Great Fontmel,

Fontmel Magna,

is a large parish, containing 2,853 a. The village is situated a mile and a half north from Ewerne Minster.

In the Domesday Book, the church of St. Mary of Sceptesberie held Fontmale. It has been said that the church itself holds Fontmale. In King Edward's time it was taxed for fifteen hides. There is land to sixteen ploughs. Of this there are three hides and one virgate of land in the demesne, and therein two ploughs; and three servi, and forty-five villeins, and twenty bordars, with fourteen ploughs. Three mills pay eleven shillings and seven pence, and there are eight acres of meadow and four quarrentens of pasture, and eight quarrentens, and two acres of wood. It was worth 10l. now 15l.

The following are extracts from the list of the tenants of this manor in the Shaftesbury Register. Edwin the priest has the church and half a hide adjoining to it, and what the villeins are willing to give him there.

The size of the holdings and the payments are very various. Four mills are mentioned.

Edwin for a mill and 4 a. 5s. &c.
Wolfe for a mill and 2 a. 3s. 4d.
Adward for a mill 12d. and for a virgate 7½d. &c.
Seric for a mill.

In Fontmell there are fifteen hides besides the demesne. Roger de Tholca holds half a hide in Butesursta, and he ought to attend the courts of the county and hundred (segui comitatum et hundredum) &c. William de Henton holds one croft for 12d. and he ought to go with two men to mow the meadow of Butesursta. [Footnote: This place is perhaps identical with Bedchester hereafter mentioned.] All the men of Fontamel ought to carry twenty loads (summas) of salt fish? (allet) from Wareham, and twenty loads of salt from Hern (Arne).

31 Edw. I. the abbess of Shaftesbury was assessed 30s. for three parts of a knight's fee in Ywern, Fontimel, and Melbury.

Amicia, abbess of St. Edward, and the convent, and Reginald filé, agree for eight oxen and 102 sheep in la Brache in Fontmel, sans date. Test. R. de Haselden, Roger de Foke, Richard Stapleton, &c. 43 Hen. III. 1258, Juliana, abbess of Shaftesbury, and the convent, made an agreement with Galfrid de Serveton to support him in his expense to recover his right to lands in Fontmel, of which, when acquired, he quitted claim to the abbess, one moiety to remain to him, and the other to the abbess; but he was not to sell, &c. his part, except to the abbess. 22 Edw. I. Mabel, abbess of Shaftesbury, in the third year of her promotion, granted to Richard de Manneston, custody of lands in Fontmel, during the minority of Roger, son of Richard Fouk. 5 Edw. II. 1310, Alice, abbess of Shaftesbury, granted to Christian, once wife of Roger Fouk, the custody of his land in Preston, Bedeshurst, and la Marshe, and the custody and marriage of the four daughters and heirs of the said Roger. 20 Edw. III. the abbess held here, and in Iwern and Melbury, three parts of a knight's fee.

At the dissolution this manor was granted to the Arundels, afterwards barons of Wardour. Sir Thomas Arundel, knt. the first of this family, was youngest son of Sir John Arundel, of Lanhem, co. Cornwall, by his first wife. His father gave him Wardour Castle, co. Wilts, anciently belonging to the family of the Martins, and afterwards to Willoughby Lord Broke, which has since been the seat of the family, though most of the castle was demolished in the Civil Wars. 31 Hen. VIII. the manor and advowson of Chesilborn was granted to Sir Thomas Arundel. 32 Hen. VIII. he had a grant of the manor of Rempincombe in Worth, parcel of the monastery of Cerne; 36 Hen. VIII. he had another grant of the manors and advowson of Compton Abbots, Melbury Abbas, and the advowson of the prebend of Fontmel, for 2,609l. 11s. 1d. value 58l. 3s. 37 Hen. VIII. another grant of this manor and the hundred of Sexpen, for 1,147l. 3s. 7d.; also 13 July, the manor of Barton in Shaftesbury, a wood in Barton, lands called Kymers, rents in St. Rumbald, Shaftesbury, French mill in St. Rumbald, the advowson of St. Rumbald, all parcel of the abbey of Shaftesbury, for 1,097l. 17s.; but, 5 Edw. VI. being charged with conspiring with the Duke of Somerset to murder the Duke of Northumberland, he was attainted and beheaded. By an inquisition taken 7 Edw. VI. after his death, he appears to have died seised of the manors mentioned in the grant of 32 Hen. VIII.; also of the site of the manors of Encomb and Ryme; a tenement in Marnhull, a moiety of the manors of Long Crichel, Hampshire, Farnham, Stubbington, Wylburn Hides, Melbury Osmund; Matthew his son and heir. 7 Edw. VI. and 1 Mary, the manors mentioned in Sir Thomas Arundel's grant and inquisition, and those of Rempinscomb, Encomb, and the site of the abbey of Shaftesbury, parcel of the lands of Sir Thomas Arundel attainted, were granted to Lady Margaret his relict, on confirmation of her dower for life.

Sir Matthew their son was restored in blood, 1 Mary, and had a grant of the reversion in fee after the
death of his mother, Lady Baynton, of the manors mentioned in the grant, 7 Edw. VI.; and the hundred of Sexpen, except the manors of Shaftesbury, Barton, and Ryne, were granted to him: also the moiety of the manors of Hampleston, Subhampton, Long Crichel, alias Crichil Gavis, Farnham, and Winborne, parcel of the possessions of Edward Baynton, knt.

Thomas his son signalized his valour in Hungary against the Turks, particularly at taking the Water Tower near Strigonium or Gran, for which the Emperor Rodolph II. 1595, created him a count of the empire, with several privileges annexed to that title. At his return a dispute arose among the peers, whether a dignity given him by a foreign prince should be allowed of here, as to place, precedence, or any other privilege, and voted in the negative. On which King James I. in the third year of his reign, created him Baron Arundel of Wardour, without limitation to his heirs male. He died at Wardour Castle, 1639, and was buried at Tisbury, co. Wilts. 5 Jac. I. the manors of Chesilborn, Hampreston, Farnham, and Stapleton were granted or confirmed to him. In 1645 Lord Arundel of Wardour, old rents of this manor, value 39l. 18s. 0½d. per annum, and a rent grain out of the farm here, commonly worth 62l. per annum, were sequestered. In 1654 William Skinner, etc. trustees of the forfeited estates for 33,447l. convey to the manors of Tisbury and Husley, co. Wilts, Hampreston, Long Crichill, Chesilborn, Margaret Marsh, and Melbury Osmund, late belonging to Henry Lord Arundel of Wardour attained by the Parliament. 12 Car. II. Henry Lord Arundel of Wardour had a grant of all those manors mentioned in the grant to Sir Mathew Arundel and Lady Arundel, 7 Edw. VI. and Tollard. 30 Geo. II. an Act passed to empower the guardians of Henry Lord Arundel of Wardour, and Thomas his brother, infants, to make leases and copyhold grants of their estates during their minorities.

The manors and tithings of East and West Fontmel, and Hartgrove cum Bedchester, were sold in the year 1809 by the late Lord Arundel of Wardour and his trustees to Sir Richard Carr Glyn, Bart. of Gaunts House, grandfather of the present owner.

HAMLETS, &c. IN THIS PARISH.

Bedceister,

a manor and hamlet situated a mile north-west from Fontmel. It anciently belonged to the Abbey of Milton. 32 Hen. VIII. messuages and lands called Bedyshurst in Fontmel, late belonging to Milton monastery, granted to William Berners, of Thoby in Essex, Walter Farr, alias Gillingham, etc. The same year Berners had licence to alienate the premises to Farr and his heirs; who, with his wife, 35 Hen. VIII. held here in Fontmel a messuage, 196 acres of land, and common pasture in the Marsh, and had licence to alienate to Robert Reeve and heirs. 36 Hen. VIII. Reeve had licence to alienate to William Hunton, sen. and William Hunton, jun. value 6l. 10s. 34

Eliz. they were held by William son of William Hunton of the Queen in chief by knightâ€™s service, and rent of 14s. 8d. In later times it came to William Bennet of Hartgrove, esq. who paid a crown rent of 8l. 2s. for the manor.

By the return to Parliament in 1801, the tithing of Bedhurst contained 2 uninhabited houses, and 30 inhabited houses, occupied by 31 families, consisting of 103 males and 131 females, in all 234; of whom 33 were chiefly employed in agriculture, and 6 in trade, manufactures, or handicraft.

This tithing is not separately mentioned in the returns of 1851 or 61.

West Orchard,

anciently a manor, chapelry, and hamlet, situated two miles south-west from Bedceister, of whose ancient lords we have little account. It seems to have belonged originally to Shaftesbury Abbey. In 1869 it is the property of H. G. Sturt, esq.

Here is a chapel, officiated in by the rector of Fontmel. It consists of a chancel, nave, south porch, and a bell-cot for two bells, over the west gable, which is supported by a central buttress. The nave has three trefoil-headed lancet lights on each side, and a three-light window at the west end under a square external label. On the north side of the east window are the remains of a large niche, and there is a piscina in the usual position on the south. In the small lights at the top of the east window are some fragments of old stained glass, amongst which may be recognized an Agnus Dei and the eagle of St. John.

The return to the Commission 1650 was, that it was a chapel of ease to the mother church of Great Fontmel, three miles distant, and was worth 8l. per annum, and an old decayed vicarage house belonged to it. It had always used all rights and customs belonging to a parish, and had a chapel yard. Mr. J. Potter, rector of Fontmel, received the profits, and allowed Samuel Hardaker, the curate, for his salary 12l. per annum. That the water between Fontmel and West Orchard is impassable great part of the winter; and they think that the chapel should be made a parochial church and endowed, there being 120 communicants.

There is no charitable donation belonging to West Orchard.

R. DIBBEN, Rector.
R. DIBBEN, Chapelwarden.
Sworn before us, 13 Oct, 1786.
ANTH. CHAPMAN.
JOHN WHITE.

By the return to Parliament in 1801, the hamlet of West Orchard contained 1 uninhabited house, and 21 inhabited houses, occupied by 27 families, consisting of 57 males and 63 females, in all 120; of whom five were
chiefly employed in agriculture, and seven in trade, manufactures, or handicraft.

This parish contained in 1851, 29 houses, and 66 inhabitants; which had decreased in 1861 to 28 and 56 respectively.

**The Church of Great Fontmel.**

says Hutchins and his continuator, as dedicated to St. Andrew. The nave is of one pace with the chancel, a pointed arch between, and two pointed arches with clustered columns, the capitals composed of four angels surrounded with scrolls. On a screen in the south aisle are three wooden heads in rounds beautifully cut, and a scroll round the ledge, inscribed,

**WATER KING AND ESBEILL HIS WIF.**

The letters are of the fantastic form which pervaded about the beginning of the 16th century. [Footnote: see the Introduction to Gough’s “Sepulchral Monuments.”] Esbell is probably Isabel. The K is sufficiently like one in the Urswick chapel at Windsor.

Over the east door of the chancel a figure of a monk’s head under a round arch, brought by Mr. Dibben, the late rector, from an old house his property in the parish, and fixed up on rebuilding the chancel; which, with the nave, being all new paved, the only slab remaining, a blue one, with a brassless label in the middle, is within the rails. The pulpit is carved in panels, with the lily pot; the desk a long seat as at Sutton Walrond, but made a box for the surplice.

But the greatest, and till now unnoticed, curiosity about this church is its south porch, under the battlements of which are a variety of bas reliefs and ornaments. Among them are the figure of an ecclesiastic, with the letters R. P. two stags under a tree, armed figures, etc. executed with great spirit and freedom; and at the end,

_O man_  
_Kyn bare_  
Tho’ y’r min._  

[Footnote: These three lines are in a separate square:  
_O man-  
kind bare  
thy yn mind._]

and under the battlements the following inscription, bearing date 1530:

_Yer of our lord god MVXXX  
M’ lord to the I call for my th’ pinn all  
my sm’t p’ ch’a me fen to the  
for k’y loo het pee me  
th’ the_  

commemorating some unknown erector of this porch. Among other arms are those of Milton Abbey; and the Stourtons, a bend between six wells; and a fret single, quartering in a border a bird; a sledge; two bundles or garbes crossed; a portcullis; a sickle and other instruments of husbandry; a W united to another initial; the Bourchier knot; etc.

On the floor of the chancel, a small white slab in a blue frame:

**H.S.E.**

ANN, ye daugh. of Hen. BOWLES, rector,  
and Mary his wife.  
14 following, 1696.

In the south window of the chancel, W.M. and I. M. as in the plate.

On the north wall of the nave, on a pyramid of veined marble, hangs by a chain an oval tablet of white marble:

As a tribute of affection to a husband and friend,  
the widow of MR. JEREMIAH SHARP has caused this monument to be erected to his memory.  
He died at Poole, the 15th day of Oct. 1787,  
aged 31 years.  
If worth departed in a soule sincere  
Can claim from friendship’s eye one pious tear;  
In silent sorrow I’ll that tear bestow,  
O’er the cold ashes in the tomb below.

In the churchyard:

Beneath this stone lie deposited the remains of WILLIAM ALEXANDER, who departed this life  
July 30, 1788, aged 41.  
A kind husband, indulgent parent, and sincere friend.  
With Christian fortitude, and a perfect resignation to the Almighty mandate, he resigned his soul to Heaven, and this his latest prayer:  
My wife beloved and children dear,  
Weep not for me I pray:  
’Tis the Almighty will of Him,  
Whose call we must obey.  
May heaven protect you safely on,  
Till Death shall end your pains, and  
Conduct you to the blest abode,  
Where great Jehovah reigns.

SARAH his wife died June 6, 1800, aged 52.

ELIZABETH VINCENT died March 26, 1801, aged 51.

LAURENCE FORD died Aug. 27, 1739, aged 46.  
ROSE his wife died April 27, 1766, aged 81.

HANNAH, wife of James MAYO,  
died July 23, 1793, aged 65.

JOHN BENNETT, of Hargrave, gent.  
died Nov. 2, 1773, aged 75.  
ANN his wife died June 26, 1741, aged 44.  
RUTH his second wife died Jan. 20, 1795, aged 75.  
JAMES BENNETT, gent. died April 21, 1798, aged 75.

CHRISTOPHER DOWN died April 15, 1765, aged 65.  
HANNAH his wife died May 29, 1765, aged 58.
JOHN their son died May 20, 1750, aged 20.

JOHN FIFED, of West Orchard, died Oct. 19, 1795, aged 81.

MARY his wife, daughter of John Andrews, of Shroton, died Aug. 9, 1775, aged 31.

MARY, WIFE of Peter DENNIS, died April 2, 1772, aged 71.

SUSAN, wife of John MARCH, of West Orchard, died Aug. 3, 1786, aged 40.

A cross on four steps under the yew tree.

This edifice has lately been made externally and internally one of the handsomest village churches in the diocese, having been almost entirely rebuilt at the cost of the late Sir R. P. Glyn, Bart. It stands on an eminence to the west of the village, and consists of a chancel, with vestry on the north side, nave, aisles, south porch, and western tower, all which, with the exception of the tower, are entirely new. The chancel has a large west [actually, east] window of five lights, filled with stained glass, which as a whole depicts under gothic canopies our blessed Lord, seated with his disciples, at the Last Supper. Two two-light windows on the south side of the chancel have also stained glass:

1. In memory of Riversdale Richard Glyn, son of George Carr and Marianne Glyn, born April 12th, 1827, died July 15th, 1829, buried at Hastings.


The timber roof of the chancel is of excellent design, having arched principals braced with hammer-beams and a pierced cornice. The roof of the nave is also admirable. Its chief principals rest on corbels, over each pier of the arcades, the minor principals between, on cherub-corbels just below the pierced cornice. The aisles have four bays of pointed and moulded arches, resting upon piers, square in plan, set diagonally with an engaged shaft on each cardinal face, square moulded abaci, and boldly sculptured capitals beneath. The chancel arch is wide and lofty, and consists of two continuous moulded orders, encompassed on the west by a hollow label which terminates with bold corbel terminations. There are crocketed pinnacles at the angles and in the centre of each face, and bold gurgoyles above the windows.

The ancient pierced parapet which formerly surmounted the wall of the south aisle has been re-erected on that of the north. Within a row of quatrefoils are shields carved with roses, the portcullis and other Tudor ornaments of which have been enumerated above, the arms of Stourton, a bird within a bordure quarterly with fretty, ihs, the arms of Milton Abbey, viz. three bread-baskets filled, and the Stafford knot, erroneously called the Bourchier knot.

There are six bells thus inscribed:

1. To the memory of JERE
3. Prayes ye the Lord IW 1618.
5. In Ter Sede Pia Pro Nobis Virgo Maria
6. A V E M A R I A

The following inscription is in the church:

In this chancel lies the body of the Rev. RICHARD DIBBEN, Rector of this parish, who died June 1812, aged 65 years. Also the bodies of his sisters, MARY, who died Oct. 30th 1816, in her 74th year, and ANN who died Aug. 29, 1823, aged 80. The last survivors of the family of Dibben of Manston, in this county.

Arms: A fess or, between three human legs, couped at the thigh; Crest, a dexter arm habited holding a dagger.

In the churchyard are,

1. To the memory of JEREMIAH MONKTON, who departed this life, 26th of September 1857, aged 83 years. Also SARAH his wife, who died March 10, 1860, aged 77 years, and ANN APLIN Monkton their daughter, the 1st of April 1842, aged 34 years. Also in memory of MARY KIMBER, who died June 14th, 1859, aged 79 years.
The inhabitants of Fontmel and the neighbourhood, being desirous of exhibiting their admiration of the gallantry of Lieut. Salkeld, who was killed at the siege of Delhi, raised a subscription and erected a monument to his memory in this churchyard. The monument consists of a shaft and base. On the four sides of the latter are the following inscriptions:


II. "The officers to whom I am more particularly indebted Lieut Salkeld of the Engineers who personally fastened the powder bags to the gates, fixed the hose, and although fearfully wounded, continued to hand to a non-commissioned officer of the Sappers and Miners the light to fire the train etc. etc." From the dispatches of Brigadier Campbell.

III. Extract of a letter from one of his brother officers. "He died as a true christian, his bible for many days of illness his only book".

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours. Rev: XIV.13.

IV. In respect to his memory, in admiration of his worth & courage, a public subscription (begun in his own Parish) of more than £800 was raised for the erection of this monument and for outfitting two younger brothers for military cadetships given by the Hon. E. I. Company to mark their high sense of the character and service of Philip Salkeld.

The ancient font is very curious, apparently Norman. The circular bowl has a running scroll round it, issuing from the bills of birds.

The parish registers commence in 1684.

MARRIAGE.
Mr Peter King, jun. of Shaston, and Mrs. Mary Bower, of Combe, in the parish of Donhead St. Mary, Wilts, June 23, 1689

The Rectory

in Shaftesbury deantry, was anciently a prebend in the Abbey of Shaftesbury, and appropriated to the maintenance of one of the abbess' chaplains, or confessors. The ancient patron was the Abbess of Shaftesbury, but since the Reformation the Arundels of Wardour. The advowson was purchased not long since by the late William Salkeld, esq. There is a long deed almost illegible, relating to Fontmel, in Bishop Mortival's register.

In 1292 the Rector of Fontmel had a portion of tithes out of the rectory of Corfe Castle, value 40s. which at the general commutation of tithes in that parish was commuted for 23/- per annum. See vol. i. p. 542.

| Valor, 1291 | 35 marks |
| Present value | 18 0 0 |
| Tenths | 1 16 0 |
| Bishop's procurations | 0 1 3 |
| Archdeacon's procurations | 0 10 9½ |

INQUISITIO NONARUM.

Parochia de Fontemel.

Williamus atte Halle, Johannes de Saxepenne, Hugo Halve-knyght, Johannes Pouke, Johannes Freke, Johannes Blyke, Galfridus Monkton, Rogerus Goudrigg, Robertus Stevenes, Johannes Rouk, Ricardus Gog, et Adamus Andreu, parochiani ibidem, jurati, presentant quod ecclesia ibidem taxatur in xxv xiiij marcis. Et quod ix pars garbarum, vellerum et agrorum valet per annum xiiij l. vi s. viij d. Et sic minus taxa x l. eo quod rector ibidem habet in dominico de dote ecclesiae xxx acras terrae, redditus assisae, et pasturem quae valent per annum xxv s. x d. Item [decimas], feni, decimas minutas, mortuaria, decimas molendini, cum obligationibus et obvigionibus, quae valent per annum vii l. xiiij s. iiiij d. Summa ix pars xiiij l. vi s. viij d.

[Transcriber note: In 1340, Edward III levied the ⁹⁄₉₀th which at every ninth sheaf was set aside for the King. The levy was to fund military campaigns in France and Scotland. Because of a shortfall in the revenue expected, the King instigated the ⁹⁄₉₀th (Inquisition of the Ninth), a parish-by-parish investigation as to why payments were so low.]

The return to the Commission 1650 was, that here was a parsonage and vicarage, the former worth 90l. the latter 30l. per annum. Mr. John Potter, incumbent, an able preacher, served the cure, and was presented to the vicarage, vacant since May last by the death of the former incumbent. West Orchard Chapel, three miles distant, belonged to Fontmel.
Nicholas Newbery, or Herbury, prebendary of Finsbury in St. Paul's, London, inst. 2 Jan. 1424.

Alexander Sparwe, canon of Sarum, on the death of Herbury, inst. 22 April, 1428.

John Laurence, pbr. on the death of Sparwe, instituted 20 Oct. 1433.

Gilbert Kymer, clerk, on the resig. of Laurence, inst. 1 Dec. 1433.

Richard Andrew, Legum canonicus in the church of Shaftesbury, exchanged with Andrew Holes, Dr. in decrees and canon of Southwel, prebendary of Exton and Crophiille, dioc. York, inst. 20 June, 1461.

John Stratton, LL.D. on the death of Holes, inst. 7 April, 1470.

Christopher Twyniho.

Thomas Gilbert, Dr. in decrees on the resignation of Twyniho, inst. 23 Oct. 1502.


John Byggs, LL.B. on the death of Bromwich, inst. 18 April, 1524.

Richard Dennis, inst. 1543.

Sir Thomas Arundell.

William Rydeswite, inst. 1549.

John Massy, instituted 1554.

Richard Barker, inst. 1554.

William Arundel, inst. 1571.

William Jessop, inst. 1581.

John Potter, inst. 1623.

Édén, inst. 1672.

Henry Bowles, inst. 1684.

Richard Dibben, gent.


James Dibben, M.A. of King’s College, Cambridge, rector of Fifhead Nevile, instit. June 1, 1741, died 1776.

Sarah and Susannah Dibben


Richard Dibben, M.A.

Richard Dibben, M.A. fellow of Wadham College, Oxford, inst. 20 Jan. 1779, in his own gift, and on his own petition, died 1812.

Mary and Ann Dibben, executors of Richard Dibben.

Edward Bullock, M.A. instituted in September 1812.

Ann Salkeld of Fifhead Neville, co. Dorset, widow.

Robert Salkeld, M.A. inst. Sept. 29 1819, on the cession of Bullock.

George Carr Glynn, esq.

Thomas Davidson, B.A. Corpus Christie College, Cambridge, inst. 1866, on the death of Salkeld.

* He was imprisoned several months at Weymouth for an invective sermon against Cromwell said to be preached at his own church, though it was attested by several credible witnesses that he was that very day in London.

# First Fruits. Dr. Dibben was born at Manston in this county, and was of Westminster School, elected into that college 1692 and from thence to Trinity College, Cambridge, 1696, of which he was elected fellow in 1698, ordained deacon by Bishop Sprat July 13, 1701, installed precentor of St. Paul’s Cathedral June 17, 1714, by the collation of Bishop Robinson, to whom he was chaplain at the congress of Utrecht. He was also chaplain to his excellency the Lord Privy Seal; proctor in convocation for the diocese of Bristol in 1715, and again Jan. 26, 1727. He was also chaplain to his excellency the Lord Privy Seal; proctor in convocation for the diocese of Bristol in 1715, and again Jan. 26, 1727. He was a good divine and orator, and an excellent Latin poet. He translated Mr. Prior’s Carmen Seculare into Latin verse, which is perhaps the best piece of modern Latin poetry extant. Mr. Prior’s compliment to him, in his preface to his poems, is but truth. He thanks him for his excellent version, though he says his gratitude might justly carry a little envy with it, as the most accurate judges would find the translation exceed the original. He published a Visitatio Sermon, 2 Cor. iv. 3, 1711, 8vo.; another on Psalm xxxvii. 6, 1711, 8vo. preached in St. John’s Church in Utrecht, Sunday March 9, being the day after the anniversary of her Majesty’s accession to the throne, published by command of their excellencies her Majesty’s plenipotentiaries at the congress of Utrecht. Mr. Denne had the second edition of the latter sermon; but after an attentive perusal of it, confesses he must own he has not discovered that it merited an encore. The most striking passage in it is where he notices the Earl of Oxford being stabbed by Guiscard, on the anniversary of the Queen’s accession to the throne. The passage alluded to is as follows: “How near this peculiar day of mercy, which we and the nations round about us must join to bless, was becoming a day of trouble and rebuke, a day whereon only our enemies should rejoice, the audacious villainy then contrived sufficiently shewed us, the unsuccessful blow designed to wound the best of princes through the heart of the nearest of her servants. But one protection that evermore dwells with innocence, with conscientious discharge of his duty, in which that good servant was found employed, and the supplications which were then offering to God for the Queen, and all that are put in authority under her, these took away the force of the malice; what was left served only to strengthen the throne it meant to shake, and to evidence to the world how the Angel of the Lord tarrieth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”

Many years before his death Dr. Dibben unfortunately became disordered in his senses, left his house and friends, spent his fortune, and died in the Poultry-Compter in London, April 5, 1741.
The Vicarage

is not mentioned in the old Valor, but seems to have been instituted about 1300. A certificatory letter of Bishop Mortival, dated 16 cal. Feb. 1317, informs us, that the chapel of West Orchet was annexed to the vicarage, which, not being endowed, the patron determined the portion of the vicar, viz. a mansion with a curtilage, adjoining to the churchyard, all oblations, obventions, churchscots, tithes of the mill of Fontmel and Bedeshurst, and other small tithes in the said places, except mortuaries, wool, lamb, and geese. Since the Reformation it seems to have been in a manner united to the rectory, but whether it is joined in the same presentation or held by a separate one I am not informed.

Patrons.

Stephen Prowet, rector of this prebendal church.
William de Seltone, rector.

Robert Lytyl, of Bourchall, clerk, on the death of Middleton, instituted 8 Sept. 1345.
Thomas de Sydeling, pbr. on the demise of Robert the last Vicar, inst. 21 May 1349.
John Sygar de Troubrigg, inst. 18 June, 1350.
Henry Ynkpenn.

John Northwod, prebendary.
Thomas de Sydeling, pbr. on the demise of Robert the last Vicar, inst. 21 May 1349.
John Catryk, prebendary.

William Swayn, or Swanne, Rector of Winterborne Abbas, inst. 8 July, 1387.
Willaim Dyare, chaplain, on the resignation of Swanne, inst. 17 March, 1406, exchanged with
G. Kymer, prebendary.

John Sampson, pbr. on the death of Ynkpenn, inst. 29 Jun, 1382, exchanged with
Thomason Ynkpenn, pbr. on the death of Ynkpenn, inst. 29 Jun, 1382, exchanged with

John Stratton, prebendary.
Christopher Twynihoo, prebendary.

Nicholas Bryght, chaplain, on the death of Pontyff, instituted 9 May, 1470.
Simon Archebold, chaplain, on the death of Bryght, inst. 15 March, 1476.
William Wright.

John Hunt, vicar of St. James in Shaftesbury, inst. 5 Jan. 1442.
Thomas Ponty, or Pontyff, clerk, on the resignation of Hunt, inst. 9 Sept. 1445.

John Bugg, rector or prebendary.

Charles Chapman, sworn before us, John White.

This charity may now, 1869, be considered as lost.

Vicars.


John Northwod, prebendary.

Robert Lytyl, of Bourchall, clerk, on the death of Middleton, instituted 8 Sept. 1345.

Henry Ynkpenn.

John Sampson, pbr. on the death of Ynkpenn, inst. 29 Jun, 1382, exchanged with

William Swayn, or Swanne, Rector of Winterborne Abbas, inst. 8 July, 1387.

Willaim Dyare, chaplain, on the resignation of Swanne, inst. 17 March, 1406, exchanged with

G. Kymer, prebendary.

John Sampson, pbr. on the death of Ynkpenn, inst. 29 Jun, 1382, exchanged with

Thomas de Sydeling, pbr. on the demise of Robert the last Vicar, inst. 21 May 1349.

John Sygar de Troubrigg, inst. 18 June, 1350.

Henry Ynkpenn.

By the return to Parliament in 1801, the parish of Fontmel cum Hartgrove contained 6 uninhabited houses, and 63 inhabited houses, occupied by 70 families, consisting of 178 males and 216 females, in all 394, of whom 57 were chiefly employed in agriculture, and 48 in trade, manufactures, or handicraft.

In 1851 the tithing of Fontmel Magna contained 155 houses, and 682 inhabitants; and in 1861 the numbers were 156 and 690. At the former date there were in the tithing of Hartgrove 35 houses and 150 people; and in 1861 34 houses and 185 souls.

CHARITABLE BENEFAC[17]ION to this parish, as returned to Parliament 1786.

It is uncertain by whom, how, or when given, but supposed to be by deed, by a person of the name of Still, 6l. in money, for the benefit of the poor of Hargrove and Bedceister, vested in the poor stock; the annual produce is 6s.

R. DIBBEN, Rector.
SAM. COLE,
ROB. MEATYARD, Churchwardens.
13 Oct. 1786. ] ANTH. CHAPMAN
Sworn before us, ] JOHN WHITE

This charity may now, 1869, be considered as lost.