominations including the Primitive and Wesleyan Methodists.⁶ Newport Congregational Church joined the United Reformed Church in 1972⁷ and in 2001 was joined by the Methodist congregation that formerly met in Avenue Road.

Methodists had established themselves in the town by 1799, when the archdeacon of Salop commented that they had 'a meeting and school but are not thought to increase'.⁸ In 1809 James Williams's house was registered for nonconformist worship, and later that year Jane Williams's house.⁹ In 1813 services were being held at Newport and Lilleshall at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on alternate Sundays.¹⁰ The house of the Wesleyan Josiah Clowes, a glover, was licensed for nonconformist worship in 1819.¹¹ The

congregation had 17 members in 1824,¹² and 36 by 1830.¹³ In 1829–30 they erected a purpose-built chapel in Upper Bar, which could seat about 200.¹⁴ On Census Sunday 1851 there were 22 and 50 attenders at the two services, but the average attendance was reported to be 80 adults and 40 children.¹⁵ By 1862 the chapel trustees were looking for a new site,¹⁶ and in 1865 agreed to sell the chapel to Newport Working Men's Club on condition that the Wesleyans be allowed continued use of it.¹⁷ In 1876, however, the chapel was still in their hands and was described as 'old, decayed, and not at all equal to the requirements of the town. It holds 120 without the gallery, which is useless'. It was proposed to sell the old chapel and put the proceeds towards a new one,¹⁸ the site for which was acquired in Avenue Road.¹⁹ The new chapel, which opened in 1877,²⁰ was designed by Bidlake & Fleeming²¹ in the gothic style and built of red brick with yellow brick dressings. It closed in 2000 and the congregation joined that of the United Reformed Church in Wellington Road.²² The Avenue Road chapel was sold in 2001 for use as a gym.²³

The Wesleyans were not the only Methodists in the town. In 1830 the Primitive Methodists built a small chapel in Stafford Road,²⁴ possibly that licensed in 1831.²⁵ It is likely that the congregation had been meeting in the town for some years, possibly at a house belonging to Charles Booth, which was licensed for nonconformist worship in 1824.²⁶ On Census Sunday 1851 the chapel, seating about 100 people, had 37 adults and 19 children at its afternoon service, and 40 adults in the evening.²⁷ In 1860 attendance was only 25, but

¹² S.R.R., NM3767/XVII/E1A, list of members 28 June 1824.

¹³ S.R.R., NM3767/XVII/A1A, p. 67.

¹⁴ S.R.R., NM3767/XXVIII/A, acct. 1 Aug. 1829–26 Apr. 1830.

¹⁵ P.R.O., HO 129/366, no. 29.

¹⁶ *The Methodist church, Newport, Salop, 1877–1977: centenary brochure* [1977], p. [2].

¹⁷ S.R.R., NM3767/XXVIII/A, 28 Aug. 1865.

¹⁸ S.R.R., NM3767/XXVIII/E.

¹⁹ S.R.R., NM3767/XXVIII/D, p. 15.

²⁰ *Ibid.* p. 17.

²¹ *Ibid.* p. 18.

²² Information from Mr. Elkes.

²³ *Newport Advertiser*, 19 Oct. 2001, p. 3.

²⁴ S. Bagshaw, *Dir. Salop.* (1851), 402; S.R.R., NM3767/XIII/A1.

²⁵ S.R.R., QS/6/25/159.

²⁶ S.R.R. 2929/8, photocopy of original licence in L.R.O.

²⁷ P.R.O., HO 129/366, no. 30

¹ E. Elliot, *A History of Congregationalism in Shropshire* (Oswestry, 1898), 110; S.R.R. 2929/9, photocopy of licence in L.R.O.; S.R.R., QS/6/25/159.

² Information from Messrs. Elkes and Bentley (Mr. Bentley formerly lived in one of the cottages into which the 1803 chapel had been converted); S. Bagshaw, *Dir. Salop.* (1851), 401.

³ Elliot, *op. cit.* 106–14.

⁴ Malthouse, *Short history*, 14, 16.

⁵ P.R.O., HO 129/366, no. 31.

⁶ Malthouse, *op. cit.* 23.

⁷ Information from Mr. Elkes and Mrs. Gladys Smallman.

⁸ S.R.R., AO3916/1/1, f. 71v.

⁹ S.R.R., QS/6/9/114.

¹⁰ S.R.R., NM4627/5/C15.

¹¹ S.R.R., QS/6/15/452; S.R.R. 2929/7, photocopy of original petition in L.R.O.; S.R.R., NM3767/XVII/E1A, list of members 28 June 1824.

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by 1876 it had risen to 80.¹ A larger chapel was built in Wellington Road in 1877 and the old one was then rented out.² The Primitive Methodists joined with the Wesleyan Methodists in Avenue Road in 1923 and the Primitive Methodist chapel was then to be used for a Sunday school and young people's institute.³ The Methodists sold the chapel in 1931⁴ and it was acquired in 1933 by the Apostolic church,⁵ which was still meeting there in 1941.⁶ By 2001 it was the Masonic Hall.

In 1851 there was said, possibly in error, to be a small brick chapel in Upper Bar belonging to the 'Wesleyan New Connexion'.⁷

In 1872 a 'Free Mission Room' in Canal Place was being used for worship. The site, opposite the canal basin in Water Lane, had been developed by the 1850s as a coach manufactory with offices and workshops, and it was the large building in the centre of the complex that became the Mission Room. In 1881 the building was reopened as a Gospel Hall after extensive alterations provided seating for 250 people, some of them accommodated in a large balcony. Evening services were held there on Sunday and

a weekday until they were suspended in 1917. The building was sold in 1920 and became a music hall, and in 2001 the Cosy Hall (as it had become known) was the town's community centre.⁸

The Elim Pentecostal Church met in the town council offices in Water Lane from c. 1985, and later moved to Newport Day Centre. The church closed in August 1999 and most of the members joined the Baptist church.⁹

Newport Baptist church was founded in 1992 and met in the scout hut in Longford Road. In 1996 the church bought the former town council offices in Water Lane and by 2001, due to expansion of the congregation, an extension to the building was being considered.¹⁰

In 1979 Newport Christian Fellowship, which had been meeting informally, started to hold services in the sports pavilion in Shuker Close.¹¹ The later history of the congregation has not been traced, but in 1989 a group of Christians, subsequently called the Newport Christian Fellowship, began meeting in the Cosy Hall in Water Lane. In 1993 the church became linked to the London-based Ichthus Christian Fellowship, and in 1998 became a Pioneer linked church.¹²

¹ S.R.R., NM3767/XIII/A1; NM1861/32.

² S.R.R., NM1861/37.

³ S.R.R., NM3767/XIII/K, 3 Mar. 1923.

⁴ *Ibid.* 2 June 1928; 7 Sept. 1929; 7 Mar., 29 Aug. 1931.

⁵ Information from Mr. Malcolm Miles, citing the *Newport Advertiser*, Sept. 1933.

⁶ *Kelly's Dir. Salop.* (1941), 171; information from Mr. Elkes.

⁷ S. Bagshaw, *Dir. Salop.* (1851), 402. No other reference to this congregation has been found.

⁸ *Kelly's Dir. Salop.* (1885), 905; (1891), 375; (1905), 163; (1909), 166; (1913), 170; information from Mr. Miles.

⁹ Newport Town Council, *Official guide and street map* [1985], p. 14; information from Mrs. Doreen Brittin.

¹⁰ Information from Mrs. Brittin.

¹¹ *Shropshire Star*, 17 Jan. 1979, p. 12; *Newport official guide* [1979], p. 33.

¹² Information provided by Newport Christian Fellowship.

SHERIFFHALES

MANORS AND OTHER ESTATES. Ælfgar, earl of Mercia, held *SHERIFFHALES* in Edward the Confessor's reign and was succeeded by his son Earl Edwin,¹ who died in 1071.² By 1081 the manor belonged to Roger of Montgomery, earl of Shropshire, and his tenant was Warin the bald, sheriff of the county.³ Warin died c. 1085⁴ and was succeeded as lord by the next sheriff, Reynold of Bailleul.⁵ In 1102 Robert of Bellême, Earl Roger's son, forfeited the overlordship and it passed to Reynold's successors in the shrievalty.⁶ Thus William FitzAlan (I) was the overlord by 1138.⁷ The overlordship descended to Henry FitzAlan, earl of Arundel, who held it in 1560,⁸ but by 1605 it had passed to the Crown.⁹

The FitzAlans' undertenant in 1166 was Ives Pantulf,¹⁰ who died c. 1176.¹¹ William Pantulf, probably his grandson,¹² held the manor by 1242.¹³ He died c. 1253 leaving a widow Alice,¹⁴ who was lady of the manor in 1255.¹⁵ By 1261 she may have been succeeded by her daughter Rose, wife of Richard Trussell.¹⁶ Richard was killed at the battle of Evesham in 1265¹⁷ and on Rose's death c. 1294 Sheriffhales passed to their son William.¹⁸ John Trussell of Kibblestone (Staffs.), probably William's son,¹⁹ was in possession by 1331, when he settled the succession on his son John. Sir William Trussell of Kibblestone, the latter's son,²⁰ owned the manor by 1367.²¹ When he died c. 1380 the heir was his granddaughter Elizabeth, a child. She died shortly afterwards and the manor passed to her father's cousin Margaret Trussell, wife of Sir

Fulk Pembridge.²² After Margaret's death in 1399 Sir Fulk married again and died without issue in 1409 having settled the manor on his relict Isabel and thereafter on William Trussell, Margaret's cousin.²³ Isabel married John Ludlow of Stokesay and died as lady of the manor in 1446.²⁴ The succession of William Trussell (kt. By 1442)²⁵ was disputed²⁶ by the heirs of John Grendon the younger, to whom Sir Fulk and Margaret had granted a remainder,²⁷ and by Sir Richard Vernon, Sir Fulk's grandnephew.²⁸ The result seems to have been a compromise. Judgement was given for Grendon's heirs in 1449,²⁹ one of whom married Sir William's son, Sir Thomas;³⁰ another Grendon heir, Sir Thomas Lyttelton (d. 1481),³¹ gained a life interest in the manor, after whom the reversion fell to Edward Trussell,³² Sir Thomas Trussell's grandson.³³ From Edward the manor descended with his half-share of Shipton³⁴ until 1546 when John de Vere, earl of Oxford, sold Sheriffhales to James Leveson.³⁵

The manor thereafter descended with Lilleshall manor until 1661³⁶ when Sir Richard Leveson left Sheriffhales to Francis Fowler. Sheriffhales then descended with Leegomery manor (in Wellington) until 1674 and thereafter with Lilleshall again until 1917,³⁷ when the 5th duke of Sutherland sold his Sheriffhales estate in separate lots. The manorial lordship was not

¹ *V.C.H. Staffs.* iv. 46.

² *V.C.H. Salop.* iii. 7.

³ *Eyton*, vii. 204.

⁴ *V.C.H. Salop.* iii. 9.

⁵ *V.C.H. Staffs.* iv. 46.

⁶ *V.C.H. Salop.* iii. 10.

⁷ *Cartulary of Haughmond Abbey*, ed. U. Rees (1985), p. 69.

⁸ P.R.O., C 142/131, no. 186.

⁹ P.R.O., C 142/312, no. 158.

¹⁰ *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), i. 273.

¹¹ *Cart. Haughmond*, p. 70.

¹² *Eyton*, ix. 164 n.

¹³ *Bk. of Fees*, ii. 969, 974.

¹⁴ *Eyton*, ix. 164 n.

¹⁵ *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii. 114.

¹⁶ *S.H.C.* iv (1), 250–1.

¹⁷ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, p. 278.

¹⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii. pp. 103–4.

¹⁹ *S.H.C.* xii (1), 144.

²⁰ *S.H.C.* xi. 183–4; N.S. iii. 162.

²¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1367–70, 18.

²² *S.H.C.* xi. 206; N.S. iii. 191 n.

²³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xvii, p. 518; xix, pp. 209–10.

²⁴ P.R.O., C 139/125, no. 9.

²⁵ *S.H.C.* N.S. iii. 161–2.

²⁶ *S.H.C.* N.S. xii. 90 n.–91 n.

²⁷ *S.H.C.* xi. 206; N.S. iii. 190–1; xii. 90.

²⁸ *S.H.C.* N.S. iii. 189, 191; xii. 90 n.

²⁹ *Ibid.* xii. 90.

³⁰ *Ibid.* 92.

³¹ *Ibid.* 90; *D.N.B.*

³² P.R.O., C 140/78, no. 83.

³³ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, ii, pp. 210–11; *S.H.C.* N.S. xii. 92.

³⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, ii, pp. 210–11, 254; iii, p. 148. Cf. *V.C.H. Salop.* x. 374.

³⁵ *S.H.C.* xi. 292.

³⁶ P.R.O., C 142/85, no. 58; C 142/131, no. 186; C 142/283, no. 90; C 142/312, no. 158; Staffs. R.O., D. 593/C/10/1, will of Sir John Leveson; D. 593/C/10/3, deeds of 1617, 1623. Cf. *V.C.H. Salop.* xi. 153–4.

³⁷ S.R.R. 1378/18; P.R.O., CP 43/451, rot. 188; S.R.R., QE/5/1/2, 5 Oct. 1748; QE/5/2/1, 1 Aug. 1788; S.R.R. 972, box 152, draft deed of 1823; box 208, abstr. of title. Cf. *V.C.H. Salop.* xi. 154, 219.

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sold¹ and its subsequent descent has not been traced.

In 1367 Sir William Trussell obtained a licence to crenellate his manor house at Sheriffhales.² It may have been near the site of the present Manor House, which stands near the church; a long depression curving round the east end of the house was said in 1917 to be the remains of a moat.³ The present house appears to date from the late 16th and early 17th century.⁴ It is timber-framed and consists mainly of a two-storeyed east-west hall range, to which have been added a two-storeyed porch on the south and a two-storeyed cross wing on the east. The porch and cross wing have jettied upper storeys and decorative panelling. In a heavy restoration of c. 1952 the exterior was altered by new windows and applied framing.⁵

The house was superseded as the manor's chief house when Lilleshall House was built 1826–9 for Earl Gower. Designed by Sir Jeffrey Wyattville in the Elizabethan style,⁶ it stands on a hilltop near the boundary of Lilleshall parish, with distant views south and west. The house is built of pale grey ashlar and is quadrangular in plan, surrounding a large top-lit staircase hall. The main elevations are of four bays and two and a half storeys.⁷ A two-storeyed 'north' wing extends obliquely from the east front and incorporates a central chimney stack that also serves as a clock tower. The main entrance is on the north under an attached porch tower of four storeys. In 1906 a 'billiard room' wing was added in matching style. The house gains an illusion of height from its towers, narrow pinnacled gables, and many slender chimneys and, with its 36 a. of gardens, partly terraced, and its hilltop setting at the end of a 2-km. carriage drive, looks grander than it is.⁸ The grounds and park

covered 606 a. in 1917 and incorporated the ruins of Lilleshall abbey, reached from the house by a private walk.

A syndicate bought the house and grounds in 1917⁹ and conveyed them in 1919 to Sir John Leigh, bt., the owner until 1927,¹⁰ when Lilleshall Estates Ltd. bought them and opened them to tourists as 'Lovely Lilleshall' with a miniature railway and other attractions.¹¹ In 1949 the Central Council of Physical Recreation bought the house and grounds from Herbert Ford, managing director of Lilleshall Estates Ltd., and in 1950 opened them as a National Recreation Centre (a National Sports Centre from 1969). Ownership passed in 1972 to the Sports Council¹² and in 1997 to the English Sports Council (known as Sport England).¹³ From 1950 onwards the Centre added several large buildings and playing areas near the house but it continued to care for the formal gardens and parkland trees.¹⁴

Between c. 1125 and 1138 William FitzAlan gave Haughmond abbey two carucates of land in Sheriffhales manor at a place called 'CUTTESDUN'¹⁵ (later 'Cutilston'¹⁶ or 'Cudsons'), in the south-east part of the parish.¹⁷ In the early 13th century Haughmond leased the land to Buildwas abbey¹⁸ and c. 1227 assigned Buildwas's rent to Lilleshall abbey.¹⁹ By the Dissolution, however, 'Cutilston' was 'in ruins' and Buildwas seems to have been paying the rent directly to Haughmond abbey.²⁰

Also at 'Cuttisdun' Norman Pantulf, a son of Ives Pantulf (d. c. 1176), lord of Sheriffhales, had some land, which he gave to his daughter, Alice, wife of Roger le Poer. After Roger's death she gave it to Lilleshall abbey, perhaps c. 1230.²¹

¹ S.R.R. 972, parcel 207, sale partic.; *Wellington Jnl.* 28 July 1917, p. 8. The manorial rights were offered only with lot 1 (the undivided estate), which was not sold.

² *Cal. Pat.* 1367–70, 18.

³ O.S. Map 1/2,500, Salop. XXXVII. 9 (1882 edn.); S.R.R. 972, parcel 207, sale partic. p. 72.

⁴ Description based on Dept. of Environment, *List of Bldgs. Of Special Arch. or Hist. Interest: Dist. of Bridgnorth (Pars. of Sheriffhales [etc.])* (1984), p. 19; S.R.R. 972, parcel 207, sale partic., photo. facing p. 72.

⁵ S.R.R., PH/S/9, photo. (neg. SN743).

⁶ H. Colvin, *Biog. Dict. Eng. Architects 1600–1840* (1978), 963.

⁷ Description based on S.R.R. 972, parcel 207, sale partic. of 1917, pp. 14–27; photos. in S.R.R., PH/L/10/4. On the grounds see also P. Stamper, *Surv. of Historic Parks and Gdns. in Salop.* (S.C.C. 1993), 65.

⁸ As Pevsner observed: *Salop.* 166.

⁹ *Wellington Jnl.* 28 July 1917, p. 8.

¹⁰ *Shrews. Chron.* 13 June 1919, p. [3]; S.R.R., SC/1/22, p. 36.

¹¹ *Kelly's Dir. Salop.* (1929), 130; *Lovely Lilleshall* (n.d.; copy in S.R.R., K66 v.f.); M. Miles, *Newport in old picture postcards* (1984; copy in S.R.R., K66.9), no. 69.

¹² H. J. Evans, *Service to sport: the story of the C.C.P.R. 1935–1972* (1974), 103–4, 114–15, 227–8; Miles, op. cit. no. 69.

¹³ Information from Sport England website.

¹⁴ Telford Development Corporation, *Trees at Lilleshall* ([1978]; copy in S.R.R., K17 v.f.).

¹⁵ *Cart. Haughmond*, p. 69.

¹⁶ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii. 192.

¹⁷ Plan of Sheriffhales by Edmund Ash (1844; copy in SRR, Foxall field-name maps).

¹⁸ *Cart. Haughmond*, p. 70.

¹⁹ *Cartulary of Lilleshall Abbey*, ed. U. Rees (1997), pp. 76, 107.

²⁰ *Valor Eccl.* iii. 192.

²¹ *Cart. Lilleshall*, pp. 92–3.

The later history of the estate has not been traced.

BROCKTON in 1086 was held of the king by Reynold of Bailleul, lord of Sheriffhales. It was part of an estate that nine thegns had held as nine 'manors' in 1066.¹ Brockton seems to have descended with Sheriffhales until some time between 1155 and 1157, when Gerald of Burlington, holding Brockton of William FitzAlan, gave it to Buildwas abbey² in return for 5s. annual rent. Helewise, daughter of Gerald's son, Reyner of Burlington, assigned the rent to Lilleshall abbey c. 1200.³ Buildwas remained in possession of Brockton at the Dissolution, having made it a grange, and Lilleshall still enjoyed the rent.⁴ In 1537 the Crown conveyed Brockton to Edward Grey, Baron Grey of Powis.⁵ He died in 1551 without legitimate children⁶ and Brockton passed to his reputed coheirs, Thomas Vernon of Stokesay and George Vernon of Hodnet.⁷

Thomas Vernon died in 1562⁸ and his son, also Thomas, is said to have died in 1570.⁹ The latter's son, Henry, was in possession of one of the shares of Brockton by 1575.¹⁰ He died c. 1607 without children¹¹ and was succeeded by his father's sister, Eleanor, wife of Francis Curzon; their son, John Curzon,¹² sold the share c. 1612 to Edward Grey, illegitimate son of the former owner of Brockton, Lord Grey,¹³ and when Edward Grey died in 1614 the heir to his portion of Brockton grange was his son, Thomas.¹⁴

George Vernon died in 1553¹⁵ and his share probably passed to his son Richard, who died in 1560;¹⁶ it came afterwards to Richard's younger

brother, John,¹⁷ who lived until 1591 and was succeeded by his son Robert (later Sir Robert).¹⁸

In the late 12th century Helewise, daughter of Reyner of Burlington (fl. 1166),¹⁹ held the township of *BURLINGTON* (also called Burlaughton) under the FitzAlans. She gave it in or before 1199 to Lilleshall abbey,²⁰ and by the early 13th century the estate was called a grange.²¹ It remained with the abbey until the Dissolution.²² Eventually it was absorbed into the Sheriffhales manorial estate and in 1917 the duke of Sutherland sold Burlington farm (370 a.) to S. M. Brown of Hilton Grange.²³ The farm house appears to be a plain 19th-century brick building.²⁴

In or before 1081 Warin the bald gave *SHERIFFHALES RECTORY* to the Norman abbey of St.-Evroult (Orne),²⁵ which vested it before 1291 in the abbey's dependent priory of Ware (Herts.).²⁶ Henry V suppressed Ware priory in 1414, and in 1415 gave its possessions to the Carthusian priory of Sheen (Surr.).²⁷ Sheen priory surrendered Sheriffhales rectory to the Crown in 1539.²⁸ Sir Rowland Hill bought it in 1552²⁹ but it belonged by 1560 to Sir Richard Leveson³⁰ and seems to have descended thereafter with his manor of Sheriffhales.³¹ The rectorial income consisted in 1535 of £3 a year from glebe and £3 6s. 8d. from tithes.³² The rectorial glebe has not been traced later, but the rectorial tithes were commuted to £800 7s. 6d. in 1849,³³ and in 1918 those from the duke of Sutherland's estate were extinguished by merger in the freehold immediately before sale of the estate was completed.³⁴

¹ *V.C.H. Staffs.* iv. 56.

² Eyton, vi. 327; *S.H.C.* i. 215.

³ *Cart. Lilleshall*, pp. 28, 59.

⁴ Dugdale, *Mon.* v. 361; vi. 265.

⁵ *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xii (2), p. 166.

⁶ *Complete Peerage*, vi. 142.

⁷ M. C. Jones, *Feudal barons of Powys* (1868), 120, 127.

⁸ *S.P.R. Heref.* xvii (3), 2. For pedigree to 1623 see *Visit. Salop. 1623*, ii (Harl. Soc. xxix), 471-4.

⁹ *T.S.A.S.* i. 327.

¹⁰ Jones, *Feudal barons*, 120; *S.R.R.* 2089/1/2/10.

¹¹ *S.R.R.* 6001/2792, p. 93.

¹² Burke, *Peerage* (1967), 2235.

¹³ Jones, *Feudal barons*, 128.

¹⁴ *P.R.O.*, C 142/346, no. 165.

¹⁵ *S.P.R. Lich.* xi (2), 1.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* xi (2), 1.

¹⁷ *S.R.R.* 6001/2792, p. 52; Jones, *Feudal barons*, 120.

¹⁸ Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 32, nos. 22, 29.

¹⁹ *Red Bk. Exch.* i. 273.

²⁰ *Cart. Lilleshall*, pp. 11-12, 28, 58-9.

²¹ *Ibid.* p. 66.

²² *P.R.O.*, SC 6/Hen. VIII/3009, m. 21.

²³ *Wellington Jnl.* 28 July 1917, p. 8.

²⁴ *S.R.R.* 972, parcel 207, photo. facing p. 60.

²⁵ Eyton, vii. 204.

²⁶ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 243.

²⁷ *V.C.H. Herts.* iv. 457; *V.C.H. Surr.* ii. 89.

²⁸ Dugdale, *Mon.* vi (1), 34; *V.C.H. Surr.* ii. 93.

²⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1550-3, 334.

³⁰ *Staffs. R.O.*, D. 593/C/5, Sir Ric. Leveson's will.

³¹ *P.R.O.*, C 142/283, no. 90; C 142/312, no. 158; *IR* 29/29/286; *T.S.A.S.* 3rd ser. vii. 277; *S.R.R.* 972, box 152, draft deed of 1823; box 208, abstr. of title.

³² *Valor Eccl.* iii. 102.

³³ *P.R.O.*, *IR* 29/29/286.

³⁴ *P.R.O.*, *IR* 29/29/286; *S.R.R.* 972, parcel 207, sale partic. p. 215.

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WOODCOTE belonged in 1066 to Ælfric (Alvric). In 1086 Robert son of Tibbald (fitz Tetbald)¹ held it of Roger of Montgomery, earl of Shrewsbury.² Roger's son, Robert of Bellême, forfeited his overlordship to the Crown in 1102³ and the chief lordship belonged by 1255 to Henry de Percy,⁴ and in 1559 to the heirs of Henry Percy.⁵

The undertenant in 1086 was Toki.⁶ By 1255 his successor as lord of Woodcote was Robert of Woodcote,⁷ presumably the one who died in 1278 leaving a son and heir, Thomas.⁸ Thomas was lord in 1297, and in 1309 his widow held a third in dower;⁹ the other two-thirds passed to William of Moreton,¹⁰ Thomas's second cousin,¹¹ and the whole belonged in 1316 to Edmund of Moreton,¹² William's son.¹³ When Edmund died in 1341 his son and heir was John of Moreton,¹⁴ who was living in 1375.¹⁵ John Knyghtley held the manor by 1397¹⁶ and was alive in 1413.¹⁷ Richard Knyghtley conveyed it to Humphrey Cotes in 1425 in exchange for lands in Northamptonshire.¹⁸ Humphrey died in or before 1461¹⁹ and was presumably succeeded as lord by his son, John (d. 1472),²⁰ and John's son, Humphrey, who was killed at Bosworth in 1485.²¹ The latter's son, John, was lord of Woodcote and died in 1527,²² after which the manor was held for life by his relict, Ellen, under a settlement of 1512; she married Sir William Bassett and died in 1558.²³ Her son, John Cotes, was in possession by 1581,²⁴ and his son, also

John, owned Woodcote at his death in 1625,²⁵ as did his son, another John (d. 1643).²⁶ The son of the last named, also John (d. 1696), was in possession by 1675²⁷ and was presumably succeeded by his son, Charles (d. 1716). The latter's son, John, owned Woodcote in 1736²⁸ and died in 1756. Woodcote may then have passed to his son, Admiral Thomas Cotes.²⁹ The latter's brother, the Revd. Shirley Cotes (d. 1775), later had possession and was followed by his son, John, who lived until 1821.³⁰ John's son and successor at Woodcote, another John,³¹ lived until 1874³² and the manor then passed to the latter's son, Charles Cecil,³³ who died unmarried in 1898 and was succeeded by his brother, Charles James³⁴ (d. 1913).³⁵ He, too, was unmarried, and was followed as lord of the manor by his cousin, Arthur Cotes (d. 1944),³⁶ who sold the estate in 1920;³⁷ the subsequent descent of the manor has not been traced.

Vestiges of 17th-century (and possibly earlier) fabric are said to remain on the south side of Woodcote Hall but the house was largely rebuilt in brick in the 18th century, perhaps in 1767 (the date inscribed on a stone fireplace).³⁸ It then had two storeys and an attic and the main structure was L-shaped with north and east wings. The north front was evidently the principal one. It had nine bays with a pedimented central portico of four columns rising through both storeys; the east front had seven bays. A brick stable block immediately west of the house may be of similar date. John Cotes had the house fronted in stone between 1821 and 1834 and the portico was probably

¹ Eyton, ii. 267.

² *V.C.H. Salop.* i. 329.

³ *Ibid.* iii. 10.

⁴ *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii. 55.

⁵ P.R.O., C 142/124, no. 187.

⁶ *V.C.H. Salop.* i. 329.

⁷ *Rot. Hund.* ii. 55.

⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, p. 148; *S.H.C.* vi (1), 147–8.

⁹ *S.H.C.* ix (1), 18, 20.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* ix (1), 41.

¹¹ *Ibid.* vi (1), 147–8; Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 28, no. 5.

¹² *Feud. Aids.* iv. 227.

¹³ *S.H.C.* x (1), 41.

¹⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, pp. 219–20.

¹⁵ *S.H.C.* xiii. 121.

¹⁶ N.L.W., Pitchford Hall 1360.

¹⁷ *S.H.C.* xvii. 45.

¹⁸ N.L.W., Pitchford Hall 1206.

¹⁹ For the dates and connexions of the Cotes family see S.R.R. 6001/2790, pp. 610, 613, 615.

²⁰ *Ibid.* pp. 601–2.

²¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII,* iii, p. 561.

²² P.R.O., C 142/46, no. 90.

²³ P.R.O., C 142/124, no. 187.

²⁴ *S.H.C.* xvii. 226.

²⁵ P.R.O., C 142/425, no. 74.

²⁶ S.R.R. 6001/2790, p. 610.

²⁷ N.L.W., Pitchford Hall 1617.

²⁸ S.R.R. 700/1.

²⁹ A fireplace in Woodcote Hall is inscribed 'T.C. 1767': Dept. of Environment, *List of Bldgs. Of Special Arch. or Hist. Interest: Dist. of the Wrekin (excluding Newport)* (1983), p. 220.

³⁰ T.S.A.S. 4th ser. xii. 21.

³¹ *P.O. Dir. Salop.* (1870), 176.

³² T.S.A.S. 4th ser. xii. 26.

³³ *Kelly's Dir. Salop.* (1895), 274.

³⁴ *Ibid.* (1900), 290; T.S.A.S. 4th ser. xii. 264–5.

³⁵ *V.C.H. Salop.* viii. 119.

³⁶ *Kelly's Dir. Salop.* (1917), 297; *Shrews. Chron.* 6 Oct. 1944, p. 3.

³⁷ SRR, SC/27/41, p. 75.

³⁸ Description based on S.R.R. 6009/355; *Eddowes's Shrews. Jnl.* 17 June 1874, p. 7; Pevsner, *Salop.* 321–2; P. Reid, *Burke's and Savills guide to country houses*, ii (1980), 120–1; Dept. of Environment, *List of Bldgs. Of Special Arch. or Hist. Interest: Dist. of the Wrekin (excluding Newport)* (1983), pp. 220–1; *V.C.H. Salop.* iv, pl. facing p. 188.

removed at the same time—its remains were to be seen in the grounds in 1963.¹ Cotes added rooms to the west end of the north wing c. 1850. The house was almost completely gutted by fire in 1874 and most of it was replaced the following year by a new house designed by F. P. Cockerell. His house is of red brick with stone dressings, of two storeys and an attic, and is quadrangular in plan. Its style is neo-Jacobean, with many gables and projecting bays, but incorporates neo-Georgian motifs such as Gibbs surrounds. The central staircase hall rises to an arcaded landing on three sides and is lit from above.

Fishponds were mentioned in the later 13th century² and a park in 1539.³ In 1752 straight avenues ran to the house from two points on the Newport road.⁴ The fishponds and park may have been those mapped in 1827, though perhaps in altered form.⁵ The park seems to have been extended eastwards by 1881.⁶

Woodcote Hall and its grounds were bought in 1920 by the tenant, James Foster, and the rest of the estate by Sir John Leigh,⁷ who sold his part in separate lots in 1925 and later.⁸ Foster died in 1927⁹ and Woodcote Hall seems to have passed to his nephew, Arthur William Foster of Apley Park. In 1949 he sold it¹⁰ to the Sacred Heart Fathers as a 'juniorate' for boys. About 1960¹¹ the Fathers built a large brick chapel near the south side of the house, with a central flèche. Sacred Heart College closed in 1970 and the house reopened later in the year as a youth centre for the Roman Catholic diocese of Shrewsbury. It lasted until 1980¹² and the Fathers sold the hall in 1981¹³ to Mr. and Mrs. M. Cartwright, who opened it as a 'recreation and entertainment centre' and converted the former chapel to the 'Preachers' night club. They offered Woodcote Hall for sale

again in 1984¹⁴ and by 1986 it was an old people's home,¹⁵ which it remained in 2001.

LYNN was accounted a member of Woodcote manor by the early 14th century and seems always to have descended with it. Lynn was called a manor in the 15th century and still in the early 19th but was always paired with Woodcote.¹⁶

CHURCHES. There was a church at Sheriffhales by 1081, the rectory having passed to the abbey of St.-Evroult.¹⁷ At an earlier date Sheriffhales may have been in Shifnal parish, to whose vicar an annual pension of 5s. was payable by the vicar of Sheriffhales in 1535.¹⁸ A vicarage was ordained at Sheriffhales before 1319 and its advowson descended with the rectory¹⁹ until the appropriator, by then Sheen priory, was dissolved in 1539. The king presented in 1337²⁰ and from 1370 to 1403, while Ware priory was in the his hands by reason of the war with France,²¹ and the bishop of Lichfield collated to the living in 1478 on rejecting Sheen priory's presentee. Sir Edward Aston of Tixall (Staffs.) acquired the advowson before 1556²² and died in 1568. Further generations of the Aston family presented until 1632, the advowson apparently passing from father to son,²³ to Sir Walter (d. 1589), Sir Edward (d. 1597), Sir Walter (cr. Baron Aston of Forfar 1627, d. 1639), and Walter, Lord Aston. Lord Aston, whose father had become a Roman Catholic,²⁴ sold it in 1642 to Sir Richard Leveson of Lilleshall,²⁵ a kinsman.²⁶ The advowson then seems to have descended with the manor of Sheriffhales until c. 1920²⁷ except that in 1823 it was not settled on Earl Gower but kept by his father, the

¹⁴ S.R.R., SC/18/65.

¹⁵ British Telecom, *Phone Bk.* sectn. 303 (1986), p. 790.

¹⁶ S.R.R. 224/3; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* vi, p. 115; N.L.W., Pitchford Hall 1206; P.R.O., C 142/46, no. 90; C 142/124, no. 187; C 142/425, no. 74; CP 43/393, rot. 12; CP 43/708, rot. 12; CP 43/950, rot. 240.

¹⁷ Above, manors (Sheriffhales rectory).

¹⁸ *Valor Eccl.* iii. 102.

¹⁹ *S.P.R. Lich.* vii (3), p. vi.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1367–70, 371; 1391–6, 710; 1396–9, 461; 1401–5, 188.

²² *S.P.R. Lich.* vii (3), p. vi.

²³ *Ibid.* For the family's dates and connexions see *Hist. Parl., Commons*, 1509–58, i. 347; *Complete Peerage*, i. 285–6.

²⁴ *Complete Peerage*, i. 285.

²⁵ Staffs. R.O., D. 593/B/3/4/1.

²⁶ Cf. *V.C.H. Salop.* xi. 152–3.

²⁷ *S.P.R. Lich.* vii (3), p. vii. Cf. above, manors (Sheriffhales).

¹ *Shropshire Mag.* July 1963, 20.

² N.L.W., Pitchford Hall 1330.

³ *S.H.C.* xii (2), 29.

⁴ J. Rocque, *Map of Salop.* (1752).

⁵ C. & J. Greenwood, *Map of Salop.* (1827).

⁶ O.S. Map 1/2,500, Salop. XXXI. 14; XXXVII. 2 (1882 edns.).

⁷ S.R.R., SC/27/41, p. 75; *Kelly's Dir. Salop.* (1922), 306.

⁸ *Wellington Jnl.* 14 Mar. 1925, p. 5.

⁹ For his family's dates and connexions see Burke, *Land. Gent.* (1937), 812.

¹⁰ A. Ruscoe, *Landed estates and the gentry: an historical study of the landed estates of north-east Shropshire*, iv (Ormskirk, 2000.), 88.

¹¹ Pevsner, *Salop.* 321–2 (no mention); *Shropshire Mag.* July 1963, 20.

¹² E. M. Abbott, *Hist. Dioc. Shrews. 1850–1986* [1987], 82.

¹³ *Shrews. Diocesan Catholic Voice*, Apr. 1981, p. 6.

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marquess of Stafford¹ (afterwards duke of Sutherland), until his death in 1833. In 1662 the patron's guardian, his father, Richard Fowler, had presented.² Sir John Leigh, the purchaser of Lilleshall House, acquired the advowson from the duke of Sutherland c. 1920 and conveyed it to H. B. Rudolph of Manor farm c. 1931.³ In 1945 it passed to the bishop of Lichfield.⁴ The united benefice of Lilleshall and Sheriffhales, in the bishop's patronage, was formed in 1984.⁵

The vicar's income in 1291 was put at £13 6s. 8d. a year.⁶ In 1535 his gross annual income was £12 (£11 1s. 8d. net), which included 10s. from glebe, £4 from grain tithes, and £4 from small tithes.⁷ In 1848 the vicarial tithes were commuted to a rentcharge of £690 12s. and there were then just over 17 a. of glebe.⁸

In 1612 the vicarage house consisted of three bays and a kitchen of 1½ bays.⁹ In 1830 it was a brick building with two sitting rooms and four bedrooms, and in 1835 was described as 'unfit'.¹⁰ It stood within a large plot at the south end of the village.¹¹ A new house was built in 1870¹² on the same plot but a little to the east, so that it became more secluded within its own grounds.¹³ It ceased to be the vicarage c. 1960¹⁴ and was soon renamed Sutherland House.¹⁵ A new and smaller vicarage was built c. 1964¹⁶ a short distance to the north-west.¹⁷

There was a chapel at *WOODCOTE* by 1200, as the south doorway shows. Its dedicatee was said in 1908 to be unknown,¹⁸ but a reputed dedication to St. Peter had been recorded by 1897¹⁹ and was accepted by 1910.²⁰ The chapel's

recorded history is that of a chapel of ease in Sheriffhales parish, but there are indications of some former degree of independence. Nomination of a curate to the chapel was disputed in the 16th century between the vicar of Sheriffhales and the lord of Woodcote,²¹ and in 1830 the situation and size of the building seemed like that of a private chapel belonging to Woodcote hall.²² In 1612 Woodcote chapelry was the only part of the parish from which the vicar received great tithes, and in 1693 they were said to be for the endowment of the chapel.²³ By the late 17th century, however, and until the 20th the patrons of Sheriffhales vicarage listed the advowson of Woodcote among their possessions.²⁴ Presumably they claimed it by virtue of their right of presentation to Sheriffhales, for they made no separate presentation to the chapel. It was the vicar who served the cure there in 1693; the chapel was said in 1701 to belong to the vicarage;²⁵ and in 1830 it was served by the vicar's assistant curate.²⁶ Baptisms, weddings, and burials were conducted at Woodcote in the 17th and 18th centuries²⁷ and the chapel had its own registers from 1837 (for weddings)²⁸ and 1862 (for baptisms and burials).²⁹

There was reputedly an ancient chapel at *BURLINGTON* and its site was said in 1908 to be next to Church field.³⁰

PROTESTANT NONCONFORMITY. John Nott, vicar of Sheriffhales from 1650, was ejected under the Act of Uniformity in 1662.³¹ Although during the Indulgence of 1672 an application was made to license the house of Michael Old as a Presbyterian meeting place,³² four years later it was reported that there were no nonconformists.³³ About the same year, 1676, John Woodhouse, son of John Woodhouse of Wombourn Woodhouse (Staffs.), came to reside at the Manor House, where he opened what was to become an important nonconformist academy.

¹ S.R.R. 972, box 152, draft deed.

² S.P.R. *Lich.* vii (3), p. vii.

³ *Kelly's Dir. Salop.* (1917), 195; (1922), 203; (1929), 208; (1934), 214.

⁴ *Lond. Gaz.* 10 Aug. 1945, p. 4082.

⁵ *Lich. Dioc. Dir.* (1990–1), 93. Cf. *V.C.H. Salop.* xi (1985), 166.

⁶ *Tax. Eccl.* 243.

⁷ *Valor Eccl.* iii. 102.

⁸ P.R.O., IR 29/29/286; IR 29/29/359.

⁹ S.R.S. vi. [?].

¹⁰ S.H.C. 4th ser. x. 67.

¹¹ P.R.O., IR 29/29/286; IR 30/29/286 (parcel no. 142).

¹² S.R.S. vi. [?].

¹³ O.S. Map 6⁷, Salop. XXXVII. SW. (1903 edn.).

¹⁴ S.R.R., ER3/4/63, p. 186; ER3/4/64, p. 196.

¹⁵ S.R.R., ER3/4/65, p. 194; O.S. Map 1/10,000, SJ 71 SE. (1990 edn.).

¹⁶ S.R.R., ER3/4/68, p. 211.

¹⁷ O.S. Map 1/10,000, SJ 71 SE. (1990 edn.).

¹⁸ S.P.R. *Lich.* vii (3), p. v.

¹⁹ *Crockford* (1897), 1849.

²⁰ *Ibid.* (1910), 1999.

²¹ *Camd. Misc.* xxvii (Camd. 4th ser. xxii), p. 182.

²² S.H.C. 4th ser. x. 67.

²³ S.R.S. vi. [?].

²⁴ P.R.O., CP 43/451, rot. 188; CP 43/783, rot. 382; CP 43/900, rot. 228; S.R.R. 972, box 152, draft deed 28 May 1823; box 208, abstr. of title.

²⁵ S.R.S. vi. [?].

²⁶ S.H.C. 4th ser. x. 67; S.P.R. *Lich.* vii (3), pp. vii–viii.

²⁷ S.P.R. *Lich.* vii (3).

²⁸ *Kelly's Dir. Salop.* (1900), 290.

²⁹ S.R.R., P311/A/1; P311/A/3.

³⁰ S.P.R. *Lich.* vii (3), p. v.

³¹ *Calamy Revised*, ed. A. G. Matthews, 368.

³² *Orig. Rec. of Early Nonconf.* ed. G. Lyon Turner, ii. 737.

³³ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 455.

He was perhaps assisted by Samuel Beresford, an ejected Derby vicar and former resident of Shrewsbury, who was living nearby at Weston under Lizard and who is said to have preached occasionally for him.¹ John Doughty, son of Samuel Doughty, the ejected rector of Sibson (Leics.), was also named as a preacher with Woodhouse in 1690, both of them having a 'competent supply'.² Many of the students, who at one time numbered nearly 50, became nonconformist ministers, but the academy closed in 1696 on Woodhouse's departure to London.³

Samuel Turner's house at Crackley Bank was licensed for Quaker meetings in 1711.⁴

John Wesley visited Sheriffhales in 1784 and again two years later, when he stopped to give exhortations before going on to Stafford.⁵

Wesleyans opened a chapel (in Shifnal parish) at Crackley Bank in 1838.⁶ It was built of rough stone, probably from a small quarry on the opposite side of the road.⁷ It had accommodation for 80 people. A Sunday evening service was being held there in 1842–3.⁸ In 1851 there were 8, 12, and 35 attenders at the three services on Census Sunday.⁹ Between March 1851 and June 1852, however, membership fell from 12 to 4, and from September 1852 the chapel ceased to belong to the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion;¹⁰ it was in the hands of the Methodist Free Church by 1860.¹¹ The building remained in Methodist hands until c. 1926.¹² Between 1929 and 1941 it was being used by the Apostolic Church,¹³ and a

service was held there once a month c. 1937–8.¹⁴ The building was restored just before the Second World War and used as a village hall. During the war the former chapel was requisitioned by the Home Guard for their headquarters, and after the war it fell into disrepair. In the 1970s the building, then derelict, was demolished.¹⁵

At Pave Lane the Wesleyan Methodists were holding a Sunday service in 1842–3.¹⁶

In 1805 meeting house certificates were issued for the houses of Samuel Brown and John Warinder.¹⁷ Two other houses of unknown denomination were licensed, one in 1811, one in 1822.¹⁸

The Primitive Methodists built a chapel at Pave Lane in 1862,¹⁹ which they used until 1883.²⁰ Afterwards the Congregational church in Newport considered holding meetings there, but nothing came of the idea.²¹ After being disused for two years, the chapel was rented to the Brethren between 1886 and 1889²² and then closed.²³ The Primitive Methodist cause never fully recovered there despite intermittent revivals²⁴ and by 1927 the building was in a bad state of repair. The Primitive Methodists sold it in 1928²⁵ and it was converted to other uses. In 2001 it was part of an old people's home.

Primitive Methodists were meeting in Chadwell in 1864,²⁶ and some time before 1920 Primitive Methodists petitioned to be allowed to erect a prefabricated chapel there in a 'new neighbourhood where a farm colony is being established' and where there was 'no free church within three miles, and one Sunday a.m. service once a month in the Anglican church a mile away'.²⁷ The chapel opened in 1920²⁸ with seating for 70.²⁹ By 1977, however, it was

¹ *Nonconformist's Memorial*, i. 316; Gordon, *Freedom After Ejection*, 88, 90; *Calamy Revised*, ed. A. G. Matthews, 51.

² *Calamy Revised*, ed. A. G. Matthews, 16; *Transactions of the Congregational History Society*, xii. 10.

³ *Nonconformist's Memorial*, ii. 297; *Transactions of the Congregational History Society*, iii. 387; vi. 377; I. Parker, *Dissenting Academies in England* (1914), 69–72; *Calamy Revised*, ed. A. G. Matthews, 544; A. G. Matthews, *Congregational Churches of Staffordshire* [1924], 98–101; Gordon, *Freedom After Ejection*, 389.

⁴ S.R.R., QS/1/1, Oct. 1711.

⁵ Wesley, *Jnl.* ed. Curnock, vi. 488; vii. 151.

⁶ P.R.O., HO 129/357, no. 22.

⁷ Information from Mr. Frank Dakin of Shifnal.

⁸ S.R.R., NM5870/10.

⁹ P.R.O., HO 129/357, no. 22.

¹⁰ S.R.R., NM3767/XVII/E1.

¹¹ S.R.R., M98.7 v.f.

¹² *P.O. Dir. Salop.* (1863), 743; (1879), 395; *Kelly's Dir. Salop.* (1891), 406; (1905), 202; (1926), 214.

¹³ *Kelly's Dir. Salop.* (1929) 210; (1937), 219; (1941), 216.

¹⁴ Information from Mr. Dakin.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ S.R.R., NM5870/10.

¹⁷ L.R.O., B/A/12ii.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ S.R.R., NM1861/34.

²⁰ S.R.R., NM1861/55.

²¹ G. T. Malthouse, *A Short history of the Congregational church in Newport, Shropshire* (Newport, 1907), 22.

²² S.R.R., NM1861/59, 62, 68, 74–6.

²³ S.R.R., NM1861/81, 88, 95.

²⁴ S.R.R., NM3767/XIII/J1; NM3767/XIII/K, 30 Aug. 1919.

²⁵ S.R.R., NM3767/XIII/K, 5 Dec. 1925; 6 Mar. 1926; 5 Mar. 1927; 13 Mar. 1927 (paper inserted); 23 May 1927; 11 Feb. 1928.

²⁶ S.R.R., NM1861/14.

²⁷ S.R.R., NM5870/37.

²⁸ S.R.R., NM3767/XXXV/H.

²⁹ *Methodist Church Bldgs.: Statistical Returns 1940* (Manchester, c. 1947), 268.

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disused and in 1979 it was sold to a local farmer.¹ By 2001 it had been demolished.

In Sheriffhales there was reported to have been a Congregational chapel, which by 1898 was 'lost to the denomination'.²

¹ S.R.R., NM5870/40.

² E. Elliot, *A History of Congregationalism in Shropshire* (Oswestry, 1898), 108.